

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	7.
Date:	4th October 2010	Status	Open
Category	1. Key Decision included in the Forward Plan 2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund - Suspension of Contract Standing Orders		
Report by:	Partnership Consultant Programme Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager Head of Shared Procurement		
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. The use of Working Neighbourhoods Fund will affect the wider determinants of Worklessness by commissioning activity that takes account of the effects upon the wellbeing of residents in local communities in respect of their health, wealth and secure employment; all of which contributes to building sustainable communities in the district."

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

1. Executive Members will recall the Authority's award of Working Neighbourhoods Fund in 2008 (Minute No. 886 refers). The WNF was introduced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement and is one element of the 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 £7,067,897 for the period 2008-11.
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)

Suspending Contract Standing Orders

4. In February 2010, Executive Members endorsed the suspension of Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 in relation to Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT). The intervention to be commissioned through the Local Strategic Partnership's WNF allocation was the development and delivery of an education programme within schools which encompasses a preventative model for teenage pregnancy, with a defined focus on

relationships and self-esteem. The proposed intervention had been informed by the findings of a pilot project which was supported by the PCT earlier this year.

5. The intended management arrangements for this intervention involved the PCT being the lead commissioner with responsibility for overseeing and commissioning delivery through sub-contracting arrangements with SNAP (South Normanton and Pinxton) Development Project. Since then a number of factors have hindered progress with this approach and, in order for the project to proceed and to minimise further delays, it is proposed that the LSP (through BDC as the accountable body for the WNF) contracts directly with SNAP Development Project to deliver the intervention. Although the PCT will no longer be contractually responsible to the LSP to deliver the intervention, the PCT's Health Improvement Manager for Parenting, Families and Children will have an active role in overseeing project delivery through a Service Level Agreement with the LSP in order to ensure strategic alignment with the PCT's Public Health role as a commissioner of teenage pregnancy interventions.
6. Endorsement from the Executive is now being sought to suspend Contract Standing Orders in relation to SNAP Development Project on the basis that SNAP delivered the initial six month pilot successfully and there are not considered to be any savings to be gained from tendering for project delivery through competitive procedures. SNAP has a proven track record with local knowledge and engagement with the target audience and, crucially, is in a position to commence delivery immediately, which is a critical factor in achieving greatest impact within the parameters of time limited funding and academic school years. Furthermore, the Council would be promoting Voluntary and Community Sector involvement through the use of a third sector organisation to deliver a service.
7. The value of the contract is estimated to be approximately £121,535 to September 2011 with the potential to extend dependent upon performance. This value is less than the financial threshold which would require the tender to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
8. These reasons have been discussed and are supported by the Head of Shared Procurement, the Chief Executive Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.

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 4 to 8, as a tendering process would usually be required for WNF commissioned interventions under the Local Authority's Procurement procedures.

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION 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 SNAP Development Project.

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: