

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....20th December 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton Communities Fund

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the Stockton Communities Fund. There was a requirement as part of the Council's governance of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund that Cabinet receive a report on the delivery of the Communities Fund. The report provided an 18 month update on the performance and progress of the delivery of the employability and skills element of Stockton's Communities Fund.

Five contracts had been procured and were awarded to three providers.

- The Five Lamps Organisation covering the two contract areas of parts of Thornaby and Stockton Town Centre.
- Newtown, Norton and Clarendon Community Resource Centres (now Know How North East) were focusing on the two areas of Newtown and parts of Billingham
- New College Durham working in the Hardwick/Ragworth areas.

Delivery had commenced in April 2009 and Members' attention was particularly drawn to:-

- The priority groups engaged:
  - 198 lone parents;
  - 136 people with a drug or alcohol issue;
  - 264 ex-offenders;
  - 227 people with a health condition
  - 127 BME residents.
- As at the end of September 2010, 643 of those residents engaged had found work, which was in line with the providers anticipated success rate of a ratio of three or four to one or 28% success. In comparison, based on figures recently released by DWP the best local Flexible New Deal provider was converting at a ratio of 16 to 1 or 6%.

- The number of people claimed who had been retained in employment at 26 weeks was 155.
- The majority of job outcomes were full time positions, but where they were of a part time nature they were generally above 16 hours, ensuring individuals were able to claim tax credits and therefore would not be worse off in work.
- All of the providers were working in partnership with Tristar Homes using their household intelligence to identify suitable people and families with particular successes at Norton Grange and Tilery. Similar relationships had been developed with Teesside Probation Service, the Family Intervention Project and Stockton DAAT to name but a few.
- Two of the providers recognised the benefits of the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) and consequently contributed to the success of the Council's FJF contract with 15 and 21 jobs respectively. Due to this success and after negotiations with the Council and Groundwork North East one provider has secured a further 15 FJF jobs.
- During the first year of delivery the five contracts were subject to a SBC internal audit. The report indicated that the overall audit opinion had "full assurance", which was defined as a sound system of control being applied consistently. There were some minor recommendations that had been implemented.

Members were provided with some case studies that detailed the stories of individuals who had benefited from the programme.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

3. Reasons for the Decision

There was a requirement, as part of the Council's governance of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, that Cabinet received a report on the progress of the delivery of the Communities Fund.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Stockton Communities Fund as he was Chairman of Eastern

Ravens Trust.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

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

Midnight on 30th December 2010

Proper Officer  
22 December 2010