

COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 SEPTEMBER 2010

Community Action in Coalfield – Progress Review

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 **Annex 1a** provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/10 work plan and shows progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan. It also identifies where Area Committee can consider funding application proposals to address their work plan.

Annex 1b highlights the progress achieved by the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS): 'Moving Forward 2007-2012'. It outlines the process to review the existing Strategy and identifies the priorities for investment for the period 2010-12.

- 1.2 **Annex 2** provides an Executive Summary and main report outlining recommendations for approval for Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest.

Annex 2a provides the financial statement for Area Committee's funding streams.

Annex 2b provides summaries for SIB and SIP applications for approval.

Annex 2c provides detail of the 24 Community Chest applications for approval.

2. Background to the Progress Review

2.1 Work Plan 2010-11: Heritage Task and Result Group

The Task and Result Group met in July 2010 and discussed the way forward to address the heritage agenda. An audit of current provision, project feasibility and action plan will be produced. This will a) review current heritage assets b) assess current demand and usage c) set out a proposed way forward, identifying resources, risk and benefits. This will have a financial implication (approximately £10,000), which the group propose will be funded by SIB.

Once the audit is complete the Task & Result group will consider the results to inform the next steps. It was identified that Coalfield area Heritage needs to be marketed and promoted much more, with local groups being encouraged to contribute to an 'info pack'. It was proposed that the VCS network, via Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator, be asked to consider Heritage as a piece of work they will support.

Suggestions for future projects included production of a 'historic atlas', educational resources, marketing and promotion and collaborative working with the Community and Voluntary Sector.

If Committee agree the proposed approach, including allocation of £10,000, a further detailed funding application, with costings, will be developed to carry out further work around the heritage priority.

2.2 Work Plan 2010-11: Local Shopping Centres, Task and Result Group

The Task and Result Group met in July 2010. The group discussed why this issue had been chosen as a priority and various suggested solutions were proposed, such as: rates relief; more consideration for what type of businesses are brought into the centres; grants; start up support; improvement of public realm; 'test trading' property at a reduced rent; enforcement regarding derelict properties.

It was agreed that the focus of the work would centre around Front Street, Hetton, Newbottle Street, Houghton and Shiney Row shopping centre.

It is proposed that a project be developed for an initial period of 18-24 months, costing approximately £130,000. There are five elements to the proposed project.

- 1 Knowledge and understanding – we need to know a) what have we already got and b) what we want or need
- 2 Support for existing traders
- 3 Support for new traders
- 4 Environmental and public realm improvements
- 5 Marketing and promotion

If Committee agree the proposed approach, a detailed project specification/application will be developed.

3. Financial Statement

- 3.1 A financial statement detailing all SIB, SIP and Community Chest approvals up to September 2010 is attached as Annex 2a. There are four proposals to approve from SIP attached as Annex 2b, and 24 from Community Chest attached as Annex 2c.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are requested to:
- Agree the proposed approach of the Heritage Task & Result group as outlined in **2.1 of this report**
 - Provide £10,000 SIB funding to produce an audit and action plan for heritage
 - Agree the proposed approach of the Shopping Centre Task & Result group as outlined in **2.2 of this report**

 - Note the progress on outstanding issues contained in **Annex 1a** attached
 - Consider the recommendations on the PUGS contained in **Annex 1b** attached
 - Note the financial statement in **Annex 2a** attached
 - Agree the recommendations for SIB/SIP funding contained in **Annex 2b** attached
 - Approve the 24 Community Chest applications outlined in **Annex 2c** attached

Appendices

- Annex 1a: Community Action: Outstanding Issues - progress
Annex 1b: Play and Urban Games Strategy Review
Annex 2: Financial Statements and Funding Requests
Annex 2a: Financial Statement for 2010-11
Annex 2b: Summary of SIB and SIP funding applications
Annex 2c: Summary of Community Chest Applications

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