

**Sunderland East Area Committee meeting
1st March 2010
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

Title of Report:

Financial Statements and Funding Request

Author(s):

Office of the Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

This report requests Area Committee consideration of a proposal for the allocation of Community Chest, SIB and SIP to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

Description of Decision:

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2009/10 budget:

- Note the ongoing review of SIB and SIP governance and procedures (see 4.4).
- Refresh of Community Chest. Committee are requested to agree a preferred option to be selected and agreed (see Section 7) with regards to City wide application.
- Annex 1: 9 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest totally £5,840.
- Annex 2: Agree two SIB proposals and one SIP proposal.

Approve;

SIB 2009-10

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Bluewatch Youth Centre | £24,819 |
| 2. | Education Business Connections | £11,543 |
| | | Total £36,362 |
| 3. | The use of SIB funding to meet the infrastructure costs of managing events and processions on the highway at an area level | |

SIP 2009-10

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------|
| 4. | Sunderland City Council | £700 |
|----|-------------------------|------|

- Annex 3: The financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2009/10.
- Annex 4: That Committee receives an SIB application for £53,850 to deliver the Green Team Programme.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

Relevant Review Committee:

Management Scrutiny Committee

Sunderland East Area Committee

1st March 2010

Report of Chief Executive

Financial Statements and Funding Request

1. Purpose Of The Report

1.1 This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budget in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)

2.1 The Committee is requested to note the ongoing review of SIB and SIP governance and procedures (see 4.4).

Recommend Approval

Community Chest

2.2 Committee are requested to agree option 2 in Section 7, where Citywide applications are considered at the final meeting of each municipal year.

2.3 Annex 1: 9 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest totally £5,840.

SIB 2009/10

2.4 The Area Committee is requested to agree the use of SIB funding to meet the infrastructure costs of managing events and processions on the highway at an area level, in view of the statutory changes made in the safety management of such events. Due to the lead in times for SIB project governance, known local groups will be contacted to ensure they are able to meet appropriate Committee deadlines.

Annex 2:

- Bluewatch Youth Centre £24,819
- Education Business Connections £11,543

Total: £36,362 Budget: £202,577 Balance, if approved: **£166,215**

SIP budget 2009/10 – Hendon Ward Budget

2.5 Sunderland City Council £700

Total: £700 Budget: £56,823 Balance, if approved: **£56,123**

2.6 Note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2009/10 in Annex 3.

2.7 Committee are asked to consider receiving an application for £53,850 SIB funding from Groundwork to support the Green Team Programme, further information is available in Annex 4.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Council has reduced the amount of Regeneration Framework across the City from six to five. This has resulted in a new calculation of SIB funding to be awarded to the Sunderland East Area Committee of £277,456 to be allocated up until March 2010. All allocations of funding should be matched against the criteria outlined in delivering the key priorities of the area, identified within the Local Area Plan (LAP).
- 3.2 SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as SIB allocation for 2008-09. This equates to £227,293. At a meeting in July 2009 the Committee agreed to split the funds across the four wards of Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope and St Michaels. With local Councillors and service delivers being responsible and accountable for its expenditure against the LAP priorities, with proposed projects being presented to Area Committee for final endorsement. This funding is available until March 2011.
- 3.3 The Committee will be aware that the Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward, plus any unclaimed allocations identified from previous years. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

4.0 Current Position SIB

- 4.1 Following the 4 January 2010 Committee meeting, a balance of £196,663 remains to be allocated from 2009/10 budget.
- 4.2 In October 2007 the Area Committee awarded Millfield Action Group £10,000. Not all the grant was claimed by the group which has resulted in £5,914 being recouped into 2009/10 budget. The new allocation for the remaining of this financial year is £202,577.
- 4.3 There are two applications for funding presented to this Committee requesting a total of £36,362 from the 2009/10 budget. Should the Committee grant this request, £121,509 will be committed from the 2009/10 budget. This will leave a balance of £166,215 to roll over into the new financial year 2010/11.
- 4.4 As part of the ongoing review of SIB procedures and governance, the SIB application form and guidance has been amended to ensure that funding is allocated on an area basis only. This is to ensure projects are tailored to meet the needs of that particular area. From May 2010, area specific application forms will be available and, therefore, organisations wishing to apply for funds to deliver a project in more than one area of the City must complete an application for each area. Projects should be evidence based and must ensure they meet the needs of the area to which they are applying.
- 4.5 Additionally the Area Committee is requested to agree the use of SIB funding to meet the infrastructure costs of managing events and processions on the highway at an area level, in view of the statutory changes made in the safety management of such events. Due to the lead in times for SIB project governance, known local groups will be contacted to ensure they are able to meet appropriate Committee deadlines.

5.0 Current position SIP

- 5.1 Following the 4 January 2010 Committee meeting, a balance of £56,823 remained for St Michael's and Hendon, £52,261 for Millfield and £12,178 for Ryhope. Allocation of the budget requires expenditure by March 2011.
- 5.2 There is one application for funding presented to this Committee requesting a total of £700 from the Hendon ward allocation 2009/10 SIP budget. Should the Committee grant this request, £700 will be committed from the Hendon ward 2009/10 SIP budget. This will leave a balance of £56,123 for Hendon.

6.0 Current Position Community Chest (January 2010 figures)

- 6.1 To date approvals for each Ward total:

Doxford	£12,002
Hendon	£10,250
Millfield	£10,325
Ryhope	£8,627
St. Michael's	£9,541

- 6.2 The projects listed on Annex 1 total:

Doxford	£833
Hendon	£0000
Millfield	£207
Ryhope	£4050
St. Michael's	£750

- 6.3 Should the Committee grant the requests listed on Annex 1 the remaining balances, including the unclaimed allocations identifies from previous years, would be:

Doxford	£0000
Hendon	£0000
Millfield	£0000
Ryhope	£31
St. Michael's	£1279

7.0 Community Chest Review

- 7.1 Citywide applications have become more frequent and are often submitted by groups or organisations who state that their project is open to all residents so therefore it is a Citywide project. Some Councillors have expressed concern that there are too many requests for funding which have no direct benefit to their own community and therefore to reduce time and effort made by Councillors in reviewing Citywide applications it is suggested that we reinforce the message that there is no budget in place for Citywide Community Chest and organisations should seek support from their own ward, or seek advice on alternative funding sources. Often, the time and resources spent on the administrative processes associated with considering and allocating the funding for 25 wards far outweighs the value of the grant.
- 7.2 It is recognised that there needs to be some flexibility in the process, as there may be a small number of projects which are of benefit to the whole of Sunderland, and

Councillors may still wish to support some of these projects. Examples may be The Mayor's Fund or Remembrance Parade.

It is therefore suggested that Councillors consider two options:

- Option 1: Applications are ward based only and no Citywide will be considered
- Option 2: Citywide applications (where there is a clear benefit to every ward and the whole of the City) is considered by each Committee at the final meeting of each municipal year.

Recommendation

That Option 2 is selected. This will enable Ward members to establish whether there are funds left in their budget to fund a Citywide project and also will mean the project gets a decision from every ward at the same time. There will need to be a 'phasing in' process during the first year to meet timescales of projects. During year 1 the revised procedure will be communicated to all groups and organisations to ensure that projects are not disadvantaged by the less frequent consideration of Citywide applications.

- 7.3 Preferred option to be selected at the March Area Committee meeting.

8.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 8.1 SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.
- 8.2 Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

9.0 Alternative Options

- 9.1 Each project is required to indicate what alternative options they have considered during the application business process.

10.0 Relevant Consultations

- 10.1 Financial Implications
The Director of Financial Resources has been consulted on this report and all costs associated with developing SIB, SIP and Community Chest applications.
- 10.2 Implications for Other Services
Each project is required to indicate what implications there may be for other services in the application business process.
- 10.3 The Public
Each SIB/SIP project is required to indicate what consultation it has undertaken and other documentary evidence it has to support its proposal in during the application business process. Residents have been consulted about the priorities in the Local Area Plans and bids support these identified priorities.
- 10.4 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Councils Race Equality Scheme.

Each project is required to indicate whether it has an equal opportunities policy, or what measures it employs to address equal opportunity issues, during the application business process.

10.5 Public Relations and Publicity

Each project is required to indicate how it will promote funding awarded from Area Committee.

10.6 Councillors

Members have been consulted on all applications for SIB, SIP and Community Chest support and the implementation of the review.

11.0 List of Appendices

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|------|---------|---|
| 11.1 | Annex 1 | Community Chest: Proposed projects for approval |
| | Annex 2 | SIB and SIP Application Summaries |
| | Annex 3 | Financial Statement |
| | Annex 4 | Green Team Programme: Update Report |

12.0 Background Papers

12.1 The following background papers were used:

- Community Chest Application Forms
- SIB and SIP full applications, scoring matrix and comments from consultation exercise

13. Contact Officer:

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COMMUNITY CHEST 2009/2010

PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

	Recommended Grant subject to final estimates, invoices, up to:
DOXFORD WARD	
Doxford Park 'Stay Healthy' Group – Contribution towards room hire and equipment.	733
Sunderland District Scouting Summer Event – Contribution towards events, water activities, climbing wall etc.,	100
Total	833
MILLFIELD WARD	
Kids 'R' Us – Contribution towards activities for children, trip to cinema, meal, easter eggs etc.,	207
Total	207
RYHOPE WARD	
Ryhope C.A. – Contribution towards decoration costs and purchase of cooker.	2000
Ryhope/Blue Watch Juniors – Contribution towards social activities, fishing trip, transport etc.,	500
Ryhope Cricket Club – Contribution towards league fees, equipment etc.,	750
Ryhope C.W.F.C. – Purchase of new strips and equipment.	800
Total	4050
ST. MICHAEL'S WARD	
Sunderland District Scouting Summer Event – Contribution towards events, water activities, climbing wall etc.	100
33rd Sunderland St. Nicholas Brownies – Purchase of books, badges etc.,	350
Ashmore Resident's Association – Contribution towards room hire, equipment etc.,	300
Total	750
Total of Projects	5840