

**COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE
3 NOVEMBER 2010
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

Title of Report:

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest, - Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

This report requests Area Committee consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

Description of Decision:

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2010/11 budget:

1. Annex 1a: Approve five SIB proposals from the 2010-11 budget to the following projects: £10,227 for Wensleydale Avenue traffic calming, £20,000 for a Safe Walking route to Rainton Meadows, £10,000 for a Pedestrian Safety Scheme at North Road/Hazard Lane, £13,200 to Impact Family Services for the Ear 4 U project and £5,000 to carry out an initial scoping exercise to support local shopping centres.
2. Annex 1a: Approve nine SIP proposals from the 2010-11 budget: Fencehouses Gateway £3,500, Tithe Barn, Rectory Park £4,000, Outdoor Play Newbottle School £2,000, Wensleydale Avenue traffic calming £9,723, Walking route to Rainton Meadows £14,000, North Rd/Hazard Ln pedestrian safety £19,231, Regent Street/Church Street give way £10,000, Sunderland Road/High Lane speed limit and gateway £25,000, Queensway traffic calming £3,100
3. Annex 1b: Approve 17 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest, all projects total £8, 843.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

SIB is a budget delegated to Areas Committee and can be used to commission activity that delivers actions against the key strategic priorities identified in the Coalfield LAP. Its main purpose is to benefit the local community and to attract other funding into the area.

The Area Committee has a budget of £241,514 for 2010-11, with a further £62,422 carried over from 2009-10. During 2010-11, £6,149 has been returned to budget providing a new balance of £310,355 for SIB 2010-11.

The Community Chest forms part of the SIB and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2010/2011, £10,000 for Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row.

SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was as a one-off allocation of £1.426m delegated to Area Committees. The amount allocated to the Coalfield Committee was £237,142 (which must be allocated by March 2011). SIP can only be used to deliver capital projects which are aligned to the key priorities identified in the Coalfield Local Area Plan (LAP). Its main purpose to attract other funding into the area.

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

Relevant Scrutiny Committees:

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No