

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES BUDGET: WARD-BASED COMMUNITY CHEST

Report of the Chief Executive and City Treasurer

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the return of funding for unclaimed Community Chest approvals from 2006/2007 and the carry forward of unallocated Community Chest funding from 2008/2009 to the Ward areas.

2.0 Description of Decision

2.1 The Committee is requested to approve:

- The return of unclaimed approvals from 2006/2007 for re-allocation;
- Carry forward of unallocated Community Chest budget from 2008/2009 into 2009/2010.

3.0 Background

3.1 At the Coalfield Area Committee held on the 6th June, 2007 it was agreed the Community Chest Grant conditions should be revised with the aim of reflecting similar arrangements already in place for the Strategic Initiatives Budget. Under those arrangements time limitations are in place whereby approvals unclaimed within a two-year period are returned to the Area Committee for reallocation.

3.2 Committee also agreed at that time that Area Committees should be allowed to carry forward unallocated Community Chest budget at 31st March from one financial year to the next.

4.0 Unclaimed Approvals 2006/2007 and Uncommitted Budget 2008/2009

4.1 The position in respect of Coalfield Area Committee is set out below:

Ward	Unclaimed 2006/2007	Uncommitted 2008/2009	Total
Copt Hill	1700	531	2,231
Hetton	200	2287	2,487
Houghton	1540	4428	5,968
Shiney Row	2500	-	2,500
Totals	5,940	7,246	13,186

In accordance with the previously agreed approach, it is proposed to return the amount unclaimed from 2006/2007 to the relevant Wards for re-allocation and to carry forward the unallocated balances at the end of 2008/2009 on a ward basis for allocation in the future.

- 4.2** The position in respect of 2007/2008 unclaimed allocations will be considered at the first round of Area Committees in 2010/2011.

5.0 Reasons for Decision

- 5.1** To ensure that unclaimed amounts of Community Chest funds are available for reallocation to alternative projects after a reasonable period of time.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1** The alternative option is to return unclaimed allocations to General Fund balances, however, this does not accord with the principle of delegation of the funds to each ward area.

Background Papers

Report to the Area Committee Meeting 6th June, 2007.