

Cabinet – 15 July 2009

Area Based Grant: Walsall Partnership Programmes and Resources

Portfolio: Councillor Bird, 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 Walsall Partnership programmes and resources.
- 1.2 The report requests Cabinet approval of funding for recommended programmes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the total reduction of Working Neighbourhoods Fund for 2009/10 and 2010/11 of £72,447, as set out in section 3.7
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the delegation for administration and recommendations relating to the use of the Climate Change funding stream of £22,500 for financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 to Walsall Partnership, as set out in section 3.11
- 2.3 That Cabinet approves the move of Young Persons Substance Misuse Grant (Home Office) funding stream from the Neighbourhoods Directorate to the Children's Directorate, as set out in section 3.12
- 2.4 That Cabinet notes the progress regarding completion of Target Action Plans, as set out at appendix 1
- 2.5 That Cabinet approves delegated authority to the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, for any funding allocation decisions recommended by Walsall Partnership for those funding streams delegated to Walsall Partnership, as set out in section 3.14.1
- 2.6 Cabinet is requested to approve the proposal to provide six-monthly reports by Walsall Partnership, as set out in section 3.14.3

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Walsall Council receives Area Based Grant (ABG), which is unring-fenced revenue 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 previously approved, at its meeting of 19 March 2008, that WNF would form part of Walsall Partnership's governance arrangements.
- 3.3 Other funding streams within the Partnership's governance arrangements are Stronger Safer Communities Fund (SSCF) and Community Cohesion funding.
- 3.4 The Target Action Plan (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.
- 3.5 Walsall Council administers the remainder of ABG, acknowledging the TAP process may impact on other ABG funding streams.

3.6 Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF)

3.6.1 WNF Allocation Position as at 31 March 2009

- 3.6.2 Following approval of programmes / projects at the previous Cabinet meeting of 24 June 2009, the current WNF position statement is shown in the table below:

	2008 / 09 £	2009 / 10 £	2010 / 11 £
Carry Forward:		2,149,705	912,424
Walsall's Allocation:	5,462,858	6,453,802	6,707,916
Total Programme Claims (Year 1)	3,313,783		
Total Programme Allocations:	-	7,690,453	7,334,817
Balance:	2,149,075	912,424	285,523

(NOTE: Confirmation is awaited of a possible reduction in WNF for financial years 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11, following national consultation. This has previously been reported to Cabinet and would mean a total reduction of WNF by £72,447)

- 3.6.3 The one outstanding 'transition' programme – Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) – currently funded until September 2009. The Safer Walsall Partnership (SWP) discussed this programme at its meeting of 3 June 2009. A report was presented informing the SWP that an additional funding stream had been notified to Walsall Council and the outputs / outcomes of the YISP programme met the funding stream criteria, therefore, further funding from WNF would not be required.

3.7 Cabinet is advised that Walsall has received notification of the reduction of WNF, as explained in the Cabinet report of 14 January 2009. This means that Walsall will receive a reduction of £42,250 in 2009 / 10 and £30,197 in 2010 / 11 – a total reduction of £72,447.

3.7.1 Cabinet is requested to note the total reduction of Working Neighbourhoods Fund for 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11 of £72,447.

3.8 Stronger Safer Communities Fund

3.8.1 At the Cabinet meeting of 14 January 2009, approval was given to allocate the SSCF funds, as set out below:

Local Neighbourhood Partnership team	£165,120
Walsall Voluntary Action	£92,880
TOTAL:	£258,000

3.8.2 Approval was given at the Cabinet meeting of 24 June 2009 for a total carry forward of £42,528 for Walsall Voluntary Action.

3.9 Community Cohesion Fund

3.9.1 No further updates to report.

3.10 Performance Reward Grant

3.10.1 Cabinet has previously approved the following amounts to programmes recommended by Walsall Partnership Board:

Walsall Partnership (revenue)	500,000
Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (revenue)	197,000
Nottingham Declaration (revenue)	10,000
TOTAL:	707,000

3.10.2 In addition to these programmes, Cabinet wishes to retain £2.2 million of PRG to invest in and develop key projects, where there are wide-scale partner benefits, including £1.2million capital support (£600,000 per annum for financial years 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11) for Building Schools for the Future (BSF). It has previously been agreed that these initiatives are reported to Walsall Partnership Board.

3.10.3 The table below sets out the balance of PRG available to be allocated:

Revenue Available (*)	2,255,000	Capital Available (*)	2,255,000
Revenue Allocated	1,707,000	Capital Allocated	1,200,000
Balance Available	548,000	Balance Available	1,055,000

(*) Based on projected out-turn of £4,510,000, divided 50:50 capital / revenue

3.11 Climate Change Funding

- 3.11.1 Notification has been given of a new funding stream for Climate Change within Area Based Grant (ABG), which is a key area of work for all partners across the Borough. Funding of £22,500 is available for both financial years 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11. It is requested that this new funding stream is administered by Walsall Partnership to address this key priority. Any recommendations for use of this fund will be presented to Cabinet for approval.
- 3.11.2 Cabinet is requested to approve the delegation for the administration and recommendations relating to the use of the Climate Change funding stream of £22,500 for financial years 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11 to Walsall Partnership. Recommendations of detailed projects to be delegated to Walsall Partnership theme groups with financial approval delegated to the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services (see paragraph 2.5).

3.12 Young Persons Substance Misuse – Home Office and DCSF Funding Streams

- 3.12.1 As part of the ABG, there are two funding streams, one called Young Persons Substance Misuse Grant (Home Office), of £75,499, for each of the financial years 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11 and the other called Young Persons Substance Misuse (DCSF), of £38,065, for each of the financial years 2009 / 10 and 2010 / 11. The Home Office funding stream is allocated to the Neighbourhoods Directorate. It is proposed that this funding stream is moved to the Children's Directorate to ensure all funding streams dealing with this issue are within one Directorate.
- 3.12.2 Cabinet is requested to approve the move of Young Persons Substance Misuse Grant (Home Office) funding stream from the Neighbourhoods Directorate to the Children's Directorate.

3.13 Target Action Planning Process

- 3.13.1 Attached at appendix 1 is an update regarding the Target Action Planning (TAP) process. There remains some TAP pro formas outstanding, but work is underway to ensure these are completed following additional workshops to ensure cross-cutting activity has been captured.
- 3.13.2 As part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) the Audit Commission is requesting copies of completed TAPs, in order to consider the delivery plan for each of the LAA targets.
- 3.13.3 Cabinet is requested to note the progress regarding completion of Target Action Plans, as set out at appendix 1.

3.14 Future Approvals of Funding

- 3.14.1 In order to speed up the decision-making process in terms of funding administered by Walsall Partnership, it is proposed that any future decisions for funding allocations are made via delegated authority to the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

3.14.2 This proposal will reduce the number of reports to Cabinet for minor approvals. The majority of the funding streams administered by Walsall Partnership have already been allocated to programmes for the next two years. Reporting to Scrutiny Panels has been scheduled in to ensure that decisions taken by Walsall Partnership are robust and auditable.

3.14.3 It is proposed that Cabinet receive a six-monthly update on progress relating to funding streams administered by Walsall Partnership, which will include any delegated decisions taken. It is proposed these reports will be presented to Cabinet in October 2009 and June 2010.

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).

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.

5. Citizen impact

- 5.1 The proposals should make a significant impact on addressing worklessness and community cohesion, two key issues 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 LAA. 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 WNF and other elements of Area Based Grant, as well as the consideration of proposed programmes.

Background Papers:

None

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6 July 2009



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6 July 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	Draft received – Pro forma needs some amendments
NI8	% of Adults Participating in Sport	COMPLETED
NI17	Perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour	Draft received – Pro forma needs some amendments
NI19	Rates of Re-Offending	Draft received – Pro forma needs some amendments
NI30	Persistent Prolific Offenders and Acquisitive Crime	Draft received – Pro forma needs some amendments
NI56	Obesity in Children	COMPLETED
NI110	Positive Activities for Young People	Lead officer now identified, workshop to be arranged
NI112	Teenage Conceptions	Workshop arranged for 17 June 2009
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
NI135	Carers and Needs Assessment	COMPLETED
NI136	People Supported to Live Independently	COMPLETED
NI141	% of Vulnerable Adults / Independent Living (Supporting People)	COMPLETED
NI152	People on Out of Work Benefits (Worklessness)	COMPLETED
NI154	Number of Additional Houses	Draft TAP pro forma completed. Being consulted on with partners
NI163	NVQ2 (Skills)	COMPLETED
NI172	Number of VAT Registered Businesses (Enterprise)	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some 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	Draft received – Pro forma needs some amendments
Various	Children and Young People indicators	Draft pro formas received – further work to be undertaken

