

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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| DATE | 14 th October 2008 |
| PORTFOLIO | Regeneration and Housing |
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'Transforming Worklessness across Pennine Lancashire' project

PURPOSE

1. To secure the Executive's support for the Council's participation in the 'Transforming Worklessness across Pennine Lancashire' (TWPL) project.
2. To secure the Executive's support for the Council to receive and manage external funding of £13,333 in 2008/09 for purpose 1. above.

RECOMMENDATION

3. To delegate authority to Head of People and Law and Director of Finance to enter into a funding agreement with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (the accountable body for the project).
4. To establish a budget (2008/09) for external funding to the value of £13,333 as detailed in appendix (i) to support the additional activities of the EDT as part of the 'Transforming Worklessness across Pennine Lancashire' project.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

5. The project will contribute towards achieving LAA NI 153 targets, i.e. reducing the number of people claiming out of work benefits. This is a key commitment to the council and Burnley Action Partnership and one that will be closely monitored by Government

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

6. **The Current Situation**
In February 2007 there were 11,250 workless people in Burnley who were claiming working age benefits. This accounts for 20.5% of the working age population compared to 14.2% nationally. The barriers to work for many workless people are complex, difficult and expensive to resolve. Failure to successfully deal with the problems and level of worklessness will continue to have an adverse effect on the borough's economy.
7. The EDT plays a key role in facilitating the implementation of Burnley's Employment Strategy, which aims to reduce worklessness and improve employment and skills

- levels amongst Burnley's workforce.
8. The Employment Development Team has been involved with the 'Pennine Lancashire Worklessness Group' since December 2007 – the aim of the Group is to work collaboratively to address worklessness across Pennine Lancashire by implementing successful strategies and activities.
 9. The 'Pennine Lancashire Worklessness Group' has recently applied North West Development Agency (NWDA) Single Programme funding to support the 'Transforming Worklessness' Project across PL. The aims of the project are:
 - To bring together partners in PL to establish a common level of service for jobseekers and employers which will bring workless people into economic activity.
 - To reduce the number of economically inactive people in PL and thus also contribute to LAA and MAA targets.
 - To increase the participation of local employers offering employment opportunities to those most disadvantaged in the labour market.
 - To roll out tested good practice and innovative activities in PL and work towards ways of mainstreaming what works in the future.
 - To ensure that the support network for workless people is strengthened and better co-ordinated across PL.
- What will this initiative delivery for Burnley?
10. a) Influence – The funding will enable Burnley BC to carry out a strong partnership role within Pennine Lancashire. The Employment Development Team will be able to offer expertise and experience to assist other PL Partners.
 b) Support for Evolve Activities – the funding will help to support the activities of the EDT and the Evolve project by providing extra capacity for the following activities:
 - Training third sector frontline staff through Awareness and Development programmes, to raise awareness of worklessness issues and support available
 - Working in partnership with public, private and third sector organisations to implement effective outreach work at neighbourhood level, engaging with people far removed from the labour market
 - Work with Pennine Lancashire partners to help roll-out the Evolve website and Progression Model across the area
 - Introduce a holistic approach to support workless families in the worst performing neighbourhoods to move into employment and training
 - Provide pre-ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) training in areas where demand is not being met by current training provision
 - Establish mentoring networks to create more opportunities for people to mentor others into work and training
 11. The project will deliver the following outcomes for local residents:
 - Increase the number of workless people engaged and assisted into employment and/or training
 - Increase the number of workless people staying in work after 13 weeks
 - Increase the number of workless people completing a vocational training course
 - Increase the number of employers signing up to Local Employment Partnership (Actual output figures have not yet been agreed for each participating district)

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| FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION |
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12. The NWDA funding will enable further development of the Employment Development Team and provide resources to support the employment costs of a full-time equivalent Employment Officer until 31st January 2010
Budget provision for 2008/09 = £13,333
(see Appendix (i))
13. Match funding is required by NWDA/LEP, which will be contributed as a proportion of the Employment Development Team's time allocated towards participation in the overall project across PL. This amounts to £6,762 in 2008/09 (Working Neighbourhood Funding).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

14. *Contribution to Local Area Agreements (LAA) targets* – the Project will focus its efforts on the *Worst Performing Neighbourhoods* as defined within the LAA, therefore contributing towards tackling National Indicator 153 – *'Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods'*
15. *Contribution to Burnley's Sustainable Community Strategy* – the Project will contribute towards the achievement of Strategic Priority 1: securing the Borough's economic future, by contributing to a partnership project to tackle worklessness.
16. *Contribution to Burnley's Employment Strategy* – by developing strong partnerships to deliver the Strategy for Employment. The TWPL project will also enable the EDT to increase and enhance its current activities to address worklessness in Burnley's most deprived neighbourhoods.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

17. Kate Thorp, Development Manager (REDU)
Mike Cook, Director of Regeneration and Housing
Steve Hartley, Senior Accountant
Nick Aves, Director of Resources

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. See relevant files in REDU, Parker Lane

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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[Appx \(i\)](#) – BUDGET

| <i>Budget 2008/09 £</i> | |
|---|---------------|
| Planned Expenditure £ | |
| Direct Employee Costs | 13,333 |
| Total Expenditure £ | 13,333 |
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| Planned Income £ | |
| NWDA / LEP Single Programme Fund grant | 13,333 |
| Total Income £ | 13,333 |