

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting3rd September 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Transitional Neighbourhood Renewal Programme 2008/09 and Safer Stronger Communities Fund

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on final progress of the transitional Neighbourhood Renewal programme within the Borough which ended March 2009, the development of Area Partnership priorities for their allocation of Communities Fund, and the Neighbourhood Element (Safer Stronger Communities Fund) programme progress.

In November 2007, the government announced 'The Working Neighbourhoods Fund' (WNF) which was created to simplify and refocus local level funding to tackle worklessness and low levels of skills and enterprise within some of the most disadvantaged communities. This fund, part of the non-ring fenced Area Based Grant (ABG) was seen as the successor to the Communities and Local Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and continues the focus of neighbourhood renewal on these core areas of regeneration.

Due to the late announcement of the funding, in February 2008 Cabinet agreed a transitional Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the financial year 2008/9 of £2,738,703 as part of the exit arrangements for NRF funded projects. The programme aimed to continue those projects evaluated as successful from the last round of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, which were unable to secure alternative funding. It was also agreed the remaining WNF would be referred to as the Communities Fund (CF).

Programme monitoring for the transitional NRF took place on a six monthly basis to align the work with the Local Area Agreement, although some Package Leads continued to monitor quarterly on a risk basis.

Annex 1 to the report provided a summary of some key achievements within the last six months. Some examples of key achievements and progress to date included:-

- Safer Communities: Licensing have undertaken 171 Test Purchase Attempts for under age sales in the last six months of the year with 8 positive sales as a result.
- Children and Young People: Over 130 Children & Young people have gained accreditation through the Twister Arts project which is double the estimated amount.
- Environment: Work undertaken in the Portrack and Tilery area by the Waste Education Team, has contributed to a 12% increase in recycling participation levels within the area and a 2% decrease in households using more than one wheelie bin.
- Housing: Raising the Standard project has issued 58 licences to houses in Multiple Occupation, all of which are in the NRF areas

Economic Regeneration and Transport: Overall 297 people have gained employment, 440 people have obtained recognised qualifications and 51 people have started their own business. Seven of the nine key outputs were exceeded.

At the end of the financial year 2008/09 and the programme there was a slight underspend of £2,931, which as agreed previously will be rolled into the wider Communities Fund pot.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To inform Cabinet of progress made on the Transitional Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and Safer Stronger Communities Fund in 2008/09.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of this item as she served on the Stockton and District Advice and Information Service Board, which was referred to in the report.

Councillor Coleman declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in this item as he served on the Central Area Partnership Board which was referred to in the report.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

By Midnight, Friday, 11th September 2009

Proper Officer
07 August 2009