

# REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

## DECISION RECORD

18 April 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Catherine Frank,  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

### **40. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF)** *(Principal Community Strategy Officer)*

#### **Type of Decision**

Non Key

#### **Purpose of Report**

This report is to update the Portfolio Holder on the amendments made to the Health and Care theme programme.

#### **Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

Cabinet agreed the final 2007/8 NRF programme on 25 June 2007 within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) finances but it was announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October 2007 that this would not continue beyond March 2008. In January 2008 the Portfolio Holder agreed for delegated authority to be given to theme partnerships to agree modifications within their NRF programmes in order for them to be able to respond quickly and utilise the funding effectively. Also, in February 2008 the Portfolio Holder had agreed to give delegated authority to the Head of Community Strategy up to the value of £20,000 although he would be informed of any changes that were made at future meetings.

The Health and Care Strategy Group identified an underspend of £13,320 to be reallocated within the Health and Care theme. The

Group agreed £6,000 towards the Information Now website and £7,5000 towards the development costs of the Hartlepool Centre for Independent Living.

The Hartlepool Centre for Independent Living is a new project that has been approved by the Head of Community Strategy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. This project will support the asset transfer of the Havelock Day Centre which has the potential to draw in up to £1m of funding from central Government. The NRF contribution will form one third of the total development costs.

The Health and Care Strategy Group also agreed that any further underspends would be directed towards the Health Community Chest.

The Portfolio Holder asked for further information on the Information Now website and was informed that it will provide an online resource with information on local services which will support the work of the Health Trainers and other Community Development workers.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the amendments to the Health and Care NRF theme programme.

## **41. WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND (WNF) 2008/9** *(Principal Community Strategy Officer)*

### **Type of Decision**

Non key

### **Purpose of Report**

The report was presented to seek approval from the Portfolio Holder for amendments to the budget allocations of some projects within the agreed Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) programme for 2008/9.

### **Items for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Government has confirmed that the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) will form part of the Area Based Grant (ABG) from April 2008. For 2008/2009 Cabinet has agreed to passport funds from the ABG to existing grant programmes which would provide a period of stability in which a review of existing funded activities can be undertaken. As the WNF replaces the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) it has been used to continue parts of the NRF programme from 2007/8.

Cabinet agreed the WNF programme for 2008/9 at their meeting on

the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Within that budget £290,000 was set aside to support projects from the Jobs & Economy theme whose external grant support was due to terminate in March 2008.

Since the budget was agreed by full Council work has been undertaken to reassess the individual allocations of WNF to projects with a particular focus on allocating the £290,000 set aside for Jobs & Economy theme projects. Although in general most allocations have remained as already approved there are some variations proposed. The proposed amendments to the project allocations for 2008/9 which the Portfolio Holder is requested to approve included variances in the Neighbourhood Services allocation for Environmental Enforcement Wardens as well as a number of variances in the Regeneration and Planning allocations.

The Principal Community Strategy Officer agreed to continue to update the Portfolio Holder with reports on the WNF programme during the next municipal year as well as reporting to Cabinet.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the proposed budget amendments for the 2008/9 WNF programme.

**P DEVLIN**

**ACTING CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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