

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting1st December 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Community Participation Budget - A Way Forward

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to options for the future of the Community Participation Budget (CPB) which was currently set at £400K for 2011/12 and due to come to an end in March 2012.

CPB was allocated to ward members on the basis of population numbers in that ward and was used to fund the provision of a variety of small improvement schemes in the ward ranging from dog bins to road safety initiatives and planting schemes. In many cases it had also been used to lever in funds from a variety of other sources to deliver larger projects and as such, had demonstrated real value in local level democracy ensuring that residents and ward councillors had a resource that was available to target specific issues that may not otherwise attract mainstream funding. Details of examples demonstrating the positive impact the budget had had, were summarised.

The CPB therefore sat well with many of the principles of the local and national policies on community engagement in decision making and delivery of local projects and was a clear demonstration of how devolved community budgets could continue to make a real difference. The eligibility criteria for funding of projects was required to be reviewed periodically to reflect changing circumstances and issues that arose locally. The process for reviewing the criteria was undertaken annually by officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Transport.

The £400K CPB budget had however not been allocated in the current MTFP beyond March 2012 and therefore it was proposed that a recommendation for the funding to continue beyond this period be submitted to Council for consideration alongside any other budget setting recommendations reported separately.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the continuation of the Community

Participation Budget at the current level of £400K beyond 2011/12, be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Community Participation Budget has been very successful in enabling ward members to work with the community to deliver small, local improvement schemes. It has been used in many cases to lever in other funding from a variety of sources and in innovative ways to secure community benefits.

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 Applicable

Proper Officer
06 July 2011