

Report to: Cabinet
Regeneration Panel

Date: 2 October 2008
12 November 2008

Subject: North West Coalfield Communities Regeneration
Programme - Phase 2

Report of: Director of Environmental Services

Contact officer: Stuart Hurst 01942 828975

Purpose / summary: To inform members the decision of the North West Coalfield Communities Regeneration Partnership Board to apply for North West Development Agency (NWDA) grant for the North West Coalfield Communities Regeneration Programme (NWCCRP) – Phase 2.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: N/A

Recommendation / decision: Cabinet members to note the contents of the report and give approval for Wigan Council to undertake the accountable body duties for the NWCCRP – Phase 2, which will be £5 million over 3 years.

Key Decision: This report involves a key decision within ground(s) 4.

The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 13 October 2008.

This item is included in the Forward Plan.

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	Wigan will receive approximately £1.3 million NWDA funding over 3 years towards projects in designated coalfield areas.
Staffing:	2.5 posts will be created within the Economic Regeneration Office (ERO). These posts will be funded by the NWDA.
Policy:	Worklessness Strategy
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	N/A
Wards affected:	Astley, Mosley Common, Tyldesley, Hindley, Bryn, Golborne and Lowton West, Leigh West, Abram, Atherleigh, Ashton.

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution?	Yes
Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

For Cabinet reports only :

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

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
Regeneration 12/11/08		02/10/08	

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Title of document	Which meeting did it go to?	Date of meeting	Copy available from?
NWDA Concept Form and Commissioning Framework			Stuart Hurst (Coalfields Programme Coordinator)

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 15 September 2008

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The North West Coalfield Communities Regeneration Programme (NWCCRP) is a unique partnership-led approach to the regeneration of former coalfield communities across the north west. Funded through the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and a wide range of other public and private sources, the phase 1 programme invested over £20 million between 2004 and 2008. This investment delivered activity across targeted coalfield communities in 8 local authorities: Allerdale, Bolton, Copeland, Knowsley, Salford, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan. The programme has been developed through the north west coalfield communities campaign, now the north west regional alliance, which aims to address deprivation through promoting economic, social and environmental regeneration of former traditional industrial areas.
- 1.2 The over-arching aim of the phase 1 2004 – 2008 (£5 million programme) was to narrow the gap in prosperity, and improve the well-being, of those former north west coalfield communities. Activity was focused on 5 key priority themes: engaged communities, competitive communities, enterprising communities, healthy communities and attractive communities. Over 35 projects have been funded across the 8 local authority areas involving a wide range of delivery partners and strategic stakeholders.
- 1.3 Discussions with the NWDA are at a very advanced stage for the development of a phase 2 NWCCRP. Consultation has taken place with the 8 local authority representatives at Allerdale, Bolton, Copeland, Knowsley, Salford, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan. A NWDA concept form has been submitted (which is a pre application form), a draft full application form has been completed and also a draft commissioning framework has been developed and sent to the NWDA for comment.

2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 The phase 2 NWCCRP will provide funding towards projects in designated coalfields areas that focus on client and employer engagement and increasing business start up rates within the target groups of white males, women and black minority ethnic (BME), through pre employment support and the creation of community and social enterprises. Projects seeking funding will be required to deliver economic outputs in line with NWDA targets. The types of projects which may be supported through the NWCCRP include those which deliver training and improve the skills base, assist businesses and increase business start up rates, promote intermediate labour market (ILM) activity and enterprise and improve health. Projects will need to address 1 of the 2 key priority action areas – promoting enterprise and reducing Worklessness. Projects will be required to provide match funding in order to secure NWDA monies.
- 2.2 Each north west local authority¹ will receive an allocation of funding based on the size of their coalfield area. Wigan, as the largest former coalfield area in the north west, will receive an indicative allocation of £1.3 million over 3 years from the £5 million NWDA funding. ERO will also receive approximately £442,000 (9%) of the overall £5 million budget towards the staffing and management costs, as Wigan Council will be acting as the accountable body as they did during the phase 1 programme.

¹ Coalfield local authorities – Wigan, St Helens, Warrington, Salford, Bolton, Knowsley, Copeland and Allerdale

2.3 Projects will be procured through the commissioning framework process and need to be approved by the NWCCRP Board. The Board comprises of a councillor and a private, public, voluntary or community representative from each of the north west coalfield local authorities.

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 It is expected the NWDA will consider the phase 2 programme in November 2008. ERO are currently finalising the operational arrangements for the management of the programme. Once approval has been given support staff posts will be recruited.

Martin Kimber
Director of Environmental Services
RP/ER/SH/LC/33.0P
15 September 2008

Diversity Impact Assessment form

Section: Economic Regeneration Office

Policy/Service Area: Environmental Services

Person Completing Form: Stuart Hurst

Date: 28/08/08

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race		x	Disability		x
Ethnicity		x	Gender		x
Age		x	Religion		x
Class		x	Sexual Orientation		x

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

Not Applicable

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

Not Applicable

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

Not Applicable

Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

Yes

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Timescale	Not Applicable
Responsibility	Not Applicable
Comments	Not Applicable

Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans?

Departmental Service Plan	Not Applicable
Section/Team Plan	Not Applicable
Other (Specify)	Not Applicable

Date for further review	Not Applicable
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