

Cabinet – 22 April 2009

Area Based Grant

Portfolio: Councillor John O'Hare, Leader of the Council

Service: Walsall Partnership

Wards: All

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. Summary of Report

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update regarding Area Based Grant (ABG), particularly Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) and Target Action Planning (TAP). The report also requests Cabinet approval of recommended programmes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the current position of Working Neighbourhoods Fund, as set out at section 3.7.1
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve OJEU processes are put in place for those projects listed at section 3.8
- 2.3 That Cabinet note the progress regarding Target Action Planning, as set out in appendix 1
- 2.4 That Cabinet note the approval and allocation of Area Based Grant funding has already been agreed to relevant service areas, as part of the budget process for 2009 / 10.
- 2.5 That Cabinet approve the allocation of £10,000 from the Local Area Agreement (2007 – 2010) Performance Reward Grant, to continue to support the development of the Nottingham Declaration, as set out in section 3.11.1.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Walsall Council receives ABG, which is un-ring-fenced funding, which can be used for any purpose, but can be a major source of funding for the delivery of local and regional strategy, including the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

- 3.2 Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) is one of the funding streams which have been transferred in to the ABG. Cabinet has previously approved, at its meeting of 19 March 2008, that WNF would form part of Walsall Partnership's governance arrangements.
- 3.3 The TAP process being undertaken is identifying required activity for the next two years to ensure the delivery of the LAA and for commissioning of services / activity. An update is provided in this report, at appendix 1.
- 3.4 Walsall Council administers the remainder of ABG, acknowledging the TAP process may impact on other ABG funding streams.
- 3.5 Cabinet is aware that governance arrangements for WNF have been streamlined, allowing the respective thematic partnership (with the expertise) to identify and make recommendations for approval to the accountable body.

3.6 Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF)

3.7 Current Position

- 3.7.1 Following approval of programmes / projects at the previous Cabinet meeting of 18 March 2009, the current WNF position statement is shown in the table below:

	2008 / 09 £	2009 / 10 £	2010 / 11 £
Carry Forward:		1,871,543	834,892
Walsall's Allocation:	5,462,858	6,453,802	6,707,916
Total Programme Allocations:	3,591,315	7,490,453	7,334,817
Balance:	1,871,543	834,892	207,991

- 3.7.2 There is one outstanding 'transition' programme – Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) – currently funded until September 2009, where discussions are still ongoing regarding where funding should be identified from. This is a cross-cutting project between community safety, children's and economic thematic partnerships.

3.8 Contracting Procedures

- 3.8.1 To ensure robust contracting procedures are complied with. Cabinet are requested to approve that the OJEU process is followed in respect of the following projects:

- Local SME Sustainability Plan Through Grants (Enterprise Programme)
- Social Enterprise Capacity Development (Enterprise Programme)
- Mental Health Intermediate Labour Market Programme (Worklessness Programme)
- Health Preventing the Onset of Worklessness (Worklessness Programme)

3.8.2 Cabinet is requested to approve OJEU processes are put in place for those projects listed at section 3.8.

3.9 Target Action Planning Process

3.9.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is an update regarding the Target Action Planning (TAP) process. A number of workshops have been held already and further ones are booked. TAP proformas are in the process of being developed for the majority of the LAA targets and it is anticipated these will be completed in time for the new financial year.

3.10 Area Based Grant

3.10.1 At a Cabinet meeting in March 2008, approval was given for Walsall Partnership to administer any new fund which became part of Area Based grant, on the proviso that ultimate approval was given through Cabinet. For 2008 / 09 this has mainly related to Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Community Cohesion Fund and Stronger, Safer Communities Fund.

3.10.2 The remainder of Area based Grant was administered through Walsall Council, using a similar process to Walsall Partnership of development of Target Action Plans and presenting quarterly claims for reimbursement of expenditure.

3.10.3 Due to increasing budget pressures for 2009/10 onwards, it was felt the system for the remainder of Area Based Grant needed to be made simpler, in order for officers to concentrate on service delivery and value for money. As part of the budget setting process for 2009 / 10, Area Based Grant has been allocated to relevant services and as such authority was delegated for approving spending without the need for TAPs. As a result, recommendations on expenditure of Area Based Grant no longer need to be brought to Cabinet for approval. The allocation of funding formed part of the 2009 / 10 budget as approved by Council on 23 February 2009.

3.10.4 It is anticipated by Walsall Partnership that where there is a thematic partnership supporting the activity / services to achieve Local Area Agreement / National Indicator Set targets, that the thematic partnership will continue to play a crucial role in agreeing where resources are allocated and ensure opportunities are created to jointly commission work.

3.11 Performance Reward Grant

3.11.1 At the Walsall Partnership Board meeting on 26 January 2009, a report was presented relating to the Nottingham Declaration. Walsall Council, via Walsall Partnership, has signed up to the Nottingham Declaration to agree a strategy, by each partner, to reduce carbon emissions. Walsall is one of the first Councils in the country to undertake this pledge. In order to continue to support this work through the next financial year, Walsall Partnership Board wish to request an allocation of £10,000 from the Local Area Agreement (2007 – 2010) Performance Reward Grant.

3.11.2 It is requested that Cabinet approve the allocation of £10,000 from the Local Area Agreement (2007 – 2010) Performance Reward Grant, to continue to support the development of the Nottingham Declaration, as set out in section 3.11.1.

4. Resource Considerations

4.1 Financial:

4.1.1 The Council and partners will be expected to align mainstream activity to deliver the indicators and priorities identified in the LAA, in support of the vision and ambitions for the Borough, contained in Walsall's Sustainable Community Strategy.

4.1.2 Although the Area Based Grant is not directly linked to Walsall Partnership's Local Area Assessment indicators and targets, it can be a major source of funding for the delivery of local and regional strategy. The assessment of the achievements delivered through the Area Based Grant is expected to form part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), although detail around this is still developing.

4.1.3 The authority will be required to commit funds in future financial years to ensure activity can be commissioned and contracted, in line with the Council's finance and contract rules and, where applicable, to enable contracts to be tendered through the European Journal (OJEU) processes.

4.1.4 Cabinet has approved that where contracts are tendered, or posts are recruited to, these can be available for a full two years, from the date the contract / post starts, allowing for better quality tendering / applicants to come forward.

4.2 Legal:

4.2.1 Area Based Grant requires approval of the Council as the responsible Local Authority. Delegated authority has been given to Cabinet for approval of funding allocations.

4.3 Staffing:

4.3.1 In order to ensure the successful delivery of the proposed programmes, some posts will be required to ensure capacity to deliver against developing agenda. Costs for these are included within management fees presented in appendix 1.

5. Citizen Impact

The proposals should make a significant impact on addressing worklessness, which is the key issue challenging the Council and its partners. Other targets, both in the LAA and National Indicator Set (NIS) will also be impacted upon, improving the quality of life for citizens of the Borough.

6. Community Safety

None.

7. Environmental Impact

None

8. Performance and Risk Management Issues

8.1 Risk:

8.1.1 The risk of not approving recommended programmes would be the activity ceases and achievement of targets, within the Local Area Agreement and National Indicator Set, may be affected.

8.1.2 Posts may not be funded, which will impact on the capacity to deliver a challenging agenda.

8.2 Performance Management:

8.2.1 Performance management will be as the existing Local Area Agreement. Continuation of funding will allow activity to carry on working towards delivery of targets.

9. Equality Implications

Where appropriate, equalities will be measured across each indicator within the Local Area Agreement. A requirement will be included in the TAP process, which will ensure that data is collected on the equalities impact of all activity.

10. Consultation

Partners have been involved in the development of the process for allocation of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and some elements of Area Based Grant, as well as the consideration proposed programmes.

Background Papers:

None.

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8 April 2009



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8 April 2009



UPDATE ON TARGET ACTION PLANS

NI No	Target	Progress Update
NI1 / NI4	Community Cohesion	Pro forma completed for this financial year, but awaiting outcome of Local Neighbourhood Partnership consultation before review TAP content
NI5	General Satisfaction with the Local Area	COMPLETED
NI7	Thriving Third Sector	Workshop arranged for 25 February 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI8	% of Adults Participating in Sport	COMPLETED
NI17	Perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour	Workshop held on 4 February 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI19	Rates of Re-Offending	Workshop held on 26 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI110	Positive Activities for Young People	Lead officer now identified, workshop to be arranged
NI112	Teenage Conceptions	Agreement to move to Children's Services. Workshop to be arranged
NI116	Child Poverty	COMPLETED - included in the Worklessness TAP, Skills TAP and Enterprise TAP

NI117	Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	COMPLETED
NI120	All Age All Cause Mortality	COMPLETED
NI30	Persistent Prolific Offenders and Acquisitive Crime	Workshop held on 21 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI135	Carers and Needs Assessment	COMPLETED – Awaiting signature
NI136	People Supported to Live Independently	Workshop arranged for 26 February 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI141	% of Vulnerable Adults / Independent Living (Supporting People)	COMPLETED
NI152	People on Out of Work Benefits (Worklessness)	COMPLETED – Further work to be done on programmes
NI154	Number of Additional Houses	Lead officer identified. TAP pro forma to be completed
NI56	Obesity in Children	COMPLETED
NI163	NVQ2 (Skills)	COMPLETED
NI172	Number of VAT Registered Businesses (Enterprise)	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI187	Fuel Poverty	COMPLETED
NI186	CO2 Emissions	COMPLETED
NI188	Adapting to Climate Change	COMPLETED

NI191	Residual Household Waste	COMPLETED
NI198	Children Travelling to School / School Travel Advisers / Sustainable Travel to School	COMPLETED
Local	Domestic Violence	Workshop held on 20 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
Various	Children and Young People indicators	Draft pro formas received – further work to be undertaken