

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 21st November 2006

Report Title Wellbeing Fund / Social Inclusion Fund 2005/6 – Monitoring Report

Summary The report informs committee of the use made of the Wellbeing Fund and Social Inclusion Fund allocations agreed in 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 None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Applies to all members of the Area Committee
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive David Carter.....
- Legal
- Finance Nicola Cumberledge – Finance Officer.
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

Nick Gower – Johnson, Monica Fogarty, Sarah Duxbury

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

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To Council

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To Cabinet

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To an O & S Committee

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To an Area Committee

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Further Consultation

.....

Agenda No

Warwick Area Committee - 21st November 2006.

Wellbeing Fund / Social Inclusion Fund 2005/6

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance & Development

Recommendation

That Warwick Area Committee note the use made of 2005/6 Wellbeing Fund and Social Inclusion fund allocations.

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Warwick Area Committee made Wellbeing Fund and Social Inclusion Fund allocations of some £135,000 in 2005/6. This report provides details of the allocations made and the use made of those funds by recipient organisations. The report is set out in chronological order, outlining all of the grants made at Warwick Area Committee meetings during 2005/6.

2. Meeting of 26 July 2005 – Wellbeing Fund

2.1 The GAP – Warwick, Percy Estate Community Project

At its meeting on 26 July 2005, committee agreed an allocation of £5,000 for the Warwick Percy Estate Community Project. The funding was used as part of a wider project to support Community Development of the estate. As part of this initiative, ten local residents have formed The GAP Action Partnership and have successfully undertaken NVQ level 2 in community development.

The £5,000 allocated from the Well-Being fund was spent on making a film in participation with a local film maker as part of this project and on community development activity, training, and the production of promotional materials. The success of the project has enabled the GAP to secure a further 3 years funding through BASSAC to deliver training for 10 participants each year, to create and develop their own community activity network over the wider Warwick area.

2.2 Warwick Words Literary Festival

At its meeting on 26 July 2005 the Committee agreed an allocation of £3,000 for a project called Poets in Residence - taking live poetry to an audience of young people from Warwick District, particularly in association with local primary and secondary schools, libraries and youth clubs in Warwick West (Forbes Estate) and the Lillington area in Leamington Spa over eight days. A number of workshops and performances took place involving the poets Richard Grant and Julie Boden.

The project went ahead as planned and was a great success, forming a key local element of Warwick Words 2005

3. Meeting of 26 July 2005 – Social Inclusion Fund

3.1 Portuguese Community Support Worker

At its meeting on 26 July 2005 the Committee agreed an allocation of £15,000 for a Portuguese community support worker post. This sum was additional to a sum of £10,000 carried forward from the previous year.

The work undertaken by the Portuguese Community Support worker has been impressive, involving support and advice to large numbers of people from the local Portuguese community. The postholder has also provided advice and support to numerous agencies and organisations locally working with the Portuguese community and other groups of migrant workers.

The project now operates from an office provide at the Sydni centre in Leamington Spa. Your committee has continued the funding of the post in 2006/7. Discussions are now taking place with a view to considering how support for the Portuguese Community and other groups of migrant workers and their families might be provided in the future.

3.2 Warwick District Welfare Rights Project

At its meeting on 26 July 2006 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £20,000 towards the running costs of an outreach welfare rights and debt advice service. The project is co-funded from a variety of sources, principally, LPSA 2. The project is managed by Warwick District Citizen's Advice Bureau.

The aim of the project is to work throughout the community in Warwick District, particularly with hard to reach groups and individuals with a view to maximising the uptake of a wide range of welfare benefits. It is anticipated that there will be a significant multiplier effect generated by this work, with every pound spent on this initiative bringing significant additional funding into the local economy through enhanced benefits take up. This is of value to the local economy as well as to the individuals concerned. This service is now fully operational.

3.3 Policy for Older People Support Worker

Funding for this initiative was agreed in 2004/5, but the project did not commence until 2005/6. 2004/5 monies were allocated to other projects to maximise the use made of the fund that year, consequently the £8,000 allocated was drawn down from 2005/6 funds. Committee agreed to fund the post for two subsequent years beyond 2005/6.

The project aims to support the work of the Warwick District Policy for Older People's initiative by providing an administrative service to both the multi agency and steering groups: -

The work involves:

Administration

- Preparing for regular steering group meetings and quarterly multi agency meeting, i.e. organise venues, refreshments, send out letters and circulate all relevant paperwork to members before meetings.
- Taking minutes at meetings.
- Dealing with enquiries and other administrative tasks.
- Targeting hard to reach groups – research carried out, information gathered and collated in the form of a report. Groups have been located and contact made. Work is ongoing.

Engagement

- Set up a database of groups involved in POPWD.
- Maintaining contact with older people's groups through letters, visit, newsletter and meeting.
- Attend CAF lunches and other networking events

Promotion

- Arranging and attending meetings with various voluntary and statutory bodies in Warwick District.
- Creating promotional displays for stalls at events like CVSWD-AGM and Civic Heads Reception.
- Preparing publicity material i.e. developing and updating a webpage, producing leaflets, writing articles, marketing multi-agency meetings.

4.0 Meeting of 22 November 2005 – Wellbeing Fund

4.1 Radford Semele Community Hall

At its meeting on 22 November 2005 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £5,000 towards the refurbishment of the Community Hall. The project cost £8,700 in total and is now complete. A reception was held on the 4th July to acknowledge the funders of the project.

4.2 Asian Community Equality Centre – Funding Support

At its meeting on 22 November 2005 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £5,000 towards the running costs of the organisation. The funding has been used to promote the work of the Asian Community Equality Centre to the benefit of the BME communities in Warwick District.

A total of 221 cases have been dealt with, offering information and guidance on issues such as immigration, employment, Council Tax and welfare benefits, education and training.

4.3 Warwick District Citizens Advice Bureau – Volunteer Training

At its meeting on 22 November 2005, Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £9,000 for the training of additional volunteers to increase the capacity of the organisation to provide support and advice locally.

To date, six trainees have been funded with this money and have now progressed to becoming accredited advisors.

The funding of adviser training has resulted in:

- ❖ Adequately staffed rota sessions, reducing waiting times for clients
- ❖ Two telephone advice lines operating each session
- ❖ A wider mix of volunteers

4.4 African Caribbean Project – Funding Support

At its meeting on 22 November 2005 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £6,000 to help meet the ongoing funding needs of the organisation, particularly in relation to two projects:

- The West Indian Senior Endeavour (WISE) project that provides support for West Indian elders
- The recording studio that has been the focus of work with disaffected young people.

The funding has meant that the organisation and these two specific projects have continued to operate and the organisation has had the breathing space to seek additional external funding.

4.5 Hybrid Arts – Lillington Community Art Project

At its meeting on 22 November 2005 the Committee agreed an allocation of £1,000 towards a community art initiative in Lillington.

Hybrid Arts were commissioned to work with a group of disaffected young people in Lillington who are seeking to produce a piece of innovative public art in Crown Way. Hybrid Arts have worked closely with the group and have produced with them a display highlighting different aspects of public art. They have supported the young people's desire to consult widely in Lillington about the project. The display also formed the basis of artwork for the invitation to a public meeting about the initiative held in Lillington Library on 7th June 2006.

4.6 Shree Krishna Community Centre – Disabled Toilets

At its meeting on 22 November 2005 the Committee agreed an allocation of £5,000 towards a disabled toilet facility at the Shree Krishna Community Centre. The Community Centre committee received match funding to enable them to build a toilet facility at the Centre suitable for disabled users. This provision is a requirement for many other external funders and allows the Centre to make applications for further funding that they were previously unable to attract. The facility is now built and operating.

5.0 Meeting of 24 January 2006 – Wellbeing Fund

5.1 Action 21 – Volunteer Co-ordinator

At its meeting on 24 January 2006 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £7,000 towards the post of volunteer development worker for Action 21.

The worker has been in post since May 2006 is employed to focus on two distinct areas of Action 21 activity. Firstly, promoting and supporting volunteer activity linked to the operation of the Action 21 Recycling Group and the Recycle Shop at the Princess Drive refuse disposal site in Leamington Spa. Local people are being encouraged to work as volunteers at the Recycle Shop and to become involved in the work of Action 21 in communicating the message of environmental concern and recycling to the wider public. The worker is responsible for recruiting and managing volunteers.

The second element of the job relates to promoting and supporting volunteer activity in relation to a programme of walking for health in Warwick District.

There are now a number of walks for health being organised locally by the Senior People's Forum, Age Concern and Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre. The volunteer co-ordinator is responsible for co-ordinating the work of the various groups in relation to the organisation and promotion of the walks programme and is responsible for recruiting and supporting volunteers who are essential to the operation of the programme.

So far good progress has been made against the project's targets, with new volunteers being recruited, trained and supported in these activities to promote environmentally friendly and healthy living within Warwick District.

5.2 Warwick District Shopmobility – Business Consultancy Support

At its meeting on 24 January 2006 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £2,500 for Business Consultancy support for Warwick District Shopmobility to assist with business planning and the development of a funding strategy.

The money was spent on:

- ❖ Researching the current situation
- ❖ Understanding the business structure and culture
- ❖ Gathering data and information about the market, other shopmobility schemes and the prospects of funding streams
- ❖ Preparation of detailed and summary business plans
- ❖ Meeting with Directors, Board, Manager, WDC and WCC members and officers.

Additional funding support was provided in 2006/7 to enable the project to continue its operations.

6.0 Meeting of 21 March 2006 – Wellbeing Fund

6.1 Whitnash Youth Club – Multi-Sports Area

At its meeting on 21 March 2006 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of up to £8,000 towards the provision of a Basketball Court and Multisports Area at the playing fields at Acre Close, Whitnash.

The proposal has been successful in obtaining landfill tax funding and funding from other partners. Construction of the facility is about to commence. The County Council contribution has provided valuable match funding to secure landfill tax grant and monies from other partners. The total project cost will be on the order of £35,000.

The sports area will be a valuable enhancement to facilities available to children and young people in Whitnash and will be available free of charge seven days a week between the hours of 8 in the morning until late in the evening.

6.2 Cubbington Parish Council – Sports Pavilion

At its meeting on 21 March 2006 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £5,000 towards the building of a sports pavilion.

Further funding is still being sought before the project can begin.

6.3 CVS Warwick District – Faiths Forum Support Worker

At its meeting on 21 March 2006, Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £5,000 for a support worker for the Warwick District Faiths Forum.

An initial meeting was held on 27 March at the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre which was facilitated by Dr Elizabeth McDonnell. The Forum is now established, meeting regularly and is well supported by a wide range of local faith groups.

7.0 Meeting of 21 March 2006 – Social Inclusion Fund

7.1 Sikh Temple – New Shower, Changing and Toilet Facilities

At its meeting on 21 March 2006, Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £7,000 towards the refurbishment of shower, changing and toilet facilities at the Sikh Temple, Leamington Spa. These works have now been completed to a high standard.

7.2 Racing Club Warwick – Racing to Get There Minibus

At its meeting on 21 March 2006 the Warwick Area Committee agreed an allocation of £5,500 to enable the purchase of a Peugeot Eurobus taxi type wheelchair accessible vehicle to add to the fleet of the community transport project that is 'Racing to Get There'. The other contributors towards the cost of the vehicle were Social Services and The Rural Transport Partnership. This vehicle was one of three new vehicles purchased, the other two being funded by way of grant from a Service Level Agreement with Warwick District Council.

The three vehicles collectively make up a community taxi service available to people who either suffer rural isolation because of the lack of public transport or have mobility problems. The scheme also provides transport solutions to people who use the day centre at Fordsfield.

The communitaxi service began delivery in earnest on 15th May. The target for the scheme is twenty nine thousand plus journeys per year. The destinations of the journeys range from day centres, educational facilities, medical appointments, and visiting patients in hospital, hairdressers, shopping. Individuals who use the scheme may access twenty journeys per year at the rate of fifty two pence per mile and after the twenty journeys, at one pound per mile.

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of
Performance & Development
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24 October 2005