

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

4 February 2009

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES BUDGET (SIB): REGENERATION ISSUES REPORT

Report of the Chief Executive (Acting)

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 funding to support proposals for new projects. Full applications are included in Annex 1.
- Note SIB Resource Statement outlining funding awarded since 2006/07 in Annex 2

2.2 Following the recent communication with Members, the Committee is requested to consider the principle of deferring commitment of expenditure from next year's SIB budget (subject to budget approval), except in cases of clear emergency. The Committee is further requested to defer consideration of Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) expenditure until the new municipal year.

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 £2,587,383 in this way.

3.2 Annex 2 gives a full breakdown of individual SIB awards since 2006/7 with Annex 3 providing the guidance for SIB projects.

4.0 Current Position

4.1 Following the last Committee meeting on 26 November 2008 and balance of £94,810 remained to be allocate for the 2008/9 financial year.

4.2 There are five applications for funding to this Committee requesting £88,386 from the 2008/9 budget. Should the Committee approve the funding requests, this will leave balance of £6,424 for 2008/09 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.

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 1.

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 1.

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 1.

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 1.

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 1.

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 Sunderland City Council implements the publicity and public relations schedule on behalf of the Area Committee.

List of Appendices

8.1 Annex 1. Full applications for funding

8.2 Annex 2. SIB Resources Statement

8.3 Annex 3. SIB Criteria and guidelines

9.0 Background Papers

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

9.2 Regeneration Framework Files Washington