

## **Cabinet – 17 September 2008**

### **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 request Cabinet approval for recommended programmes from Working Neighbourhoods Fund, and provide a progress update regarding Target Action Planning.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation to the Inward Investment programme, as set out in section 3.2
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation to the Worklessness programme, as set out in section 3.3
- 2.3 That Cabinet approve the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation to the Sustainable Urban Development programme, as set out in section 3.4
- 2.4 That Cabinet note the current progress regarding Target Action Planning, as set out in section 3.5

#### **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 Partnership (WP). These programmes were approved for recommendation.
- 3.2 The Inward Investment programme has previously received approval for £34,250 through the allocation of transitional Working Neighbourhoods Fund, for financial year 2008 / 09. The Executive Committee wish to recommend for approval a further £110,000 from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) allocation from 2008 - 2011, the total allocation to the programme would then be £144,250. A summary of the programme is attached at appendix 1.

- 3.3 The Worklessness programme has previously received approval for £602,175 through the allocation of transitional Working Neighbourhoods Fund for financial year 2008 / 09. The Executive Committee wish to recommend a further £574,838 approval from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation from 2009 – 2011. The total allocation to the programme would then be £1,177,013. A summary of the programme is attached at appendix 2.
- 3.4 The Sustainable Urban Development programme is delivered in conjunction with European Regional Development Fund throughout Walsall and Wolverhampton. The Executive Committee wish to recommend an approval of £125,000, from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation, from 2008 – 2011. This will be match funded to the same value by Wolverhampton Council and Advantage West Midlands. A summary of the programme is attached at appendix 3.
- 3.5.1 A report was presented to Walsall Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) (30 July 2008) and the Walsall Partnership Executive Committee meeting (18 July 2008), setting out a proposal regarding the Target Action Planning (TAP) process. Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets have now been grouped under the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes, under People, Places and Prosperity.
- 3.5.2 In addition, officers have now been identified for each target and each cluster of targets. An Assistant Director has also been allocated to each cluster of targets to ensure the process is embedded within the Council's planning cycle.
- 3.5.3 From the clustering of indicators, workshops will be planned. The timescale for completion of this is end of October 2008, which will be in line with Walsall Council's resource planning framework and allow for some alignment of budgets, particularly relating to the Area Based Grant from 2009 onwards.
- 3.5.4 Additional support is also available through the West Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP). A proposal has been submitted to the RIEP and a response is awaited.

#### **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 Walsall's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 4.1.2 Although the Area Based Grant is not directly linked to Walsall Partnership's Local Area Agreement 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 Review in 2009 / 11 although the detail surrounding this is as yet largely unknown.
- 4.1.3 It is acknowledged that these requests are in advance of the proposed Target Action Planning process, which will be the mechanism for assessing where Area

Based Grant is being utilised to deliver existing services / activity against the LAA targets and support the wider decision-making process of the Council's budget planning cycle. The reason for the requests being made at this time, are due to timeframes which impact on the achievement of targets within the LAA, the need for the worklessness programme activity to be re-tendered through the OJEU process to ensure existing activity continues to be delivered and the need to meet deadlines set by Advantage West Midlands regarding the SUD Package.

- 4.1.4 As stated in sections 3.5.1 - 3.5.3 the TAP process is underway and will be completed by the end of October 2008. This will support the Council's budget planning cycle and enable decisions to be made relating to the wider Area Based Grant following this initial 'transitional' year.

#### **4.2 Legal:**

- 4.2.1 Area Based Grant 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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Jamie Morris  
Executive Director

5 September 2008



Councillor John O'Hare  
Portfolio holder

5 September 2008

## WALSALL BOROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

### SUMMARY OF WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND REQUEST PRO FORMAS

#### Transition Programmes

Programme Name		Summary of Activity		Funding Requested (£)		Executive Committee Recommendation	
Inward Investment Programme		<p>This programme is currently funded in 2008 / 09 through transitional Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocations, to the value of £34,250.</p> <p>The request for funding supports the continuation of the current Inward investment programme, delivering positive inward investment interventions including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive marketing, and use of inward investment pack</li> <li>• Intelligence gathering</li> <li>• Extensive 1-2-1 support for inward investment prospects</li> <li>• Site identification and facilitating land assembly opportunities</li> <li>• Brokering tailored packages of aftercare support around investment finance, recruitment and training</li> <li>• Ongoing aftercare and relationship building</li> </ul> <p>In order to successfully recruit to the inward investment post, it is anticipated that inevitable difficulties will arise should this post only be funded in the short term (approximately 6 months), securing funding until 31 March 2011 would attract greater interest.</p>		£110,000		<p>Approve additional Working Neighbourhoods Fund totalling £110,000 for the period 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2011.</p> <p>Taken from Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocations</p> <p>2008 / 09 £30,000 2009 / 10 £40,000 2010 / 11 £40,000</p>	
Worklessness	X	Skills		Enterprise		VCS Support	

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Worklessness		<p>This programme is currently funded in 2008 / 09 through transitional Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocations, to the value of £602,175.</p> <p>The additional request covers management costs, Access to Employment, Multi Agency One Stop Shop (Darlaston JET), Successful Applications elements of the Worklessness Target Action plan for the 2009 – 2011 period, to ensure the continuity of the programmes and activity throughout the legal OJEU process.</p> <p>It is recognised by the Partnership for Walsall Economic Regeneration (PoWER) Pillar Executive Group (PEG) that these activities will form a part of the overall worklessness Target Action Plan, due to be developed by October 2008. However, without financial commitment at this stage, the risk of closure for the programmes is inevitable.</p> <p>The PoWER PEG recognises that these interventions would be key priorities in the delivery of the worklessness target within the Local Area Agreement.</p>		£574,838		<p>Approve additional Working Neighbourhoods Fund totalling £805,454 for the period 1 April 2009 – 31 March 2011.</p> <p>Taken from Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocations 2009 / 10 £287,419 2010 / 11 £287,419</p> <p>Taken from Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocations 2009 / 10 £115,308 2010 / 11 £115,308</p>
Worklessness	X	Skills		Enterprise		VCS Support

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Sustainable Development Programme	Urban (SUD)	<p>Walsall Council, in collaboration with Wolverhampton Council has been appointed as Sustainable Urban Development package owners for the North Black Country with the aim of delivering a successful priority 3 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme . This should lever approximately £6million of European investment into Walsall.</p> <p>Key strategic themes of the package are;            1; Stimulating Physical Improvements and Access            2; Securing an Enterprising Community            3; Tackling Worklessness            4; Energy and Sustainability</p> <p>Through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation and the match funding from Wolverhampton Council, the appointment of a SUD Package Manager (Walsall) and Assistant SUD package manager (Wolverhampton) will be possible for the duration of the scheme, in December 2013.            It is recognised that WNF will be utilised in the earlier stages and European funding utilised in the latter stages to cover management activities until December 2013.</p>	£125,000		<p>Approve Working Neighbourhoods Fund totalling £125,000</p> <p>Taken from Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocations            2008 / 09 £62,500            2010 / 11 £62,500</p>
Worklessness	X	Skills		Enterprise	VCS Support

