

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	7.
Date:	5 th July, 2010	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	Councillor A. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration 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 had agreed a holding target with the LAA of reducing the out of work claimant rate within the worst performing neighbourhoods from 28.7% to 25.7% by March 2011. This target has now been revised, to take into account the impact of the economic downturn, to reflect an average benefit claimant rate in the NI 153 areas that is 1.5% lower in Bolsover than in the East Midlands.

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

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.

The WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council for the period 2008-11 has been reduced to £7,067,897. This reflects the Government's announcement of a 2% reduction in funding for 2010/11. The specifics of this reduction in funding impact on the national WNF programme. For Bolsover this equates to a reduction of £198,000.

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 4 and End of Year Report

1. The attached report titled 'Quarter 4 and End of Year Report 2009/10' 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 January - March 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
- Labour market information and an analysis of the National Indicator (NI) 153 progress on reducing concentrations of worklessness within the district
- Detailed information in relation to progress of individual projects
- Project case studies

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The contents of the report are noted by Members.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: None.

Legal: None

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION

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: