

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	5.
Date:	10 th December 2012	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work & Skills Plan Update – April to September 2012		
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

National Indicator (NI) 153 measured progress on reducing concentrations of worklessness within local authority areas, particularly those in receipt of the WNF. Specifically, the indicator measured the out-of-work benefits claimant rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods – these were defined as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) with a benefit claimant rate of 25% or more as at February 2007 (4 quarter rolling average).

A local target was negotiated within the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) to reduce the average claimant rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods from 28.7% to 25.7% by March 2011. To take account of the impact of the economic downturn this target was later revised to an average claimant rate in the NI153 areas that was 1.1 percentage points lower than that of the East Midlands.

Following the change of Government in 2010, NI153 figures ceased to be published centrally and the target is no longer active within the LAA. However, the Chief Executives and Partnership Team continues to calculate and publish the same 'out of work benefit claimant' data for the purpose of consistently monitoring the impact of the WNF programme.

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 WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council was £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 future years to enable interventions and their impact to continue in the District.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work and Skills Plan Update

4. The attached report titled 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work and Skills Plan Update – April to September 2012' is the first six monthly update on the WNF and Work and Skills Plan, and replaces the quarterly WNF update reports disseminated in previous years.

This update aims to:

- Provide an updated spend/financial position for WNF monies allocated to the Council and Bolsover Partnership
- Report on activity currently taking place in relation to Working Neighbourhoods Fund planning, commissioning, and current activity in relation to securing additional funding
- Report on unemployment statistics for the district including an analysis of the National Indicator (NI) 153, Job Seekers Allowance claimant counts, and the number of 16-18 year olds Not in Employment, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Provide an updated Work and Skills plan for activity in the first six months of 2012/13.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

IMPLICATIONS

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: