COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

12 March 2009

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES BUDGET (SIB): REGENERATION ISSUES REPORT

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose Of The Report

1.1 This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and applications for funding from this budget in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)

2.1 The Committee is requested to approve the following:

- Funding to support proposals for new projects. Full applications are included in Annex 1
- Note SIB Statement of Resources in Annex 2

3.0 Background

3.1 Each Regeneration Framework area has been allocated a minimum budget of £200,000 per annum over the last thirteen years. Over this period, therefore, the Framework area has been allocated £2,748,568 in this way.

4.0 Current Position

4.1 Following the 7 January 2009 Committee meeting, a balance of £55,783 remained to be allocated from 2008/09.

4.2 Since this meeting a total of £8,005 has been returned to the budget from Into Work Sunderland Connecting the Coalfield ILM project 2, increasing the amount remaining to £63,788.

4.3 There are five applications for funding presented to this Committee requesting a total of £62,700 from the 2008/09 budget. Should the Committee grant this request, £323,459 will be committed from this years budget, leaving a balance of £1,088 for 2008/09 with this being the last meeting of the financial year.

5.0 Reasons for the Decision

5.1 SIB was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Area Regeneration Frameworks, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB 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.

5.2 The suggestion to defer new applications seeking funding from the 2009/10 SIB budget (subject to approval) and SIP allocation is to enable the Area Committee to maximise the amount of budget available using their newly developed Local Area Plans.

6.0 Alternative Options

6.1 Each project is required to indicate what alternative options they have considered in section 7.4 of its application form, which is attached as Annex 2.

7.0 Relevant Consultations

7.1 Financial Implications

Each project is required to indicate what financial implications there may be in section 7.5 of its application form, which is attached as Annex 2.

7.2 Implications for Other Services

Each project is required to indicate what implications there may be for other services in section 3.11 of its application form, which is attached as Annex 2.

7.3 The Public

Each project is required to indicate what consultation it has undertaken and other documentary evidence it has to support its proposal in sections 3.8 and 3.9 of its application form, which is attached as Annex 2.

7.4 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, in section 4 of its application form, which is attached as Annex 2.

7.5 Public Relations and Publicity

Each project is required to indicate how it will promote SIB via project publicity in Section 3.7 of the application form. The Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator for the Sunderland City Council implements the publicity and public relations schedule on behalf of the Area Committee.

8.0 List of Appendices

8.1 Annex 1 Proposals to this Area Committee meeting for SIB funding

8.2 Annex 2 SIB financial statement

8.3 Annex 3 SIB Criteria and Project Guidelines

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Reports to previous Area Committees

9.2 Regeneration Framework Files Coalfield