

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	5 th October 2009	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund Monitoring Report		
Report by:	Partnership Consultant Programme Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Deputy Leader of the Council – Cabinet Member for Regeneration Leader of the Council		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities.

TARGETS

The Working Neighbourhoods Fund will impact on the National Indicator 153 – Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods. Bolsover District Council has agreed a holding target with the LAA of reducing the out of work claimant rate within the worst performing neighbourhoods from 28.7% to 25.4% by March 2011. The Local Authority's success in tackling worklessness will also be measured against a further 4 indicators, these being:

- NI 117 – 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment
- NI 118 – Take up of formal childcare by low income working families
- NI 163 – Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher
- NI 172 – VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The principles of Value for Money – economy, efficiency and effectiveness will be applied in all interventions considered.

THE REPORT

Background

1. Executive Members will recall the Authority's award of Working Neighbourhoods Fund in 2008 (Minute No. 886 refers). The Working Neighbourhoods Fund was introduced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement and is one element of the new Area Based Grant. It provides resources to local authorities to tackle worklessness and low levels of skills and enterprise in their most deprived areas.

2. The WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council is:

2008/09	£2,055,516
2009/10	£2,440,522
2010/11	£2,535,018

3. As part of the Council's approach to tackling worklessness, a Commissioning Framework has been established to allocate the funding in two ways:-

- i) the Local Authority's focus upon the people who are **already receiving benefits** and are unemployed and try to encourage them back into work and off benefits, and
- ii) tasking the Local Strategic Partnership for Bolsover with identifying measures to address and **prevent the need to be in receipt of benefits** or become unemployed (£3m over three years)

2009/10 Quarter 1 Progress Update

4. The attached report titled 'Quarter 1 Update' has been produced following the submission of quarterly monitoring returns by projects that have been funded to date through the Council's Working Neighbourhoods Fund. The attached report provides:

- An overview of activity that took place during April – June 2009 in relation to Working Neighbourhoods Fund planning and commissioning
- Information regarding areas of commissioning activity that are currently being developed by the Local Strategic Partnership and the Core Worklessness Group, which are likely to come to fruition over the forthcoming months
- Detailed information in relation to progress of individual projects that commenced delivery in Quarter 1
- Labour market information and an analysis of the National Indicator (NI) 153 progress on reducing concentrations of worklessness within the district

5. Progress against activity during Quarter 2, July to September, will be reported to Executive on 30 November 2009, and quarterly thereafter.

Suspending Contract Standing Orders

6. The Local Strategic Partnership and the Core Worklessness Group have jointly identified a priority intervention through their commissioning activity where there are considered to be justifiable reasons for suspending Contract Standing Orders. These reasons have been discussed and supported by the Head of Shared Procurement, Chief Executive Officer and Political Leadership. Endorsement from the Executive is now being sought to suspend CSO's for the initiative outlined below.

Employer Engagement

7. The aim of this initiative is to:
 - respond to the needs of local employers and inward investors, by matching their recruitment requirements with the skills of local people, especially those from the most deprived wards.
 - support local unemployed people and ensure connection to appropriate training to meet the needs of local employers and future skills needs of the district.
8. The proposed hosting/management arrangements for this initiative will involve Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce (DNCC) appointing two members of staff; a Business Engagement Officer who will be the interface with local employers and inward investors, and a Training Co-ordinator who will respond to the needs of local, unemployed people by co-ordinating and brokering relevant training. It is envisaged that Training Co-ordinator post will involve a secondment to the existing Family Employment Initiative team that operates within the most deprived areas of Bolsover district and that their existing training budget, funded through WNF, will be utilised.
9. The joint working of these two posts is seen as essential to ensuring that local people are given the best opportunities possible to access and benefit from arising job opportunities from local employers and inward investors; and the proposed delivery arrangements present the most attractive and viable option at this moment in time.
10. Further to the above, and taking into account that this initiative is predominantly an employment contract and some control will be retained by Bolsover District Council throughout delivery, the procurement/tendering process would be unnecessarily time consuming and would seriously jeopardise the desired outcome.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Whether to agree the suspension of Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 as set out in the report.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: Detailed in the report

Legal: The suspension of Contract Standing Orders in relation to the intervention as detailed in paragraphs 7 to 11, as a tendering process would usually be required for WNF commissioned interventions under the Local Authority's Procurement procedures.

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION(S) that;

Executive suspends Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 for the reasons given above in relation to Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To ensure that WNF is targeted to best effect and where needed and to ensure that the tendering process does not unjustifiably distort the result.

ATTACHMENTS: Y
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT: