

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 11 March 2008

Report Title Contribution Towards the Funding of a Migrant Worker Support Post - Social Inclusion Fund – 2008/09

Summary This report seeks the committee’s approval for a further year’s contribution towards the funding of a migrant worker support post from the Social Inclusion Fund 2008/9.

For further information please contact: Tim Healey, Community Partnership Officer, Tel: 01926 736138, timhealey@warwickshire.gov.uk; Peter Hunter, Warwick Area Manager, Tel. 01926 736136, peterhunter@warwickshire.gov.uk

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) Cllrs. Boad, Haywood and Naylor as Area Committee funding sub group. The sub – group supports the proposal, although there are concerns that every effort should be made to find alternative sources of support for the post, rather than relying on the Area Committee. Councillor Naylor comments, that “this post has proved immensely valuable and effective. The bid for continued funding has my fullest support and I urge fellow members to do likewise”.

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member

Chief Executive

Legal Tony Maione, Solicitor - nothing to add to the report.

Finance Nicola Cumberledge, Finance Officer

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

Warwick Area Committee – 11^h March 2008.

Contribution Towards the Funding of a Migrant Worker Support Post - Social Inclusion Fund –2008/09

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

Recommendation

That Members approve the funding proposal set out in the report.

1. In July 2004 this committee allocated funding to appoint a part-time Portuguese Community Support worker and to undertake associated research into the needs of the Portuguese Community locally. Further funding has been provided in subsequent years and the project has proved immensely successful in supporting migrant workers, initially people of Portuguese origin, but more recently migrant workers more generally. Funding from this committee has provided the core of funding for the post over the three years of operation, although there have been contributions from other agencies, including schools extended services funding from the Children, Young People and Families Directorate and funding from Warwick District Council. Mario Jaco, the current post holder has in the past attended Warwick Area Committee to talk about the work of the project, which has continued to grow and develop since its inception.
2. Committee is again asked to allocate funding to this work in 2008/9. Issues related to migrant worker support are probably greater now than when the project was established as numbers of migrant workers in the UK have continued to grow. If committee approves this proposal, funding for the support worker would be shared between Warwick and Rugby Area Committees. Rugby Area Committee are in the process of allocating £15,000 towards a migrant worker support initiative, a significant amount of which would go towards covering the cost of this post also operating in the Rugby Area. Warwick Area Committee is being asked to contribute £20,000 toward the cost of the post this year. This will mean the majority of the post holder's

time will be spent working on issues in the Warwick area, but with some time spent in Rugby.

3. This proposal meets the cohesive community objectives of the Warwick District 2020 Community Plan and is an agreed Community Plan action. It has been immensely successful since its inception in 2004. Support for migrant workers continues to be a significant issue. In the early years of the project, much of the project officer's time was spent on individual casework. More recently, the project officer has adopted a more strategic role, increasingly working with other service providers to enhance their capacity to deal with migrant worker issues effectively, although a considerable amount of case work remains. The joint initiative with Rugby Area Committee will enable the post to continue to develop this strategic advice role more widely. The project work plan for the coming year will also involve the project officer working more closely with Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership who also have a remit to address issues related to migrant workers.
4. Warwick Area Committee is recommended to approve the allocation of £20,000 from the Social Inclusion Fund in 2008/09 to enable this initiative to continue.

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director,
Performance and
Development
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February 2008