

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Rugby Area Committee</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>16th June 2005</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Use of the Wellbeing Fund in Rugby 2005-2006</b>
<b>Summary</b>	The report details a proposal for the use of the Wellbeing Fund in Rugby 2005-2006 for the consideration of Area Committee.
<b>For further information please contact:</b>	Nick Darwen Rugby Area Manager Tel: 01788 533570 nickdarwen@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b>	
<b>Background papers</b>	None

### CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Local Member(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Cabinet Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Other Chief Officers	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
District Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Health Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Police	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Other Bodies/Individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

Further consideration by  
this Committee ☐ .....

To Council ☐ .....

To Cabinet ☐ .....

To an O & S Committee ☐ .....

To an Area Committee ☐ .....

Further Consultation ☐ .....

## **Agenda No**

### **Rugby Area Committee - 16th June 2005.**

#### **Use of the Wellbeing Fund in Rugby 2005-2006**

#### **Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and County Solicitor**

##### **Recommendation**

That members agree whether they agree to fund, or to part-fund, the project proposal attached as Appendix A through the Wellbeing Fund and, if so, whether they would wish to impose any conditions upon the allocation of funding.

##### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report introduces a proposal for the use of the Wellbeing Fund in 2005-2006 (attached as Appendix A) and provides brief background information in order for members to make an informed decision on the matter.

##### **2.0 Monies available through the Wellbeing Fund**

- 2.1 The Wellbeing Fund allocation for Rugby for 2005-06 is approximately £70,000 (final figure to be confirmed).
- 2.2 £77,455 is carried forward from the 2004-2005 budget. However, this has been specifically earmarked to be spent on projects around meeting community needs in Brownsover South and through the redevelopment of the Station and Livestock Market Area.

##### **3.0 Process for commissioning projects through the Wellbeing Fund**

- 3.1 Briefly, the agreed process which Rugby Area Committee has adopted for allocation of the Wellbeing Fund is that once Area Committee has agreed its priorities for the use of the Fund, projects are developed through appropriate partnerships to meet these priorities, and brought back to Area Committee for approval. Normally, the funding subgroup meets to recommend priorities on the use of the fund to Area Committee. (This is planned to take place at July's Area Committee this year.) There is no competitive application process.

## **4.0 The Rugby Opportunities Centre**

- 4.1 It has been requested that the proposal attached as Appendix A is submitted for the Area Committee's consideration as a matter of urgency.
- 4.2 In favour of the proposal, members may wish to note:
- The project directly addresses issues of unemployment in targeted neighbourhoods and skills shortages in the construction industry.
  - A similar project has been running for 18 months in Nuneaton and up-take of courses has been high, with 231 students (the majority of whom were unemployed).
  - The project demonstrates partnership working between the Education and PTES departments of the County Council, Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire College, and clearly has strong support.
  - Significant 'match funding' has been obtained, and without an urgent additional contribution to kickstart the project, this funding may be lost, as well as the proposed site for the centre.
- 4.3 However, the Committee may wish to question whether the project has a robust continuation strategy beyond the use of the Wellbeing Fund. It is not clear that the pilot project in Nuneaton has been able to find continued revenue to support its operation after 18 months.
- 4.4 The Committee should also note that Wellbeing Fund support for this project would need to be on the basis that this is 'pump priming' (Wellbeing Fund criteria exclude providing ongoing revenue support to projects.)
- 4.5 With this in mind, the Committee may wish to consider:
- whether they wish to support the application
  - whether they would wish to offer the full amount requested
  - whether they would wish to make clear that funding will be for one year only
  - whether they would wish to make any funding allocation in two parts, with the allocation of the second part conditional upon Committee being satisfied that a robust continuation strategy is in place.

## **5. Summary**

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to support this project and if so, whether they wish to impose conditions as suggested above.

DAVID CARTER  
Assistant Chief Executive and  
County Solicitor

Shire Hall  
Warwick  
1 June 2005

# Warwickshire County Council Well-being Fund 2004/05

## Part A – Project Brief - To be completed by the commissioning theme group

**A1 Name of Project:** Rugby Opportunities Centre

**A2 Name of Local Strategic Partnership:** Rugby Forward

**A3 Name of Theme Group promoting project:**

- Area Community Learning Partnership (Lifelong Learning) - via the Work Based Learning Theme Group. The proposed project was initially raised at the Work Based Learning event which was organised by the ACLP in March 2004 and has been adopted as proposed project in the Theme Group's Action Plan.
- The project is also support by members of the Economic Activity Theme Group

<b>A4 Description of Project for which funding is sought from Area Committee</b>
<p>A community based, training project which will teach multi disciplined construction skills at a foundation level to the 'hardest to reach' groups who are currently unemployed and those who are at risk of redundancy.</p> <p>In addition the project will enhance the current vocational training programme that is managed by WCC (LEA) for young people aged 14-16 to undertake a recognised qualification in a practical occupation based skill.</p> <p>The aim of the project is two fold (i) enhance the employment prospects of the unemployed residents of Rugby Borough (ii) to prepare local people for local jobs, increasing competitiveness and efficiency and enhancing their contribution to the local economy.</p> <p>There is a national shortage of staff within the construction industry. The Building Technologies Strategic Area Review (StAR) recently undertaken by the Learning and Skills Council for Coventry and Warwickshire has identified that the major challenge in the area is stimulating demand and valuing of skills across the sector.</p> <p>The project has been piloted through the Nuneaton Opportunities Centre (opened 2 years ago under the leadership of WCC – PTES), which has enjoyed consistent success in attracting and sustaining the hardest to reach client groups to undertake the 'foundation certificate in multi-skilling'.</p> <p>Once completed, this course allows the individual to progress onto higher level qualifications or place themselves onto the job market armed with experience and a qualification - something many of our client group would not have previously thought possible.</p>

<b>A5. Priorities, set by the County Council Area Committee, that will be addressed</b>
<p>The Area Committee has not yet set its priorities for the use of the Well Being Fund in 2005-2006.</p> <p>This project addresses community needs around education , life long learning, health and well being, economy and employment, community involvement, information and access to services and crime and community safety - and directly addresses the following priorities which have been identified within theme groups of the LSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruitment problems faced by the Construction Industry and the impact of this on the local economy</li><li>• The training, skills and employment needs of local people – particularly those in ‘hard to reach’ groups.</li></ul> <p><b>The Construction Industry and the Local Economy</b></p> <p>The construction industry is enjoying a boom period across Britain and within Rugby the proposed re-development sites of the former GEC Alstom and Cattle market sites will add to this. However, there is a significant shortage in labour and skills to meet the increased staffing needs</p> <p>The Construction Industry Training Board needs over 20,000 new recruits nationally per year just to stand still, but has attracted only 15,000 a year since 1999.</p> <p>The Learning &amp; Skills Council National Employer Skills Survey 2003 identified that within the construction sector 65.1 % of vacancies are classified as hard to fill, with 46.2% of those being classified as skill shortage vacancies.</p> <p>Recruitment problems and skill deficiencies affect and inhibit organisations striving to improve performance and meet the needs of local economic drivers. This has a profound impact on the economy.</p> <p>Even a modest skills shortage may be quite significant to Rugby, given there is a wealth of potential re-development waiting to happen.</p> <p><b>The need for entry-level training</b></p> <p>Existing provision of construction training is consistently over subscribed and this provision has a starting point of NVQ Level 2, which is equivalent to 3 GCSEs.</p> <p>Lower level training does not exist, and this creates an additional barrier to skills and employment for people with a low level of educational attainment – particularly in ‘pockets of deprivation’ such as Brownsover South where there are over a hundred young people not in employment or training. The provision of such training would make it easier to engage with these ‘hard to reach’ groups.</p>
<b>A6. Location of Project</b>
<p>We have identified 2 industrial units on the Webb Ellis Business Park, which the Landlords have agreed to us making into one large unit, through establishing an opening between the two.</p>

However, we are in a very tenuous position, as the Landlords will not secure the lease indefinitely while we wait for us to develop the project. They do favour WCC (or one of the project partners) taking the lease, but are also mindful they are losing money in the meantime. It is therefore imperative that the lease on these Units is secured as soon as possible, as this site is best placed to service the needs of nearby communities with significant unemployment and social deprivation. There are currently no other available units on the Webb Ellis Business Park

#### **A7. Who will benefit from the project?**

14-16 year olds who will be able to enter the Vocational Training Programme (Star 14 East) currently operated and promoted through WCC Local Education Authority. Young people are invited to adopt a vocational GCSE in place of an academic GCSE (such as a language or Art) in order to gain a practical based qualification underpinned with work experience. The young people would attend the Training Centre for 9 months in Year 10 and move onto a work placement, sourced by the Training Centre/LEA in Year 11 for 9 months, to underpin the skills that they have acquired during their training in Year 10.

In addition, we will be running an Activ8 group – this works in a very similar way to the Star 14 programme, but is aimed at young people who are experiencing difficulties in maintaining their school attendance because of low educational ability, turbulent home life or other factors.

Unemployed Adults – who will be offered a 16 hour per week programme, so that their benefit payments are not affected whilst they are training. Invariably these would be adults who face barriers in securing employment – low self esteem, low educational attainment, ex-offenders, lone parents, 45+ age group

Young people with no destination on leaving school at 16 years of age – these young people are referred to training providers and engaged on the Entry to Employment Programme (E2E). The Coventry & Warwickshire Learning Skills Council set out core budget to pay E2E providers to work with these young people and we offer training places to the Providers for their clients to attend the Training Centre.

Those who have been/or due to be made redundant –to re-skill

Local construction/development companies - through offering training to the above groups, we will undoubtedly increase the skills of the local available labour market which will benefit local construction/development companies who are struggling with skilled staff shortages - We must bear in mind the proposed re-development work of Alstom and the Cattle Market and the increase in the need for local job ready labour.

Residents and businesses in the Rugby area through the growth of the local economy. If we are able to deliver a training course, at a foundation level, where no other training currently exists within the Borough of Rugby, then we will assist many people who have little or no disposable income at present. Once they have gained their foundation qualification, they will be able to access employment as 'qualified'

workers or further their training and qualifications with Warwickshire College.

It should be noted that the use of the Webb Ellis Business Park is in close proximity to Brownsover South and the centre would bring valuable training opportunities to the disproportionate high number of unemployed concentrated in the area.

#### **A8. When will it be delivered?**

We have secured the capital funds required to facilitate the physical changes to the two units and to purchase the equipment needed to deliver the training, through Rugby Borough Council and WCC- PTES.

We have an undertaking from the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund to fund one third of the operational costs for the next 3 years, in addition, Warwickshire College, Rugby Centre, have given an undertaking to provide the funding needed to pay for the Construction Tutor and Construction Technician, for the next three years, which provides a further third of the operational costs.

If successful with our application to the Well Being Fund for the pump priming monies, then we would expect to be in a position to open the Centre to our first trainees between beginning of September and October 2005. The Steering Group will then look to secure the monies to meet the remainder of the running costs, for the following two years.

It is imperative that we secure this final piece of funding in order to open at this time, due to the timescales needed in which to organise the engagement of the Star14 and Activ8 young people, through the LEA Vocational Programme. This would prove a vital source of income to the Training Centre and would enable us to establish links with incoming development companies in order to enter into work experience partnerships, similar to the successful model we have developed in Nuneaton with Lovells Ltd.

We also have a pressing need to market the Opportunities Centre with local Agencies and Organisations who work with unemployed communities, in order to engage with their clients and prepare a waiting list for places etc.

#### **A9. Expected Outputs**

Targets and objectives for the outputs, unless otherwise requested, will be set by the Development Group /Steering Group for the Project. If successful with this funding application, representation of our proposed outputs will be made to the Area Committee for endorsement.

Realistic guides and markers for the setting of these targets will be drawn from the performance to date of the Opportunities Centre in Nuneaton, which has been running as a 'model' project for nearly 2 years. – substantial evidence does exist highlighting the output performance for the numbers of learning opportunities achieved by the Opportunities Centre. This is a statutory requirement of the funding bodies and can be viewed if required. In addition, performance of the Nuneaton Project is highlighted in [Annexe 1](#) - the Evaluation report for the Opportunities Centre



The targets will be set to reflect the target groups below:-

1. No of learning opportunities created for
  - Unemployed Adults including residents at risk of redundancy
  - Young people on the Vocational Programme (Star 14)
  - Young people post school leaving age with no destination (E2E)
2. No of qualifications obtained by
  - Unemployed Adults including residents at risk of redundancy
  - Young people on the Vocational Programme (Star 14)
  - Young people post school leaving age with no destination (E2E)
3. No. entering employment and self employment
  - Unemployed Adults including residents at risk of redundancy
  - Young people on the Vocational Programme (Star 14)
  - Young people post school leaving age with no destination (E2E)
4. No. progressing to further training
  - Unemployed Adults including residents at risk of redundancy
  - Young people on the Vocational Programme (Star 14)
  - Young people post school leaving age with no destination (E2E)

Development work by the Steering group will be ongoing into other areas of training needs in order to enhance and widen the portfolio of the Centre, therefore attracting more clients.

#### **A10. Expected Outcomes**

Positive outcomes for attendees at the centre : -

- Completion of a qualification – possibly the first one that an individual has been able to achieve
- progression through to higher level training provided by Warwickshire College and other providers (employers vis-à-vis modern apprenticeships)
- direct employment.
- self employment for those trainees that choose that route

The project will also make some contribution to the following outcomes for Rugby Borough: -

- enhanced economic growth – through the provision of training/skills to groups who are currently unable to contribute significantly to the local economy
- raised aspirations of local residents
- the raising of key skills standards

#### **A11. Proposed monitoring arrangements/Indicators of success**

Key Officers on the Development Group are experienced in working with funding streams and are well advanced in the skills of monitoring of and working to indicators and targets.

Targets will be set, by the Steering Group and endorsement sought from the 'funding bodies'. Indicators will be drawn from the pilot project, The Opportunities Centre, Nuneaton. This project has consistently met and in some cases surpassed its targets, which were set by the funding bodies.

A Development Group is in place, which will later form the basis of a Steering Group.

The Steering Group will comprise of members from:-  
Rugby Borough Council  
Warwickshire College  
Warwickshire County Council, including PT&ES and Education

In addition, representation will be sought from organisations who provide funding for the project and from local communities.

Targets will be set as a condition for receiving funding and monthly monitoring reports will be prepared by the Centre Manager for the Steering Group Meetings. These reports will be collated into a 6 monthly report for ACLP and the Economy Theme Group.

Report to Area Committee six-monthly.

In addition an annual report will be prepared for consideration by the Rugby Forward Board.

#### **A12. What is the long term future of the project (If appropriate)**

We have been assured of funding over a 3 year period from Rugby Group Benevolent Fund and Warwickshire College – Rugby Centre.

Experience has now shown from our Pilot project in Nuneaton, that revenue can be raised through the hiring out of the facilities. We have been able raise additional money over and above our funding from the Regeneration Zone, which we have re-invested in the Centre to raise our portfolio of courses on offer there.

As a result of this experience, we will market the Centre to the Nuneaton & Hinckley College and Warwickshire College, who together form the local Centre of Vocational Excellence for Construction (COVE). Being awarded the COVE status, affords the two colleges additional monies, with which to enhance and compliment their core provision. In Nuneaton, they have used some of this money, to hire the Opportunities Centre in the evenings to run courses for employed tradesmen and teach alternative construction skills. These courses are marketed to construction companies who would want to establish a multi-skilled workforce.

There are numerous ways in addition to this that we raise revenue for the Opportunities Centre and all of these would be adopted at a very early stage of operations at the Rugby Training Centre.

The raising of revenue will be a contributing factor to the long term sustainability of this facility

Meetings have already taken place with Referral agencies and 'budget holders' across the Rugby Borough and without exception, the concept of a community based training facility offering a foundation level qualification for the 'hardest to reach' groups was welcomed.

In terms of the immediate future, we have been assured of funding over a three period from Warwickshire College and the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund.

This programme of raising revenue to support the work of the Centre will be ongoing and an Agenda item for the Steering Group.

NOTE: In the longer term, if sufficient funding cannot be secured then consideration is already taking place over successful exit strategies;

The development of an exit strategy for the end of the initial three year period will be a priority for the Steering Group, once funding to start the project has been secured.

**A13. Eligible for Main Programme or other funding? Yes/No?**

No. Current possible funding for training programmes (through Learning & Skills Council) is aimed at the higher level qualification and the College utilise this to its fullest extent.

PTES and the Education Department do not have budgets for the provision of training projects.

**A14. Details of other sources of funding.**

Capital Funding – Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council PTES will provide this required element.

Warwickshire College will fund the Construction Tutor and Construction Technician, with their costs being offset against available LSC core funding and funding via a recent successful bid to LSC Co-Finance to support the young people on Star 14 programme.

Rugby Group Benevolent Fund has undertaken to provide 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the revenue costs for 3 years

**A15. Contact on LSP Theme Groups**

<b>Contact name</b>	Peter Thompson for ACLP
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<b>Address</b>	Partnership and Area Working Team County Education Office 22 Northgate Street Warwick CV34 4SP		
<b>Telephone No.</b>	01926 412888	<b>Fax No.</b>	01926 414101
<b>E-mail</b>	Peterthompson@warwickshire.gov.uk		

### Signature of Chair of Theme Groups

.....  
**Date signed**.....

<b>Contact name</b>	Mike Lenihan for Economy Theme Group		
<b>Address</b>	Rugby Borough Council - PO Box 16, Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, Warwickshire. CV21 2LA		
<b>Telephone No.</b>	01788 533 533	<b>Fax No.</b>	01788 533 409
<b>E-mail</b>	mike.lenihan@rugby.gov.uk		

### Signature of Chair of Theme Groups

.....  
**Date signed**.....

## Well-being Fund 2004/05

Part B – Expression of Interest - To be completed by the body/individual interested in undertaking a commission

**Name of Project:** Rugby Opportunities Centre

### Details of body/Individual interested in commission

<b>B1. Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Warwickshire County Council (PTES)</b>  The overall project to be overseen by the Area Community Learning Partnership and the Economy Theme Group who will oversee the work of the Centre Development Group.  Day to day contact to be made with Lynne Wilson. Chair of the Centre Development Group.		
<b>B2. Contact name</b>	Lynne Wilson		
<b>B3. Address</b>	<a href="#">Development Officer</a>  Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy <a href="#">PO Box 43</a>  <a href="#">Shire Hall</a>  Warwick CV34 4RA		
<b>B4. Telephone No.</b>	01926 412772	<b>Fax No.</b>	01926 491665
<b>B5. E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:Lynnewilson@warwickshire.gov.uk">Lynnewilson@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>		

### B6. Description of Project (from project brief)

A community based training facility which will deliver a foundation level construction training to qualification level to unemployed residents and young people of Rugby Borough, to enhance their employment and further training opportunities.

The Project will also be able to fulfil the demand for skilled staff, increasing the competitiveness and efficiency of local companies.

**B7. Details of timescale. When would you be able to commence this project?**

If the final portion of the funding is secured, we would anticipate that we would be 'open for business' September/October 2005.

To achieve this we have completed the following:

- A Development Group has already been formed and to date has met several times. – this has representation from Warwickshire College – Rugby Centre, WCC -PTES & Education, Rugby Borough Council
- Representation has been made to the Cabinet of Rugby Borough Council in order to secure capital funding
- Representation has been made to budget holders within PTES to secure Capital Funding
- Representation has been made to the Rugby Group benevolent Fund to secure funding
- Representation has been made to Rugby College Board of Directors to gain financial backing and partnership agreement
- Two units on the Webb Ellis Business Park have been identified and an Architect has drawn the preliminary plans for internal structure.
- A meeting has been held with Agencies/Organisations who work with unemployed adults and young people

Work on the physical aspects of converting the identified premises will begin in earnest once the required funding has been secured.

**B8. Outputs – What can you offer the Project?****Examples of similar projects previously undertaken**

The proposed Rugby Training Centre is based on the extremely successful model of the Opportunities Centre in Camp Hill Nuneaton which has been in operation for almost 2 years. The lead officer on the Development Group for the proposed Project developed the Nuneaton Opportunities Training Centre and has continued her involvement in the role of Project Manager. Therefore in terms of overcoming the 'teething' problems and developing best practice, the proposed project could not be in better hands.

This Centre is full to capacity, with a waiting list for future places on the Construction training programme. The Centre is currently funded from Regeneration Zone monies, therefore can only take referrals from this Zone and the take up from residents is already outstripping provision.

Good working practices, policies and procedures will be transferred to the Rugby Training Centre to facilitate an immediate affect within Rugby.

As a Development Group there is a wide spread of expertise from both the County Council, The Borough Council, Warwickshire College and private industry.

<b>B9. Analysis of costs – Please be as precise as possible</b>	
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>£ 196,773</b>
<b>Staff (Salaries and Expenses)</b>	<b>£ 88,573</b>
Centre Manager	29853
Caretaker	12860
Construction Tutor	29760
Construction Technician	15500
Travel	600
<b>Capital/Equipment</b>	<b>£ 65,000</b>
Conversion of building	50,000 (approx)
Equipment	15,000
<b>Other</b>	<b>£ 43,200</b>
Lease	24,000
Water Rates	1000
Gas	1000
Electricity	1000
Business Rates	6000
Telephone	2000
Advertising	500
Stationary	1000
Photocopier	300
Construction consumables	3000
Construction Accreditation	3400
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 196,773</b>

Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council are able to support the Capital funding. In terms of other pump priming requirements – to meet the initial start up costs, all other budgets from the Councils' are fully committed for this year.

It should be noted that two thirds of the start up funding has already been secured from The Rugby Group Benevolent Fund and Warwickshire College, Rugby Centre. Total submission to WCC Area Committee is therefore **£43,000** as match funding.

It should also be noted that cost quoted are for the first year of operation only. We have secured match revenue funding for a 3 year programme from Rugby Group Benevolent Fund and Warwickshire College, Rugby centre. If successful with this application an immediate priority for the Development Group will be to secure funding to plug the gap over the following 2 year period that is currently part of the initial start up plan.

**Signature of representatives of organisations interested in  
commission**

**Date**