

REPORT TO: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 10 February 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Management

WARDS: Appleton, Castlefields, Halton Lea, Kingsway, Riverside, Windmill Hill.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

A presentation will be made at the meeting covering the following points;

- 1.1 The use of neighbourhood management funding to date.
- 1.2 Case studies that show the early contribution neighbourhood management is making in the three pilot neighbourhoods with regard to closing the gap and reducing deprivation.
- 1.3 An outline how the business case for neighbourhood management from March 2010 beyond is to be explored.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the presentation be received; and**
- (2) further reports are brought to the Board regarding the development of the business case for neighbourhood management in Halton.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since 2006 Halton has received government funding to develop neighbourhood management in those areas of the Borough that fell within the 3% most deprived under the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation. Since April 2008 this has been part of Halton's Area Based Grant allocation, and continues until March 2010.
- 3.2 The table below sets-out the funding profile over the four years;

Year	Amount
2006/7	412,800
2007/8	516,000
2008/9	412,800
2009/10	258,000
Total	1,599,600

- 3.3 Guidance issued by the Government on the use of the funding suggested that that the majority of funding would be used to on the employment of a neighbourhood management team with the relatively small proportion remaining to be used to fund a local 'community chest' for small grants to local community groups.
- 3.4 In Halton we have only employed a small team of staff (5) as against the case in Warrington (8) and St Helens (7) who have used in the region of 80% of their budget on staffing costs. Instead, we have spent around 55% of our funding on staffing costs with the rest being used to 'buy-in' services from partners by way of Service Level Agreements, a small portfolio of larger interventions as well as our own version of the community chest – the neighbourhood Quick Response Fund.
- 3.5 A more detailed breakdown will be included in the presentation.
- 3.6 Work is being focused in three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which fell within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill.
- 3.7 Neighbourhood management is designed to help close the gap between our most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the Borough, with regards to health, education, employment and crime

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 At its meeting on 4th December 2008, the Council's Executive board resolved that;
- (1) the Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership be asked to develop a detailed business case for Neighbourhood; Management after 2010, and Corporate Services PPB review this.
 - (2) the Council supports the continuation of present Neighbourhood Management arrangements at least until March 2010; and
 - (3) the Council will retain and fund Area Forums under any future arrangements.
- 4.2 The Halton Neighbourhood Management Board is to consider a draft project brief on the development of a business case for neighbourhood management at it meeting on Tuesday 27th January 2009.
- 4.3 A copy of the draft Project Brief is annexed to this report.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Neighbourhood Management is intended to help the Council and its partners to deliver the objectives in the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan in relation to closing the gap between the quality of life in the most disadvantaged areas and that in the rest of Halton.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

7.3 A Healthy Halton

None

7.4 A Safer Halton

None

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Neighbourhood Management aims to support the delivery of objectives under all of the Council's key priority areas.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 There are no risks associated with this presentation. More generally the risks with neighbourhood management relate to failure to deliver the desired improvements in all five priority areas, and failure to ensure sustainability after external funding ends in 2010.. These are being addressed through the preparation and monitoring of a development plan

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 Neighbourhood Management aims to reduce geographical inequalities with the Borough.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal	Municipal Building Widnes	Rob MacKenzie 0151 471 7416
Halton LAA		