

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Rugby Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 4 October 2007

**Report Title** Report from the Funding Subgroup

**Summary** To report on the proposed use of the remaining Rugby Area Committee delegated funds.

**For further information please contact:**

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

**Background papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  Rugby Area Committee Funding Subgroup (Cllrs Vereker, Roodhouse, Timms and Wells)
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  .....
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  .....
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....

Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**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 - 4 October 2007

#### Report of the Funding Subgroup

#### Report of the Strategic Director - Performance and Development

##### **Recommendation:**

That Members:

- approve the outline project briefs for the use of the remaining Area Committee funds to be worked into detailed project proposals
- note the report and comment as appropriate

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This paper provides a summary of the remaining 'community' funds available to Rugby Area Committee in 2007-08.

1.2 The funds available are as follows:

- Well-Being Fund
- Social Inclusion Fund
- Community Development Fund
- Rugby Area Small Grants Scheme
- Youth Work Development Grants

1.3 Additionally, the Rugby Area Committee has ringfenced £10,000 for an Arts for Health project – the full details of which will be presented to the Area Committee at its meeting in December.

### **2. Use of the Well-Being and Social Inclusion Funds**

2.1 At its meeting on 12 July, the Area Committee agreed the priorities for the use of the remaining Area Committee funds for 2007-08.

2.2 Based on these agreed priorities, officers have started to develop project briefs for consideration by the Funding Subgroup. The following paragraphs outline the projects that will be worked up for into more detailed project proposals for presentation to Area Committee at its meeting on 6 December 2007.

### **2.3 Support to Migrant Workers (£15,000)**

It is proposed to develop a project that builds on the very successful work currently underway in Warwick District through the Migrant Workers Support Project.

An initial meeting has been held between representatives from Rugby CVS, WREP and the Rugby and Warwick Area Offices to look at the current migrant worker support needs in Rugby and what type of project could be developed to address these. It was agreed that any project may best be delivered in two parts.

- 1) in the first instance it would be useful to build on the experiences of the Warwick district model through the “buying-in” of hours from the existing Migrant Worker Support Officer (employed through Warwick CVS).
- 2) in the longer term there may be benefit in pulling together a countywide strategy/project to address those issues that are relevant across the whole of Warwickshire. This would build on the work that has been done / or is currently planned across the county

It is suggested that both elements of the project outlined above are worked up into a full Project Proposal using the £15,000 allocated by the Rugby Area Committee for support to migrant workers.

#### **Suggested Lead: Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership (WREP)**

### **2.4 Brownsover Youth Facilities (£30,000)**

It is proposed to develop a project that co-ordinates, enhances, and supplements the work by organisations currently working in Brownsover with young people.

Initial ideas, including recommendations from WCC Youth Service, have been presented to Better Brownsover Partnership Board, which includes representatives from Brownsover Community Association, WCC and RBC Councillors, and the Community Development Officer for the neighbourhood. The Board identified two main areas of need:

- 1) a part-time co-ordination role to
  - develop a network of current providers of services for young people, publicise current provision and identify gaps in service provision
  - work with Brownsover Community Association to set up a youth-led group - Youth Council - where young people can have a say in the developments in Brownsover and they feel involved in the decision-making, ensuring that future provision meets their needs, as well as identifying and leading projects.
  - build the capacity of the Youth Council to create a group that can access funding (e.g. Youth Opportunities Fund) to become self-sustaining.
- 2) a part-time Youth Worker role to
  - manage new projects, such as a boys outdoor project (once per month) for those young people (12-14 years) on the verge of moving into the local gangs,

and a girls self esteem project (once a month) for those young women who are currently associated or close with the local gangs.

- purchase specialist services to support individuals with multiple problems (so that WCC Youth Service can operate intensively at the individual level and take referrals from other agencies such as YOT/PAYP/Police/Courts so specific young people can really be targeted).

It is suggested that both elements of the project are worked up into a full Project Proposal using the £30,000 allocated by the Rugby Area Committee for Brownsover Youth Facilities.

Members should note that both Better Brownsover Partnership Board and WCC's Area Youth Manager stated that a commitment will be needed beyond March 2008 for this project to really make a difference to the lives of individuals and the Brownsover community as a whole.

### **Suggested lead: WCC Youth Service**

#### **2.5 Benn / Newbold Community Building (£15,000)**

It is proposed to develop a project that builds on the Options Appraisal by WCC's Business Consultancy Unit considering the viability and sustainability of a new community building serving both the neighbourhood adjacent to the railway station, and community groups throughout the Borough.

RBC have given a commitment to providing a site within the old Cattle Market development to the local community, and the Options Appraisal assessed the current stock of community buildings within walking distance of this site, to assess whether a new building was required, or whether existing buildings could be refurbished.

Initial meetings have been held between representatives from Rugby CVS, a local Residents Association, WCC Rugby Area Office and WCC Councillors for Benn Ward, to examine the findings of the report and agree the next steps. It was agreed that any project would need to extend the initial options to give a more comprehensive picture, through:

1. consultation with owners of existing premises to establish their capacity and inclination for expansion of their facilities
2. consultation with VCS groups in Rugby Borough to determine current and future demand for premises
3. a needs analysis conducted with residents and local businesses
4. estimates of costs for refurbishment of any viable existing buildings to make them fit for purpose
5. a cost benefit analysis of refurbishment comparative to new build
6. an outline funding proposal for refurbishment of an existing building or new build
7. a robust business plan for an existing building or a new build
8. establishment of a project board and community forum to ensure the sustainability of the project whether that be refurbishment or new build

It is suggested that all the elements of the project outlined above are worked up into a full project proposal using the £15,000 allocated by the Rugby Area Committee.

### **Suggested Lead: Rugby Council for Voluntary Service**

## **3. Other Community Funds available to Rugby Area Committee in 2007-08**

### **3.1 Community Development Fund**

3.1.1 The closing date for this years round of the Community Development Fund was 21 September 2007.

3.1.2 The total available for Rugby in 2007-08 is £30,489 and at the time of writing 11 applications have been received.

3.1.3 The Funding Subgroup will be considering these applications and will bring a full set of recommendations for the allocation of this Fund to the Area Committee meeting on 6 December.

### **3.2 Rugby Area Small Grants Scheme**

3.2.1 A total of £5,760 has been awarded to the Rugby area as a result of the distribution of the former ACEC funding.

3.2.2 Area Committee also agreed (at their meeting in July) to supplement this fund with the £6000 Youth and Community Safety Fund and £8000 from the Social Inclusion Fund – giving approximately £20,000 to be distributed in small grants across the borough (providing a rolling programme for grants of £500 or less with the minimum of bureaucracy).

3.2.3 It is proposed that this Fund is equally distributed between the Locality Panels – with recommendations for use of the fund referred back to the Funding Subgroup for approval.

3.2.4 The final application process for this Fund is currently in development and will be circulated to members once agreed.

### **3.3 Youth Work Development Grants**

3.3.1 £199,000 is available across the County for this new scheme, with a total of £35,820 allocated to Rugby.

3.3.2 These will be local grants that can respond to issues that arise as they arise or in support of new organisations or innovative work relating to beneficiaries age 0-19.

3.3.3 The final detail regarding the application process for this fund is currently in development. However, it is likely that in each area six young people from the local Area Youth Forum and representatives from the Area Committee will meet quarterly to consider allocation of the funds, and provide recommendations for approval at the next Area Committee.

3.3.4 This fund will be administered through the Children, Young People & Families Directorate.

## **4. Review of Grant Funds**

4.1 As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the 'Partnerships and Communities' Team is currently reviewing the use of Grant Funds with the following aims:

- Responding to needs identified by local communities
- Enhancing the delivery of the Local Area Agreement
- Enhancing the involvement of front-line Councillors
- Providing value for money
- Ensuring sustainability of projects
- Reducing the number of funding streams
- Working more closely with District Councils and other fund-holding organisations
- Reducing bureaucracy
- Ensuring local accountability
- Ensuring robust monitoring, evaluation and audit
- Ensuring fairness and transparency in awarding grants
- Maximising community benefit
- Maximising publicity

4.2 As this review progresses, options will be discussed with Area Committee Chairs and brought to Area Committees.

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28 August 2007