

## **Agenda Item**

### **Willenhall LNP – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

#### **Funding Priorities for Action**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To inform the LNP of the funding priorities identified by those members attending the workshop that took place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2005 and the next steps forward.

#### **Recommendations**

1. To note each project will be assessed by the LNP Project Team to ensure they meet the agreed criteria.
2. To note each project will be passed to the relevant council officer who will liaise with project champion in order to decide what action needs to be taken to implement the decision of the LNP.
3. To receive feedback from the project champions on progress at the next LNP meeting

#### **Background**

Willenhall LNP have been allocated £33,000 as a one-off sum to support the implementation and delivery of the local Partnership Plan.

To help decide which projects and schemes should receive financial support from the financial allocation a checklist of questions has been produced and previously approved by Council Cabinet. A positive answer to most questions should help each LNP to justify and prioritise their funding priorities as well as demonstrate appropriate accountability.

The key questions included in the checklist cover the following:

- ? Resources must be for 'one-off' items that will have visible local impact
- ? Must be a demonstrable link to priorities identified in LNP local plan
- ? Must be a demonstrable link to Council Vision 2008 priorities
- ? Must not be contrary to council policy
- ? What is the impact of the proposed spending – e.g. who will benefit, how will they benefit, numbers of people who will benefit?
- ? Does the spending provide Value for Money?

- ? Will the proposed spending lever in any 'match funding' from other partners or other agencies?
- ? Any resources allocated will need a named officer responsible for spending the money in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules/Contract Procedure Rules.

The process for LNPs spending their resource allocation has been agreed by cabinet, as follows:

- ? LNP task group completes funding checklist for each proposal
- ? Report to LNP meeting outlining funding priorities
- ? LNP chair signs the completed checklists
- ? LNP Project team confirms checklist is complete and passes form to relevant service area.
- ? Progress reports by project champion to LNP meeting.

### **Feedback from the workshop**

The list below displays the actions within the partnership plan which were selected:

- **Create training programmes which provide access to new skills and future job opportunities –**

Some discussion took place on the feasibility of providing training; however in realistic terms the LNP funding will not be sufficient to fund an effective training programme. Some suggestion was made to using part of the funds to complete a feasibility study to identify what training is out there and what is needed. Following discussions the group did not pursue this feasibility and research idea.

- **Kick Start community safety**

A pilot project was suggested which would see community wardens placed within 3 anti social behaviour hot spots for a period of 3-6 months (depending on costs and funds available). Community wardens would target these 3 areas and attempt to engage with the young people and tackle anti social behaviour.

- **Mapping of local economy**

Members felt this priority was important in order to gain a wider perspective of what is within Willenhall. A social audit was suggested and agreed which would provide information on businesses, land owners, facilities etc, this will provide a good baseline for future developments.

- **Engage with young people about their vision of Willenhall**

Engaging young people has already been highlighted within the partnership plan. The lack of youth involvement is an issue with all LNP's, engaging young people is imperative in order to gain the youth perspective on community issues. Members agreed that young people need to be engaged however they were unsure what would be the best methodology to achieve this. Members agreed that the project could be commissioned to a relevant organisation or individual who can assist the LNP in understanding the best way to engage young people of Willenhall.

- **Develop localised learning hubs to attract learners**

This was linked into the local mapping issue. Members felt they need more information on current learning facilities in order to look at localised learning hubs.

- **Support people who have retired to re-use or recycle their skills for the benefits of others**

Members felt this was a worthwhile project and would provide intergenerational work. This type of project will allow the elder generations to showcase their skills to the younger generations; skills such as manufacturing, plumbing etc could be showcased. This project was agreed subject to further information on factors such as costings.

- **Establish community centre for short health**

This was seen as a very large project, this was also linked into the local mapping project as this will allow members to understand what community facilities are currently available.

- **Demolish public toilets in Sandbeds Road**

Members agreed to link this into the local mapping project before demolishing; as this will allow members to identify other redundant/derelict buildings in the LNP area..

- **Provide an outreach facility to link in with safety wardens**

This project links in with the 'Kick Start Community Safety' and Engage with young people about their vision of Willenhall' projects and therefore was not seen as another individual project.

- **Off street parking across the LNP area**

Members felt the mapping project needs to be completed first in order to gain further information.

- **Pool Hayes Community School - needs new building**

This was seen as a very large project which requires various partners; small amounts of funding would not make any significant difference.

- **Christmas Lights**

Shop keepers from within the town centre have submitted a petition requesting the LNP to provide some financial contribution towards the costs of the Christmas lights. The group agreed that this seemed like a good initiative which would have high visible impact. Therefore the group agreed to provide financial contributions towards Christmas lights in 3 areas 1)Willenhall Town Centre, 2) High Road Lane Head. 3)The Square at New Invention.

Following the projects listed and discussed above the LNP proposed the following projects to go ahead subject to further information such as costs, timescales etc.

1. Kick Start community safety
2. Engage with young people about their vision of Willenhall
3. Christmas Lights

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