

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....16th April 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Communities Fund

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet was presented with a report that confirmed the procurement process and impending award of contracts for the delivery of employability and skills through use of the communities fund in line with the criteria agreed by cabinet in the original reports dated 24 April and 9 October 2008.

Previous Cabinet reports of 24 April 2008 and 9 October 2008 agreed criteria for procurement and delivery of the Employability and Skills element of the Communities Fund. The report presented to Cabinet provided feedback on the open and transparent processes undertaken to ensure the opportunities were widely communicated, ensuring inclusion of all relevant public, private, third sector and voluntary organisations, and to secure delivery organisations procured through Public Regulations 2006 and the councils own contract procedure rules, in line with those recommendations and decisions.

The delivery package previously agreed by this council was in line with the recent recommendations made by Stephen Houghton in the Tackling Worklessness Review, commissioned by DWP in May 2008 to examine how English Local Authorities and their partners could do more to tackle worklessness. The final report was launched on 3rd March 2009, and the measures proposed and agreed were in line with the approaches suggested by the review.

Evaluation of 6 completed tenders revealed three preferred lead organisations to deliver across 5 geographical areas. Contracts amounting to £7.2m over the next three years would be offered to the successful organisations to tackle worklessness, skills and employability leading to employment. The main focus of delivery would be on the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that were identified as having a benefit claim rate of more than 25%.

Three preferred organisations chosen to deliver across Stockton, subject

to contract, were as follows:

- o Five Lamps to deliver in 12 LSOAs across Thornaby and Stockton Town Centre.
- o Newtown Norton and Clarences Community Association to deliver across 8 LSOAs in Billingham and Newtown.
- o New College Durham to deliver across 4 LSOAs in Hardwick,

On 16 March preferred lead organisations (subject to contract) and unsuccessful organisations were notified. Press releases were included in Stockton News for the April and May 2009 editions and there was a press release Gazette, Northern Echo on 30 March.

On 19 March all interested organisations, HOS, Key partners were notified. Renaissance received an update on 17 March 2009 and Economic Regeneration & Transport Partnership would receive an update on 9 May 2009. Delivery of coordinated provision in support of the Tees Valley Employability framework would commence as soon as possible

RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the open, transparent and thorough approval and procurement process and the preferred tenderers with whom we will contract for delivery of employability and skills work through the Communities Fund allocations.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To advise Members of the open, transparent and thorough approval and procurement process and the preferred tenderers with whom the Council will contract for delivery of employability and skills work through the Communities Fund allocations.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal, non-prejudicial in interest in respect of this item as a result of his role on the Regional Development Agency.

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal, non-prejudicial in interest in respect of this item as a result of her membership of Billingham Town Council who had been involved in the tendering process.

6. Details of any Dispensations

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Proper Officer  
20 April 2009