

Bolsover District Council

Executive

3rd November 2014

Community Cohesion Project Update

Report of Cllr E Watts, Leader of the Council

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To provide Executive with an update on the proposal for a Community Cohesion Officer at Shirebrook and the current funding plan.

1 Report Details

Community Cohesion Project

- 1.1 Executive will recall the decision in April 2014 to contribute up to £20,000 to the post of a Community Cohesion Worker over a two year period. The report taken to Executive by the Executive Director for Operations set out the underlying tensions within the Shirebrook community and proposed that a Community Cohesion Officer would be the most appropriate way forward to address the issues and reduce tensions, and that the post would be based within the Council's Community Safety Team.
- 1.2 An annual budget in the region of £40,000 was proposed and a range of contributions from different partners identified. At that stage, it was thought that a local private sector company would also contribute towards the project. Following further discussions a direct financial contribution is unlikely; however, company staff time and resources to take forward any initiatives to address community cohesion within Shirebrook have been pledged.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on activity since the April 2014 Executive meeting, and the table below confirms the funding that has been committed to date for a two year project:

Partner	Amount
Bolsover District Council	£20,000
Derbyshire Constabulary	£6,000

Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group	£10,000
Bolsover Community Safety Partnership	£5,000
Derbyshire County Council	£5,000
Bolsover Partnership Funding for Health Priorities	£25,000
Total	£71,000

- 1.4 Whilst the funding identified above would be sufficient to move the project forward for a period of two years, based on the current salary projection, it is the view of the Bolsover Partnership Executive Board that the current salary indication is too low. The post holder would need to be of a high calibre, able to work with key strategic agencies as well as community leaders, and ideally be multi-lingual. It is considered necessary therefore to revisit the job description and person specification to ensure the resulting grading accurately reflects the requirements of the post and attracts sufficient calibre of candidates. The effect of this possible re-grading is that there will be a budget shortfall, estimated to be in the region of £10,000.
- 1.5 While the re-evaluation of the post is underway, it is necessary to consider the following options moving forward:

Option	Considerations
Reduce the length of the project (duration to be determined following Job Evaluation)	Partners that have committed funding per annum for 2 years will need to give approval to reduce length of project. This includes BDC and Hardwick CCG
Seek alternative funding streams (an Expression of Interest for the BIG Lottery funding has already been prepared and is waiting to be submitted by Community Safety Partnership)	Securing additional funding takes time and there are no guarantees. The private sector are unlikely to commit cash at this stage
BDC bridge the funding gap (up to £10,000 in addition to current commitment of £20,000)	BDC has already committed £20,000 to this project. However, there is growing concern about tensions within Shirebrook; a minimum two year project is needed ideally.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 That Executive notes the contents of this report.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 This report and that of the 14 April 2014 are based upon the outcome of extensive work between the partner agencies involved in the Shirebrook area and within the local community. One of the main purposes of the proposed project is to support the development of dialogue with local communities in order to agree a longer term way forward to reduce current levels of tension.

3.2 The project is intended to assist in the reduction of community tensions within Shirebrook. They are therefore intended to have a positive outcome in respect of the Council's equality agenda, meeting the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, S.149 (1) and in particular section (c), the duty to foster good relations.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 A number of options have been presented within the report. The first option, and possibly the second, would result in a shorter term project. The third option would require additional resources to be committed to the project to enable the project to run for a minimum of two years.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 On the basis of the current information available, the funding gap for a two year scheme is in the region of £10,000. The exact figure will not be known until the post has been re-evaluated. The costs of the project will be met from unallocated earmarked reserves. While the project would require an additional financial commitment if option 3 were agreed, Executive should note that the costs of not effectively addressing growing community tensions could significantly exceed the possible additional cost.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

These are covered throughout the report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Executive considers the options outlined in respect of the Community Cohesion Project.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	Shirebrook
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
Laura Khella	01246 242302

Report Reference –