

Cabinet – 16 July 2008

Area Based Grant

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

Service: Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership

Wards: All

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. Summary of Report

To request Cabinet approval for recommended programmes for Working Neighbourhoods Fund, request approval for recommendations regarding Safer Stronger Communities Fund, provide information relating Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Local Area Agreement funds, provide a progress update regarding Target Action Planning and propose a procedure for approving variances to funding allocations between Cabinet meetings in order to ensure programme procedures are able to be carried out efficiently.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet

- 2.1 approve a further 3 months extension to the Moving Offenders from Crime into Employment programme, as set out in section 3.2
- 2.2 approve a further 12 months extension to the Youth Inclusion Support Panel programme, as set out in section 3.3
- 2.3 approve the split of Safer Stronger Communities Fund, as set out in section 3.4
- 2.4 approve the proposal that Neighbourhood Renewal Fund continues to be allocated by the WBSP Board, as set out in section 3.5
- 2.5 note the proposal that Local Area Agreement funds are aligned to the Area Based Grant, as set out in section 3.6
- 2.6 note the progress regarding Target Action Planning, as set out in section 3.7
- 2.7 approve the proposal to delegate authority to approve programme variances to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, as set out in section 3.8

3. Background Information

- 3.1 As presented to previous Cabinet meetings, a number of proposed programmes were put forward for approval, having been through an assessment process administered by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP). These programmes were approved.

- 3.2 The Moving Offenders from Crime into Employment has previously received 3 months approval, the Executive Committee wish to recommend a further 3 months approval (until September 2008), from Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), the total allocation to the programme would then be £50,794.
- 3.3 The Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) had previously received 6 months approval, the Executive Committee wish to recommend a further 12 months approval (until September 2009), to bring the programme activity in line with school years, from WNF, the total allocation to the programme would then be £258,771 for financial year 2008 / 09 and £129,386 for financial year 2009 / 10.
- 3.4 The Executive Committee wish to recommend that the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), totalling £413,000 is split between Local Neighbourhood Partnership (support team) - £252,000 and Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA) - £161,000.
- 3.5 For transparency, Cabinet is requested to approve the remainder of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), totalling £576,519, will be carried forward in to 2008 / 09 and has not been subject to the 5% carry forward limit. A proposal was approved to the Executive Committee, who has previously been responsible for allocating NRF, for the WBSP Board to identify cross-cutting programmes to support Partnership activity.
- 3.6 The remainder of the Local Area Agreement funding streams, totalling £177,757, equivalent to 2% of the total LAA allocation (and was subject to 5% carry forward), it is recommended by the Executive Committee that these funding streams are aligned to Area Based Grant (ABG) and allocated at the same time as the 'transition year' funding streams.
- 3.7 As reported to the Cabinet meeting held on 16 April 2008, the WBSP was beginning to map out the Target Action Plan (TAP) process, focussing initially on the Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar a proposal has now been put to Walsall Council's Corporate Management Team proposing groupings of LAA indicators, which will be reported to a later Cabinet meeting, once consultation with partners have been completed.
- 3.7.1 Cabinet are requested to approve the extension of the approval condition for TAPs to be undertaken by June 2008 to September 2008 for both the Enterprise and Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) programmes. This extension will allow for the TAP process to be undertaken robustly.
- 3.8 In order for approval of variances to programmes to be processed between Cabinet meetings, it is proposed that the Chief Executive, is given delegated authority to approve variances to programmes up to the value of £50,000, which should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- 3.8.1 Any approvals will be reported to the next Cabinet meeting available.
- 3.8.2 Any new recommendations will be reported directly to Cabinet to request approval.

4. Resource Considerations

4.1 Financial:

- 4.1.1 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 Walsall which are contained in the draft Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 4.1.2 Although the Area Based Grant is not directly linked to the LSP's indicators and targets, it will be a major source of funding for the delivery of local and regional strategy. The assessment of the achievements delivered through the ABG is expected to form part of the Comprehensive Area Review in 2009 / 10 although the detail surrounding this is as yet largely unknown.

4.2 Legal:

- 4.2.1 ABG requires approval of the Council as the responsible local authority and accountable body of the WBSP.

4.3 Staffing:

- 4.3.1 Not applicable.

5. Citizen Impact

- 5.1 The proposals should make a significant impact on addressing worklessness, which is arguably the key issue challenging us all in Walsall, but one in which there is now real opportunity to make the difference.

6. Community Safety

- 6.1 None.

7. Environmental Impact

- 7.1 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 LAA and National Indicator Set may be affected.

8.2 Performance management:

- 8.2.1 Performance management as existing arrangements for the LAA. Continuation of funding will allow activity to carry on working towards delivery of targets.

9. Equality Implications

- 9.1 Where appropriate equalities will be measured across each indicator selected for the LAA. A requirement will be included in the Target Action Planning process that will ensure that data is collected on the equalities impact of all activity

10. Consultation

- 10.1 Partners have been involved in the development of the process for allocation of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, as well as the consideration of proposed programmes.

Background Papers:

None

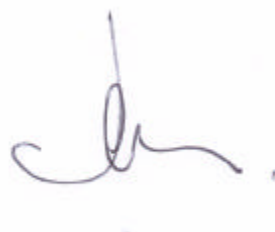
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Tim Johnson
Executive Director

23 June 2008



Councillor John O'Hare
Leader of the Council

7 July 2008