

WISE – ENTERPRISE COACHES DELIVERY IN COPELAND

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Cath Giel / Councillor John Bowman
LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy
REPORT AUTHOR: Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy

Summary and Recommendation:

This report highlights the continuation of the successful WISE initiative in West Cumbria and an opportunity for the Council as a key partner to assist in the local recruitment of Copeland project workers.

Executive are requested to:

- a) agree to the Council pursuing the recommended option (option 2 below) for Copeland Borough Council to take on the employer role for the three Copeland project staff on fixed term contracts in line with the available funding; and
- b) the decision be made by the Head of Development Strategy and Human Resources Manager in consultation with the two Portfolio-Holders, Cllr Cath Giel and Cllr John Bowman.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The WISE (Ways into Self Employment) project has been very successful over its first three years of operation working with 528 residents in Copeland. A package of funding including £60,000 LABGI resources from Copeland Borough Council enabled the delivery until March 2009. Allerdale Borough Council agreed to take the lead partner role including employing and managing the four project staff across West Cumbria..
- 1.2 The WISE project is continuing for a further three years, 2009-12, to provide an extended service of enterprise coaches within the communities within the boroughs of Copeland and Allerdale. This project will be delivering alongside and referring local residents to the intensive business start up contractors under the national Business Support Simplification Programme.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 This partnership project will now employ six staff, three in each borough, during 2009-12. Currently, three staff are in place who continued into the new three year project; two working in Allerdale and one in Copeland who

has arranged to transfer to the Allerdale team once the Copeland team have been recruited. The project partnership have agreed to make one of the six staff a senior worker with supervision responsibility for the rest of the team.

- 2.2 The draft SLA continues the arrangement of Allerdale Borough Council being the employer for project staff. Current policy at Allerdale demands all employment must be subject to internal recruitment. All the delivery in Copeland will be provided by the recruitment of the three Enterprise Coach vacancies. The current arrangements will result in all the Copeland delivery staff being recruited in line with Allerdale policy.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Option 1: To continue with Allerdale Borough Council as the employer.
- 3.2 Option 2: Copeland Borough Council to become employer and take on recruitment of Copeland project delivery staff to enable wider recruitment. The staff to be managed within the project team arrangements.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Council is a committed partner in the WISE project. The Council is also committed to ensure its Working Neighbourhood Fund is used to best advantage for its residents. To this end, Executive are recommended to pursue option 2 and agree delegated authority to make the final decision and put the arrangements in place at no additional cost to the Council.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 5.1 Copeland Borough Council have provided funding to this current three year delivery plan through the Working Neighbourhood Funding and by using underspend in the project from the first three year delivery. The other funding sources are Allerdale Borough Council and WLR. All funding is now in place with Allerdale Borough Council as the Accountable Body for the project. Appendix A provides the overview.
- 5.2 The project funding is in place until March 2012. All project staff are on contracts linked to the funding and hence newly recruited staff will be on fixed term contracts with renewal subject to external funding availability. The funding package will meet the costs of the fixed term commitments. The Council will not receive a fee for enabling this employment but will offer it as an in kind support to the project.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 There is an SLA arrangement between the two Council partners to deliver the project, this includes the detail of the employer and money management element to ensure the project runs effectively and with minimal risk.
- 6.2 The staff will be directed by the project steering group in line with funded outcomes and targets and managed by the senior project worker. All funders, including Copeland Borough Council, are on the monthly steering group which advises and assists in targeting help to the project.
- 6.3 Copeland Borough Council Economic Development staff provide integrated support to potential new starts, specifically around potential premises, and assist the project to work closely with other WNF, Coalfield and LABGI funded initiatives in the borough.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 7.1 Worklessness and business support have key targets in the Copeland Regeneration Plan and Corporate Improvement Plan.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Project Finance Tables

List of Background Documents: WISE 2009-12 Funding Bid

List of Consultees: Cllr C Giel, Cllr J Bowman, Corporate Team, Len Glead

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Supports
Impact on Sustainability	The initiative will assist the development of locally owned business and encourage sustainable approaches to marketing, supply and service delivery.
Impact on Rural Proofing	Supports
Health and Safety Implications	n/a
Project and Risk Management	Partnership approach with funding package in place.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	The project delivers across all

	Copeland communities and specifically targets neighbourhoods with high worklessness.
Children and Young Persons Implications	n/a
Human Rights Act Implications	Supports
Monitoring Officer Comments	No comment
Section 151 Officer Comments	Financial implications are set out in Section 5. No further comments to add

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO

Appendix A WISE Project Finance

Table 1: WISE Projected Expenditure 2009-12

<i>Expenditure Detail</i>	<i>Total £</i>
Salaries	595,600
Overheads	66,200
Premises	88,200
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>750,000</i>

Table 2: WISE Funding 2009-12

<i>Funding Source Detail</i>	<i>Total £</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>
West Lakes Renaissance (NWDA)	420,000	140,000	140,000	140,000
Allerdale Borough Council	165,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
Copeland Borough Council (WNF)	165,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>750,000</i>	<i>250,000</i>	<i>250,000</i>	<i>250,000</i>