

A DELIVERY TEAM FOR THE REGENERATION OF WIRRAL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members are asked to agree the proposals to establish a new Regeneration Delivery Team for Wirral, based within the Regeneration Department.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has been very successful over the past 12 years in attracting external funding to undertake regeneration in Wirral and it has used these funding sources to meet the cost of staff to deliver projects. Much of this time limited funding will cease in March 2008 and therefore the Council has had to consider different ways of delivering regeneration in Wirral. Various models have been explored during the development of the Council's Investment Strategy and the one agreed by Cabinet was for the creation of an in-house regeneration team, but with the ability to buy in specialised short term resources when necessary.

- 2.2 Cabinet at its meeting on 16 August 2007 (Minute 176 refers) agreed proposals for the future development and delivery of regeneration initiatives in Wirral by the establishment of a core team and referred this matter to the Employment and Appointments Committee.

3.0 PROPOSED STRUCTURE

- 3.1 The proposed structure of the Regeneration Delivery team is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Reporting to the Head of Housing and Regeneration it is proposed to have three teams; Neighbourhoods, Economic Programme and Finance.
- 3.3 The Neighbourhoods Team will have responsibility for the delivery of the following:
- Delivery of the community cohesion aspects of the Wirral Waters proposals which are being promoted by Peel.
 - The development of neighbourhood strategies in conjunction with the Corporate Services Department.
 - The "Your Wirral" aspect of the Community Fund.
 - Delivery of the aspects of the Enterprise Strategy and Employment Plan which relate to tackling worklessness within local neighbourhoods.
 - The successor to the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund which will be part of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund recently announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review.
 - Neighbourhood Management specifically in Woodchurch and in a supporting role in Tranmere.

- The commissioning of the complimentary strand of the new ESF Programme subject to confirmation of the final arrangements by the Department of Works and Pensions.
- Co-ordination of the Safer Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement.

3.4 The Economic Programme Team will have responsibility for the delivery of the following:

- The major economic projects for Wirral set out in the Merseyside Action Plan.
- The economic aspects of the Wirral Waters proposals being promoted by Peel.
- Private sector investment in the Wirral International Business Park.
- The Mersey Waterfront Regional Park.
- Business start up and grants to existing businesses and enterprise support.
- Support for the Housing Market Renewal Initiative (dealing with commercial/retail acquisitions and relocations).
- The development of economic strategies in conjunction with the Corporate Services Department.
- Delivery of specific projects eg. New Brighton and West Wirral.

3.5 The Finance Team will have responsibility for all financial claims to external funding bodies, the monitoring of outputs and outcomes both during project implementation and at their conclusion, evaluation of projects and interventions, the responsibility for ensuring compliance with all grant procurement and financial audit rules and state aid issues.

3.6 At the present time the detail of the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review is not fully known and therefore some of the identified work areas above may increase or decrease. The final team will therefore need to reflect these circumstances as and when they become known.

3.7 Where a funding opportunity brings a revenue contribution towards its delivery then the Council will seek to maximise this to reduce the call on existing revenue budgets.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Director of Corporate Services assessed the posts and the cost of the new structure (at the top of scale at 2007/08 salary levels with on-costs) as follows:

FTE			£
2.00	Neighbourhoods Programme Delivery Manager and Economic Programme Delivery Manager	EP08	116,400
2.00	Senior Economic Projects Manager and Senior Neighbourhoods Projects Manager	PO14	100,252
6.00	Project Managers	PO10	274,930
1.00	Finance Manager	PO10	45,820
1.00	Financial Monitoring Officer	PO1	36,000
1.00	Assistant Project Manager	SO2	34,350
3.00	Assistants	Sc6	85,327
1.00	Assistant Monitoring Officer	Sc6	28,443
17.00	Total Cost		721,522

4.2 These costs can be funded from previously agreed revenue funding.

5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The majority of staff in the current regeneration team are on time limited funding which ceases in March 2008. The new structure will not accommodate all of the current staff working in the regeneration teams. In respect of the staff displaced, the Council will seek to redeploy them in accordance with the Redeployment Policy. However, should they not be redeployed their employment will be terminated on the grounds of redundancy.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The work of the team and the activities undertaken in relation to social cohesion, will seek to promote equal opportunities for all.

6.2 Selection of staff for the new structure will be in line with the Council's Equal Opportunities policy and following staff consultation.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The regeneration projects will improve community safety by promoting social cohesion and designing out crime.

8.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The team will seek to deliver sustainability in project delivery.

9.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

10.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Regeneration activity will seek to reduce poverty by the creation of employment opportunities.

11.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Regeneration activity promotes social inclusion of people in the most deprived areas of the Borough.

12.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 This report affects all Wards of the Borough.

13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 Cabinet report – 16 August 2007.

14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 That members agree to the establishment of the Regeneration Team as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

Alan Stennard
Director of Regeneration

This report was prepared by David Ball who can be contacted on 691 8395.