

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	7.
Date:	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2009	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund		
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 Core Worklessness Group has been established which has delegated authority, through the Leader of the Council, to evaluate and agree direct intervention projects in accordance with the Commissioning Framework

### **Chesterfield Law Centre – Free Legal Advice to Bolsover Residents**

6. The Chief Executive Officer and the Leader of the Council have agreed to suspend Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 in relation to an initiative that will enable the activities of Chesterfield Law Centre to be extended into the district of Bolsover.
7. The project will give people living in the district of Bolsover access to specialist free legal services in social welfare law – employment; housing, housing debt (including prevention of homelessness). Furthermore, clients with enquiries about their employment, loss of employment, conditions of work and wages will be able to access specialist employment advice via a dedicated telephone service.
8. This activity will complement a new initiative being developed by the Local Strategic Partnership which aims to reduce financial exclusion across the district by working with key partners such as Community Voluntary Partners, North East Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau and the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre. Residents of Bolsover are not currently able to access legal aid advice and an extension of Chesterfield Law Centre's services via outreach centres within the district would provide this facility.
9. Chesterfield Law Centre has secured £25,000 from the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust as a contribution to the proposed service within Bolsover. Income from the Legal Services Commission for each case closed will also contribute towards the cost of delivery. Providing additional resources through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (£54,556

to March 2012) will pump-prime the service and there is a commitment from Chesterfield Law Centre to continue the outreach facility for a minimum of 5 years. It is envisaged that this service will be sustainable after three years of operation.

10. Endorsement from the Executive is now being sought to suspend CSO's for the initiative as outlined above.

### **ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Whether to endorse 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 the above paragraphs, 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 endorses the Chief Executive Officer's decision taken in consultation with the Leader of the Council to suspend Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 for the reasons given above in relation to Chesterfield Law Centre**

### **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:           **N**  
FILE REFERENCE:  
SOURCE DOCUMENT: