

Has the Director of Legal and Property Services confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

Yes / No *

Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?

Yes / No *

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

Yes / No *

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	X
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	X
Discussion	
Decision	
Information	X

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
4 June		31 May	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 21 May 2007

1 **Background**

- 1.1 Last year the Coalfield Communities Campaign (CCC) undertook a survey of housing problems within former coalfield communities. A response was made by the Council based on the need to create a more balanced housing market in the locality, via the development of new housing and the improvement of existing housing/environment within Abram, Platt Bridge, Bickershaw and the western parts of Leigh. It singled out the opportunities created by the development of the former Bickershaw Colliery site and the existing Housing Renewal activity. This was published as a case study within a publication, Coal Board Housing : the forgotten legacy of the coal industry.

2 **Proposals**

- 2.1 Following the publication of this evidence, English Partnerships have indicated that they are keen to identify areas of problematic housing within the seven authorities featured with the report and to explore how they can help in their regeneration. Whilst overall resources are unlikely to be large, it is a possible way of reinforcing existing regeneration activity.
- 2.2 In response to this request it is proposed that a small team of officers from the Environmental Services Department work up possible proposals and that following discussions with English Partnerships, that a package of measures is developed to try to improve the housing and its environment in the area surrounding the Bickershaw regeneration scheme. A further report on the results of this exercise will be made to Cabinet in the future.

3 **Conclusions:**

- 3.1 The invitation from English Partnership is a welcome step in attempting to strengthen the local housing markets in the area and hopefully will reinforce efforts to maximise the opportunity created by the redevelopment of the Bickershaw colliery site.