

# Coalfield Area Committee

4<sup>th</sup> March, 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 approve five projects for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 1 and approve the proposal to consider Citywide Community Chest at the final meeting of each municipal year.
- 2.2 The Committee is requested to approve 6 projects for support from the 2009/10 SIB as below and detailed in Annex 2.

#### Recommend Approval

Project	Amount Requested	
• Monument View Workshop/Classroom	£25,000	Recommend approval
• Herrington Burn YMCA Feasibility	£20,000	Recommend approval
• Rectory Park Regeneration Works	£50,000	Recommend approval
• Community Leaders of the Future	£11,543	Recommend approval
• Hetton Town Community Festival	£10,000	Recommend approval of <b>£6,000</b>
• River Wear Trail	£19,500	Recommend approval

- 2.3 The Committee is requested to approve four projects for support from the 2009/10 SIP as detailed below and in Annex 3

#### Recommend Approval

Project	Amount Requested	
• (Hetton) Pedestrian Guardrail	£11,200	Recommend approval
• (Shiney Row) McLaren Way Lighting	£10,000	Recommend approval
• (Shiney Row) South View	£3,500	Recommend approval
• (Houghton) Gilpin Wood	£30,000	Recommend approval

- 2.4 The Committee is requested to agree the use of SIB funding to meet the infrastructure costs of managing events and processions on the highway at an area level.
- 2.5 Note the financial statement for 2009/10 in Annex 4.

#### 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 January 2010 Committee meeting, a balance of £197,465 remains to be allocated this financial year.
- 4.2 Projects recommended for approval total £132,043. Should Committee approve these six projects the remaining balance would be £65,422. 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 any 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.
- 4.5 Additionally the Area Committee is requested to agree the use of SIB funding to meet the infrastructure costs of managing events and processions on the highway at an area level, in view of the statutory changes made in the safety management of such events. Due to the lead in times for SIB project governance, known local groups will be contacted to ensure they are able to meet appropriate Committee deadlines.

#### **5. Current position SIP**

- 5.1 Following the January 2010 Committee meeting, £199,842 remains to be allocated and fully expended by March 2011. Should Committee approve the four projects in Annex 3, the remaining balances would be

Copt Hill	£59,285
Hetton	£36,085
Houghton	£29,285
Shiney Row	£20,485

## **6 Current Position Community Chest**

### **6.1 To date approvals for each Ward total:**

Copt Hill	£11,657
Hetton	£12,487
Houghton	£14,557
Shiney Row	£10,150

### **6.2 The projects listed on Annex 1 total:**

Copt Hill	£0000
Hetton	£0000
Houghton	£1200
Shiney Row	£1450

### **6.3 Should the Committee grant the requests listed on Annex 1 the remaining balances, including the unclaimed allocations identified from previous years, would be:**

Copt Hill	£574
Hetton	£0000
Houghton	£211
Shiney Row	£500

### **6.4 To reduce time and effort made by Councillors in receiving and considering Citywide Community Chest applications it is suggested that the process for making applications to all 25 wards is reviewed. Councillors are requested to consider two options:**

#### **Option 1**

Applications are ward based only and no Citywide applications will be considered

#### **Option 2**

Citywide applications are considered at the final meeting of each municipal year

#### **Recommendation**

That Option 2 is selected. This will enable Ward members to establish whether there are funds left in their budget to fund a Citywide project and also will mean the project gets a decision from every ward at the same time. There will need to be a 'phasing in' process during the first year to meet timescales of projects. During year 1 the revised procedure will be communicated to all groups and organisations to ensure that projects are not disadvantaged by the less frequent consideration of Citywide applications.

## **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 | Community Chest: Proposed projects for approval |
| 10.2 | Annex 2 | SIB: Proposed projects                          |
| 10.3 | Annex 3 | SIP: Proposed projects                          |
| 10.4 | Annex 4 | Financial statement                             |

## **11.0 Background Papers**

### **11.1 The following background papers were used:**

- Community Chest Application Forms
- Schedule of projects circulated at the panel meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2010
- Reports to previous Area Committees
- Coalfield Local Area Plan

## ANNEX 1

### COMMUNITY CHEST 2009/2010 PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

	<b>Recommended Grant subject to final estimates, invoices, up to:</b>
<b>HOUGHTON WARD</b>	
<b>Houghton Feast</b> – Contribution towards purchase of H & S equipment.	250
<b>Houghton All Stars F.C.</b> – Contribution towards strips, balls, training equipment etc.,	450
<b>Houghton Town Bowling Club</b> – Purchase of new carpet.	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>SHINEY ROW WARD</b>	
<b>Herrington Country Park Model Boat Club</b> – Purchase of equipment, life jackets, timing devices etc.,	400
<b>Shiney Row Lighting Scheme</b> – Provision of lighting column.	1050
<b>Total</b>	<b>1450</b>
<b>Total of Projects</b>	<b>2650</b>