

NEW WALLASEY SRB 3 INITIATIVE - FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report gives details of those projects, which the New Wallasey Partnership Board have recently approved at its meeting on 8th February 2002. The approval of this item by Cabinet is therefore requested.

2. Projects approved by the Board

- 2.1 The following projects were approved at the New Wallasey Partnership Board meeting on 8th February 2002:-

Strategic Sites Investigation – Limekiln Lane

- 2.1.1 The Board approved an application to contribute £25,000 SRB to fund this investigation of the Limekiln Lane site in the Wallasey Docks, which the New Wallasey Partnership Board is seeking to acquire. The North West Development Agency has requested that this study be undertaken as a prerequisite for the determination of the full application to acquire the site. The site investigation will reveal the likely remediation costs which will in turn inform the proposed acquisition.
- 2.1.2 The North West Development Agency are currently undertaking a secondary appraisal of the project to acquire the Limekiln Lane site as it exceeds the Partnership's delegation thresholds. This project will contribute towards the Partnership's approach to securing industrial development in the Docklands which has been hampered by the recent gap funding changes, by bringing sites forward for redevelopment. This study will inform the acquisition and land assembly of the this strategically located site of 1.62 Ha within the Wallasey Docklands Corridor, which will result in the removal of an unsuitable land use, a waste transfer station which is blighting surrounding development sites.

First Steps

- 2.1.3 The Board approved an application to contribute £27,408 of SRB funding towards the delivery of this project by the Manor Trust Ltd, a community based organisation in Seacombe. The project will deliver a ten-week pre-vocational personnel development course in the use of communications skills to gain confidence, assertiveness and job search skills, CV writing, portfolio building, computer related skills, advice, counselling, outdoor pursuit challenge, counselling and guidance services to raise awareness of the opportunities available through further training and education locally. The project

will assist 30 beneficiaries from the Seacombe/ Poulton Pathways area who are unemployed, lone parents, women workforce returners and / or ex-offenders.

- 2.1.4 The project is an important pilot project for the Seacombe / Poulton Pathways area as it adopts an innovative approach towards tackling the issues surrounding local skills, poor educational opportunities, low self-esteem and limited employment prospects. As well as creating employment, the project will contribute towards the longer-term sustainability of the Manor Trust Centre. A match-funding contribution from ESF under the EU Pathways Programme has been sought.

New Wallasey Regeneration Review

- 2.1.5 The Board approved £4,995 SRB towards the cost of commissioning consultant to undertake a comprehensive review of the New Wallasey Programme and to propose a way forward for the Programme during the remaining twelve months. The Board has required that the final report be considered at the next Board meeting on 1st March 2002 thereby requiring the commission to commence immediately. In view of these circumstances, the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Planning and Economic Development has approved the project under his delegated powers to enable the commission to proceed. The appointed consultancy Comment has previously undertaken the New Wallasey Community Forward Strategy project and Leasowe Organisational Review on behalf of New Wallasey; and therefore this commission represents a continuation of this on-going work for New Wallasey SRB Programme.

2.2 Additional Contributions to existing projects

The Board approved additional funding to the following existing project at its meeting on 8th February 2002:-

Wirral Rowing Club (Extension to Boathouse)

- 2.2.1 The Board approved an additional contribution of £30,000 towards the cost of the above project, bringing the total SRB contribution to £65,000. The project is located within the Wallasey Docklands and through improvements to the existing Boathouse and its facilities will enable greater numbers to access this sports opportunity thereby creating improved health outputs which are required by the New Wallasey SRB programme.
- 2.2.2 The total project costs have increased from £450,000 to £512,000 as a result of the Sports Lottery application which has recently progressed to Stage 2. The project is able to draw in greater levels of private sector match funding and has demonstrated the ability to deliver additional outputs from the revised project, especially in the key areas required, to the Board.

3. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 3.1.1 The resources required will come from the SRB 3 initiative for New Wallasey. A New Wallasey representative will sit on the appointment panel for the post for the Manor Trust's First Steps project. There are no direct staffing implications to the New Wallasey team or Wirral MBC.

4. Equal Opportunities Implications

- 4.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report.

5. Local Agenda 21 Implications

- 5.1 The efficient of brownfield urban land reduces the need to locate new development in Wirral's greenbelt. Development of this type is in accordance with Wirral's Unitary Development Plan and Urban Regeneration Strategy.

6. Local Member Support Implications

- 6.1 The report has implications for Seacombe, Liscard, Leasowe, Wallasey and New Brighton wards.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Files are held at the New Wallasey Regeneration office at Egerton House.

8. Planning Implications

- 8.1 It is a condition of grant award that all projects obtain the necessary consents (planning and building regulations) prior to the commencement of the project.

9. Community Safety Implications

- 9.1 There are no community safety implications resulting from this report.

10. Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

11. Recommendations

- 11.1 That the allocation of funding to the following project be approved as recommended by the New Wallasey Partnership Board.

- *Strategic Site Investigation
Docklands Programme - £25,000*
- *First Steps*

Learning for Life - £27,408

- *Wirral Rowing Club*
Community Determined Initiatives - £30,000 (additional allocation)

11.2 The approval of the following project under delegated powers be noted, following its approval by the New Wallasey Partnership Board :

- *New Wallasey Regeneration Review*
Management and Administration - £4,995

J Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Planning and Economic Development