

Aldridge South and Streetly Partnership – 18 January 2005

REDHOUSE ESTATE PROJECT

1. Brief summary of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the partnership of a successful European funded project under EQUAL, which incorporates the Redhouse Estate project. The Redhouse Estate project forms part of a larger Black Country bid which will deliver activities focusing on the training and employment theme in the sub region.

2. Recommendations

The partnership is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the aims of the Redhouse Estate project in delivering tangible benefits for residents on the estate.
- 2.2 Note the progress to date in establishing a robust partnership to develop, deliver and manage the project.

3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2004, the Black Country Knowledge Society (BCKS) on behalf of the Black Country Consortium, and in partnership with the Aldridge South and Streetly local neighbourhood partnership, submitted a bid for European funding under EQUAL round 2. The latter is a trans-national European Social Fund (ESF) programme focusing on exploring new ways of connecting disadvantaged communities to employment and training.
- 3.2 The Redhouse Estate project is a single element of the BCKS bid. The BCKS bid covers the whole of the Black Country and is worth a total of £3m over 2/3 years. The Redhouse Estate project is funded to the tune of £250,000 consisting of £125,000 ESF, £50,000 Walsall Housing Trust and £75,000 Walsall MBC.
- 3.3 The project will be delivered in three phases:
 - Phase 1 – consultation with the local community
 - Phase 2 – to deliver and undertake environmental works through local employment
 - Phase 3 – to ensure ‘mainstreaming’ of this activity

- 3.4 The funding will boost employment and the environment on a deprived Aldridge housing estate. LNP officers will pilot a consultation model to identify the relevant community activities for the project.

4. Progress to Date

- 4.1 A project team has been established to develop, manage and assist in the delivery of the project. The team currently consists of Walsall MBC officers although contact has been made to broaden membership to include other key strategic partners including Walsall Housing Group and Groundwork.
- 4.2 Regular meetings are held to review progress and to ensure that all key partners are committed to and engaged with the project.
- 4.3 Officers have attended a series of workshops organised by BCNS to gain a better understanding of the project and to share information on equalities and experiences of delivering other European funded projects.
- 4.4 The project is fully committed to keeping the Aldridge South and Streetly LNP fully informed of developments of Redhouse Estate and to ensure that the local community of the estate gain full benefit of the opportunities afforded to them

5. Vision 2008

- 5.1 The project will have an impact on the following priorities:

8. Strengthen the local economy - the training opportunities emerging through the project will equip residents with the appropriate skills relevant to meeting the required skills such as construction. The participants will be better equipped to graduate into employment and contribute to the developing local economy.

9. Listen to what local people want – through consultation with the residents of Redhouse, the project will focus on delivering activity identified through community consultation. This will make the project a genuine bottom up approach to delivering projects focused on the local and community agenda.

6. Financial considerations

- 6.1 The project is to be funded in part £125k through EQUAL 2 (a European social fund finance programme), £50k (in-kind) from Walsall Housing Trust and by match funding of £75k from Walsall MBC via officers support time.
- 6.2 This project is part of a larger (£3m) Black Country EQUAL funded project.

7. Background papers

1. Briefing Note – Red House Estate, Aldridge – June 2004
2. Walsall MBC press release – New` partnership wins funds for 'island of deprivation' – 27 September 2004

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