

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

**Name of Committee**                      **Rugby Area Committee**

**Date of Committee**                      **28 July 2005**

**Report Title**                                      **Report from the Funding SubGroup**

**Summary**                                      This report sets out the process for allocating the Community Development Fund, proposes priorities for the commissioning of projects through the Well-being Fund and suggests areas of funding for the Social Inclusion Fund for 2005/6.

**For further information please contact:**

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**      No.

**Background papers**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

- |                       |                          |                                       |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Other Committees      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Local Member(s)       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Vereker, Chair of Area Committee |
| Other Elected Members | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Cabinet Member        | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Chief Executive       | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Legal                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Victoria Gould                        |
| Finance               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dave Preece                           |
| Other Chief Officers  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Noel Hunter                           |
| District Councils     | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Health Authority      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Police                | <input type="checkbox"/> |                                       |

Other Bodies/Individuals ☐ John Lyons (Social Inclusion Network)

***FINAL DECISION***

***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 – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005.**

#### **Rugby Area Committee Delegated Budgets Update**

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

##### **Recommendation**

That the Rugby Area Committee:

- Agree the process for the Community Development Fund for 2005/6. (Appendix 1)
- Approve the priorities for the Wellbeing Fund for 2005/6. (Appendix 2)
- Agree in principle the use of the Social Inclusion fund for 2005/6. (Appendix 3)

##### **1. Background**

1.1 This report brings forward proposals for the Rugby Area Committee's delegated budgets.

1.2 The Committee's Funding Subgroup is to meet on 18<sup>th</sup> July and will report its conclusions and recommendations verbally to the Committee

1.2 The papers to be considered by the Funding Subgroup are attached as appendices to this report:

1.3 Appendix One outlines the suggested priorities for the Wellbeing Fund.

1.4 Appendix Two sets forth recommendations for the use of the Social Inclusion Fund.

1.5 Appendix Three proposes a timetable and process for the Community Development Fund.

David Carter  
County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive

Shire Hall  
Warwick

## **Appendix 1 – Report to the Funding SubGroup Priorities for the use of the Wellbeing Fund in Rugby 2005-06**

### **Recommendation**

That the Funding Subgroups agrees its recommendations to Area Committee around the priorities for the commissioning of projects through the Wellbeing Fund for 2005/6.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report outlines the current position of the Wellbeing Fund and seeks Members' agreement on the priorities for commissioning projects in 2005/6.

1.2 Following the award of £43,000 for the Opportunities Centre at June's Area Committee, the remaining budget for the Wellbeing Fund in 2005/6 is £103,735, including £77,455 carried forward from previous years.

1.3 It is recommended that Area Committee uses this fund to commission projects against two priorities: delivering the Better Brownsover Action Plan (£70,000) and meeting rural community needs (£30,000).

### **2. Wellbeing Fund 2004/5**

In May 2004 Area Committee agreed that projects should be commissioned to support objectives identified through the Local Strategic Partnership, as follows:

2.1 Rural Communities - Rural Partnership Project approved (September 2004)  
This project has made considerable progress and is shortly to publish a major research report.

2.2 Brownsover South - Project in development

Although significant partnership working and community development had begun, partners had not at the end of the year agreed a clear proposal for the use of the allocated funds. The nature of the Better Brownsover scheme has necessitated a rather longer period dedicated to mapping out service gaps and priority areas than originally anticipated. This, combined with the need to negotiate with partners, has delayed project development.

2.3 Station/Cattle Market Area Redevelopment - Project agreed in principle (November 2004) but suspended (March 2005).

Area Committee agreed in March to postpone this project, as the project had been based on the premise that Rugby Borough Council would finance a community building.

### **3. Suggested Wellbeing Fund priorities for 2005/6**

It is recommended that Area Committee adopts the following priorities for the use of the Wellbeing Fund in 2005-06:

#### **3.1 Brownsover South**

3.1.1 Brownsover South has been agreed as a priority area for partnership working following its identification amongst the 20% deprived neighbourhoods in the Country

(Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004). Partnership working is being led by the Better Brownsover Forum which includes both County and Borough Councillors.

3.1.2 Members are recommended to continue to allocate funding towards the Better Brownsover initiative. The project is gaining momentum, and the Action Plan is in the advanced stages of completion.

3.1.3 At present there are a number of different initiatives being pursued by partners and whilst the Action Plan and coordination structures mean there is now some unity of action, the Forum has identified the need for an overall coordinator. It is recommended that Area Committee allocates £40,000 to fund a Programme Manager and provides a budget of £30,000 to allow the manager to support projects to meet specific community needs. (All projects would need final approval by Area Committee). The Programme Manager would be employed for one year to kickstart the scheme and will put systems in place to ensure sustainability, including identification of funding.

3.1.4 If Members agree to supporting this scheme a more detailed project proposal will be brought to September's Area Committee. Members may like to note that Rugby Borough Council is also considering what resources to allocate to Brownsover South. No figures have yet been agreed upon.

## **3.2 Rural Communities**

3.2.1 In 2004/5 Area Committee funded Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC) to undertake research into rural isolation and gaps in service provision affecting rural communities, and to bring partners together to develop an action plan to address identified needs. This research is near completion.

3.2.2 It is recommended that the Area Committee use £30,000 from the Wellbeing fund to tackle some of the issues raised by this research.

3.2.3 It is not possible to pre-empt the findings of WRCC and as such it will be necessary to bring a further report to Area Committee once the findings are published as to where funding should be targeted.

## **4. Alternative uses of the WellBeing Fund**

4.1 No other priorities for action have at this stage been identified by County Council departmental Area Mangers.

4.2 While Area Committee has previously earmarked funds for a feasibility study into a new community facility on the cattle market site, it is suggested that the County Council does not take the lead on this as partners' priorities are unclear.

## **5. Summary**

The Rugby Area Wellbeing Fund for 2005/6 is £146,735, and should be used to commission projects against the following priorities:

- £43,000 for the Opportunities Centre (approved)
- £70,000 towards Better Brownsover (Programme Manager & Community Projects)
- £30,000 to back projects arising from research on rural communities needs

Projects will be worked up in detail and brought back to Area Committee for approval.

## **Appendix 2 – Report to the Funding SubGroup Use of The Social Inclusion Fund in Rugby 2005-06**

### **Recommendation**

That Members agree the suggested areas of funding the Social Inclusion Fund will be used to support during 2005/6 and that members give in principle support for a Community Development Worker for New Bilton and Northern Overslade.

A more detailed recommendation will be brought back to Area Committee in September.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Social Inclusion Fund for Rugby Borough for 2005/6 is £50,200. Funding can be awarded up to a maximum of three years.

1.2 The Social Inclusion Fund is used to support the local implementation of the County Council's Social Inclusion Strategy. The principles of the Social Inclusion Strategy are:

- Improvement for all
- Fastest Improvement for the Most Deprived
- Better Access to Services

The themes of the Social Inclusion Strategy are:

- Promoting Community Cohesion
- Anti Poverty Work
- Achieving Equality
- Improving Public Health
- Reducing Crime and Promoting Community Safety
- Young People
- Old People
- Local Initiatives (targeting the most deprived communities locally)
- Working with the Community and Voluntary Sector

2.4 The Committee does not accept bids for funds; rather proposals for projects are developed by the Area Office in conjunction with partners and the County Council's Social Inclusion Network before being submitted to Committee for consideration.

1.5 The suggested use of the Social Inclusion Fund for 2005-06 is detailed below.

### **2. Proposal for New Bilton and Northern Overslade Community Development Worker**

2.1 It is recommended that Area Committee commits £20,000 per year for three years towards the cost of a Community Development Worker to work in New Bilton, Newbold and Northern Overslade.

2.2 This would be part of a wider strategy through which we are working with Rugby Borough Council, the Primary Care Trust, the CVS and other partners (through the Community Participation theme group of the LSP) to ensure that community development workers are in place in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods (as identified through the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

2.3 The most disadvantaged neighbourhoods fall within:

- Brownsover South
- Newbold (Rounds Gardens/Town Centre)
- Newbold on Avon
- Northern Overslade (Buchanan Rd, Wentworth Road, Malborough Rd etc)
- Benn (South of the Cattle Market and Biart Place)
- New Bilton
- Admirals

Community Development Workers are currently in place in Brownsover South and Benn and have been successful in engaging residents, developing community initiatives, and highlighting local issues.

2.4 Rugby Borough Council has recently launched a renewal programme in the New Bilton/Newbold area, which includes the investment of £100,000 per annum over a ten-year period, and are looking for partners to help fund a Community Development Worker to work closely with the resident groups to ensure community participation in the decision making process with regards to how this money is spent. The worker would be jointly funded for an initial period of three years.

2.5 Rugby Borough Council has committed £20,000 per year towards the cost of this worker, which they estimate at £45,000 per annum.

2.6 It is recommended that the Rugby Area Committee commit £20,000 from the Social Inclusion Fund (for three years) with the stipulation that the worker also undertakes community development activity in Northern Overslade. We would also request some flexibility so that the worker could work in other neighbourhoods as required.

2.7 If the Committee agree in principle to this the Rugby Area Office will work with partners to draw up a detailed project description to be brought back to Area Committee in September, including job description and management structure.

### **3. Remaining Funds**

3.1 Should Area Committee support the project above, there would be £30,200 remaining in the Social Inclusion Fund.

3.2 Last year the Area Committee used the Social Inclusion Fund to support an Active Communities Project. This had three elements, a website for the Rugby Disability Forum, an Older People's Network and training for community activists. It is recommended that the remaining £30,200 be earmarked to extend these pilot projects where appropriate once their success has been evaluated.

3.3 Further reports will be brought to Area Committee if Members are in agreement that projects should be developed along these lines.

### **Appendix 3 – Report to the Funding SubGroup The Community Development Fund Process**

#### **Recommendation**

That the Funding SubGroup agrees:

Either that Funding Sub Group Members score individual Community Development Fund applications alongside officers from the Rugby Area Team before bringing recommendations to Area Committee.

Or that officers from the Rugby Area Team score the Community Development Fund applications before agreeing recommendations with the Funding Sub Group.

1. This report outlines the timetable and process of the Community Development Fund for 2005/6 and seeks the Committees decision on the scoring process for the Fund.
2. The Community Development Fund for 2005/6 was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, with the deadline for applications being the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Applications for the Fund are scored against a set of criteria sent out with the application packs.
3. Projects that score the highest number of points are awarded funding at the discretion of the Area Committee at its meeting in November. In previous years the Area Manager and Community Partnership Officer have scored the applications and made recommendations directly to Area Committee.
4. This year it is suggested that the Funding Sub Group takes a more active involvement in this process. Sub Group Members would score applications alongside officers from the Area Office. A report would then be taken to the Area Committee. Members may like to note that this system has proved successful in Warwick District.
5. Alternatively you may wish that Area officers score the applications and take them to the Funding Sub Group for discussion and agreement before a report is taken to Area Committee.
6. Area Committee allocates the funding in both models. The suggested model brings Members into the scoring process at an earlier stage and involves them in the process in greater depth. Officer support would be available to members scoring applications.
7. The timetable for the Community Development Fund is:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005 - Launch
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005 - Deadline for applications
  - September 2005 - Funding Sub Group to agree scoring and recommendations for allocation of funds.
  - November 2005 - Rugby Area Committee to agree allocation of funds