

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	16.
Date:	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 Update		
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. 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 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 (WNF) was introduced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement and was paid as 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.

The total WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council is since its inception in 2008/09 amounts to £7,066,100.

2. As part of the Council's approach to tackling worklessness, a Commissioning Framework was 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
3. All WNF has now been received by the Council as it was paid over the 2008-11 period. As the WNF is non-ringfenced it has been carried into 2011/12 to enable interventions to continue and impact in the District. Residual WNF has also been allocated to selected projects during 2012/13 to maximise delivery impact in the absence of further area based grant.

### **2011/12 Quarter 2 Report**

4. The attached report titled 'Quarter 2 Update, July – September 2011' 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 currently taking place in relation to Working Neighbourhoods Fund planning, commissioning, and future activity in relation to securing additional funding
  - Unemployment statistics including an analysis of the National Indicator (NI) 153, Job Seekers Allowance claimant counts, the number of 16-18 year olds Not in Employment, Employment or Training)
  - Information in relation to progress of individual projects in the second quarter of 2011/12

- Case studies of individuals assisted through WNF interventions to demonstrate impact

**ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

The contents of the Quarter 2 report.

**IMPLICATONS**

Financial: Detailed in the report.

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: