

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....14th July 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Communities Fund Report 2 Year Update

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that provided an update on the performance and progress of the Communities Fund of both the 'employability and skills' and 'enterprise' elements of the Fund. It also provided an update of the Communities Fund allocation for the Future Jobs Fund and the Area Partnership Boards activities towards employability.

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 Clarences 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' noted features of the progress made, including:-

- The priority groups engaged:

- 338 lone parents;
- 157 people with a drug or alcohol issue;
- 288 ex-offenders;
- 227 people with a health condition
- 194 BME residents.

- over a quarter of people engaged had been out of work for over two years.

- After two years of delivery 1,037 of those residents engaged had found work, which equated to a ratio of 2.6:1, an improvement since the 18

months report.

Members noted that an independent assessment of the service delivery and the impact it was having on tackling worklessness had been undertaken and details of the interim report were provided.

Members were also provided with updates on the Council's Future Jobs Fund bid and activities being undertaken by Area Partnership Boards towards promoting employability.

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

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 receive 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

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

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

Not later than Midnight on Friday 22 July 2011

Proper Officer  
18 July 2011