

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	5.
Date:	8 th March 2010	Status	Open
Category	Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund Quarter 3 Monitoring Report		
Report by:	Partnership Consultant Programme Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A.F. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration (Strategy) Councillor E. Watts, 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

Executive Members will recall the Authority's award of Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) 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.

Bolsover District Council's allocation of the WNF was originally £7,031,056 for the period 2008-2011. This was later revised, following an adjustment to the way the fund was calculated, to £7,065,414. On 12th November 2009, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) announced that an additional £40 million was being made available to the 61 local authorities currently in full receipt of WNF. For Bolsover, this means that an additional £200,483 has been allocated bringing the total allocation up to **£7,265,897**.

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 3 Progress Update

The attached report titled 'Quarter 3 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 October - December 2009 in relation to Working Neighbourhoods Fund planning and commissioning
- Detailed information in relation to progress of individual projects that have been approved
- Outputs achieved during the Quarter and 2009/10 to date
- Case study information to demonstrate the impact of projects on individuals
- Labour market information and an analysis of the National Indicator (NI) 153 progress on reducing concentrations of worklessness within the district

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The details given in the report as to progress.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: Detailed in the report
Legal: None
Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION(S) that the report be received

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To ensure that WNF is targeted to best effect.

ATTACHMENTS: Y
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT: