

Coalfield Area Committee

14th April 2010

Report of Chief Executive

Financial Statements and Funding Request

1.0 Purpose of The Report

- 1.1 This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to consider 1 project for support from the 2009/10 SIB as below and detailed in Annex 1.

Recommend Rejection

Project	Amount Requested	
• Hylton Castle Battle Re-enactment	£3,000	Recommend rejection

- 2.2 Note the financial statement for 2009/10 in Annex 2.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Council has reduced the amount of Regeneration Frameworks across the City from six to five. This has resulted in a new calculation of SIB funding to be awarded to the Coalfield Area Committee of £241,514 to be allocated up until March 2010. All allocations of funding should be matched against the criteria outlined in delivering the key priorities of the area, identified within the Local Area Plan(LAP).
- 3.2 SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as SIB allocation for 2008-09. This equates to £237,142 for the Coalfield. It was agreed by Committee in September 2009 that SIP be split across the four identified wards of the area, totalling £59,285 per ward, with local ward Councillors and service delivers being responsible and accountable for its expenditure against the LAP priorities, with proposed projects being presented to Area Committee for a final decision.
- 3.3 The Committee will be aware that the Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward, plus any unclaimed allocations identified from previous years. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

4.0 Current Position SIB

- 4.1 Following the March 2010 Committee meeting, a total of £185,599 has been allocated this financial year to date.

- 4.2 There are no projects recommended for approval at this meeting. Recommendations are based on the independent appraisal and results of consultation with all elected members of the committee and relevant Council Directorates and Partners.
- 4.3 Members should note that the £65,422 uncommitted expenditure from this financial year (2009/10) will be carried forward to next year's (2010/11) budget. This has been confirmed by the Director of Finance.
- 4.4 As part of the ongoing review of SIB procedures and governance, the SIB application form and guidance has been amended to ensure that funding is allocated on an area basis only. This is to ensure projects are tailored to meet the needs of that particular area. From May 2010, area specific application forms will be available and, therefore, organisations wishing to apply for funds to deliver a project in more than one area of the City must complete an application for each area. Projects should be evidence based and must ensure they meet the needs of the area to which they are applying.

5. Current position SIP

Following the March 2010 Committee meeting, £145,142 remains to be allocated and fully expended by March 2011.

6 Current Position Community Chest

The remaining balance, including the unclaimed allocations identified from previous years, is £1,685. The remaining balance for each ward is:

Copt Hill	£574
Hetton	£0000
Houghton	£211
Shiney Row	£900

7.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 7.1 SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP 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.
- 7.2 Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

8.0 Alternative Options

- 8.1 Each project is required to indicate what alternative options they have considered during the application business process.

9.0 Relevant Consultations

- 9.1 Financial Implications

The Director of Financial Resources has been consulted on this report and all costs associated with developing SIB, SIP and Community Chest applications.

9.2 Implications for Other Services

Each project is required to indicate what implications there may be for other services in the application business process.

9.3 The Public

Each project is required to indicate what consultation it has undertaken and other documentary evidence it has to support its proposal in during the application business process. Residents have been consulted about the priorities in the Local Area Plans and bids support these identified priorities.

9.4 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, during the application business process.

9.5 Public Relations and Publicity

Each project is required to indicate how it will promote funding awarded from Area Committee.

9.6 Councillors

Members have been consulted on all applications for SIB, SIP and Community Chest support and the implementation of the review.

10.0 List of Appendices

10.1 Annex 1 SIB: Proposed projects

10.2 Annex 2 Financial statement

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 The following background papers were used:

- Reports to previous Area Committees
- Coalfield Local Area Plan