

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 21 March 2006

Report Title Warwick District Community Development and Support Posts

Summary The report seeks approval of the Committee to financial contributions to the co-funding of community support and development workers for the Warwick area in partnership with Warwick District Council

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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
- Local Member(s) Councillors Boad, Randev and Haywood
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Councillor Saint
- Chief Executive
- Legal David Carter
- Finance Dave Preece – Finance Officer.....
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils Warwick District Council – proposals supported by WDC Executive, 13th February 2006 subject to consideration by WCC Warwick Area Committee.
- 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

Warwick Area Committee - 21 March 2006

Warwick District Community Development and Support Posts

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

Recommendation

Warwick Area Committee approve a contribution of £25,000 per annum for a period of three years to the employment by Warwick District Council of two community development and support workers to be jointly managed by Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Although Warwick District is generally prosperous, there are areas of the District which continue to experience significant economic and social disadvantage. The people who live in those areas experience problems of poverty, higher crime rates, poor health, and poor educational attainment. Poverty mapping work undertaken by the County and Warwick District Councils highlights the differences across the District.

2. Background to Supporting Communities Locally

- 2.1 The County and Warwick District Councils, with various partner agencies, have in recent years supported interventions in local communities through a variety of means and in a variety of locations. The most significant initiatives have been the SRB5 Regenesys programme supporting the regeneration the community in Leamington Old Town and the SRB6 Promoting Inclusion and Enterprise programme supporting numerous initiatives across Warwick District and South Warwickshire. Funding for the Regenesys programme ends in March 2006 and for the South Warwickshire PIE programme in March 2007.
- 2.2 The SRB programmes have had a positive impact on the communities they serve. For example, in Old Town at the start of the SRB5 scheme, unemployment was 3 times the District average. It is now at the District average, which was the target. The mid term review of the SRB5 scheme clearly showed that the intervention had had a beneficial impact on the local community in a variety of ways and the community recognised that impact.
- 2.3 The support given has also helped the communities to raise funding and investment. For example, the Lillington People project has helped raise £190,000 over 3 years. The community involvement team at Regenesys has helped the local community to raise £550,000 over 5 years. At the heart of this

approach is the strategy that if local people can be supported then they are able to help tackle many of the issues that blight their communities. It gives them a sense of ownership of the problems and the solutions and they subsequently become more capable of dealing with issues rather than relying on outside intervention.

3. Proposals for Community Development and Support Posts

3.1 With the imminent ending of SRB funding, consideration has been given by County and District Council officers as to how some of the most effective work undertaken in supporting communities can continue in the future. The conclusion of this is a proposal to continue to fund two community development and support posts that are currently funded by the SRB initiatives. The posts currently cover the Lillington and Old Town areas of Leamington Spa. It is proposed that in future, whilst there would still be involvement in those areas, their remit should be broader, covering other priority communities including rural communities. The precise work programme and areas of operation will need to be agreed in more detail if the principle is agreed. It is proposed that the County Council and Warwick District Council jointly fund the posts. The posts will be employed, as they are currently, by Warwick District Council, but the County Council, as co-funder will be involved in agreeing the detailed work programme and in the overall direction of the team. The team will be line managed by Warwickshire County Council's Warwick Area Manager. The staff will work closely with the County Council's Area Team and reports on the work of the postholders will be reported to the Warwick Area Committee.

3.2 Areas of work that the staff would be involved in might include:

- Supporting the creation and development of local community organisations
- Enabling local people to increase their capacity to deal with local situations
- Supporting local people and community organisations to identify local issues and implement local solutions
- Aiding local people, small groups and organisations to seek funding
- Providing liaison between local people and organisations and public and other agencies in relation to local issues and solutions

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Based on existing salaries the estimated cost of Warwick District Council employing these two members of staff would be £59,135 for a full year and £51,227 in 06/07 as the Lillington worker is funded by SRB6 up to June 06. It is proposed that Warwick Area Committee contribute £25,000 per annum for three years from the Wellbeing Fund as a contribution to these posts, commencing in April 2006. Warwick District Council will provide the balance of the funding.

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of
Performance and
Development
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16th February 2006