

REPORT OF ACTING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY AND SUPPORT

**TEMPORARY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POSTS IN THE SAFER
STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND AREA FOR BROXTOWE & BELLS LANE AREA**

1 SUMMARY

This report outlines additional allocation of spend from Stronger Safer Communities Fund (SSCF) and the creation of temporary Community Development Officer Posts.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Area Committee support the temporary posts for the Broxtowe & Bells Lane area as supported by the Local Implementation Group.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The City Council was advised in December 2006 of an additional allocation of £195,000 Neighbourhood Element monies under the SSCF (copies of the notification were also sent to the Nottingham Community Network and Nottingham CVS by Government Office of the East Midlands). Although there are no additional conditions attached to this extra funding, the notification from the Government Office clearly encourages this funding for the following:-

- § To build the capacity of local community groups especially those at the neighbourhood level; and
- § to help strengthen the voice of the Third sector and local people in the design and delivery of the Local Area Agreement.

3.2 The creation of temporary Community Development Officer Posts will support the involvement of local residents in the development of the City's Neighbourhood Management Approach.

3.3 The funding for the posts in the following areas will come from the additional SSCF funding for 2007/08 – Bestwood - £39,961(part time post), Bulwell – £39,616 (full-time post), Broxtowe & Bells Lane - £43,515 (Part-time post and full-time trainee post, St Ann's & Sneinton –£58,258 (full-time post).

3.4 Following initial discussions with the Local Implementation Group on the 18 January 2007 it was agreed on the 12 March 2007 to create temporary Community Development Officer's posts (1 x part-time post employed by Nottingham City Council and 1 x full-time trainee post employed by the Local Partnership – Broxtowe Partnership Trust).

3.5 The creation of the temporary posts will use the existing job description and person specification for Community Development Officers. The scale for this post is SO2 (based on existing job description, previously evaluated). The trainee post will use the Broxtowe Partnership Trust Job description. The scale for this post is scale 4 and will be supported by a Service Level Agreement between Nottingham City Council and Broxtowe Partnership Trust which will be developed shortly.

5 TIMESCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Recruitment and appointment of the Nottingham City Council Community Development Officers for all 4 priority areas took place 21 May 2007 and recruitment and appointment of trainee post for Broxtowe & Bells Lane took place 28 June 2007. Both Community Development Officers will commence working on 16 July 2007.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs are estimated to be as follows:-

	£
Part-time:-	
Salary (including oncosts)	16,000
Recruitment	2,000
Set up costs	2,000
Full-time trainee:-	
Salary (including oncosts)	18,000
Training package	5,000
Total	£43,000

This project is to operate for 2007/08 and is to be financed from the Neighbourhood Element of the Safer Stronger Communities Block Funding as above. (Recruitment cost and set up cost were incurred in 2006/07).

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

These posts will work with the diverse needs of the various sections of the community and reduce inequalities in accessing services across Nottingham

9 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

9.1 The following are the key risks identified for this project with the key mitigations outlined:-

9.2 Expectations within communities raised in 2007/08 creating pressure to sustain the initiative. Risk assessment:- Likelihood Medium, Impact Medium. Part of the work of these officers will be to raise capacity of the community and empower the community to take responsibility for the continuation of the work.

9.3 The SSCF funding which will be used to fund the additional posts, is short term and cannot be guaranteed beyond 31 March 2008. Therefore any employees that have continuity of employment with the City Council maybe entitled to re-deployment or redundancy payments at the end of the proposed contracts. If these additional costs are to be met from the Safer Stronger funding, this will hinder the ability of the pilots to deliver the programme of work (and projects) that have been agreed with the implementation groups.

10 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 **Community Network** recognises the need for these posts and supports their development as a way forward.

10.2 **Unison** notes the report and supports the recommendation to appoint additional Community Development Officers on the basis that it will offer much needed support to existing permanent employees within the service. Unison seeks clarification on whether consideration will be given to mainstreaming these posts should it be identified that they are required beyond the initial one year contract.

11 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The work of the Safer Stronger Priority Pilots addresses the following of the city's Strategic Priorities:

- People feeling safe in their communities
- A cleaner greener city

12 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

Activities will target crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area as well as crime targets within the local area agreements.

13 VALUE FOR MONEY

The assessment of value for money will be made against the outputs/outcomes achieved against the cost. These outcomes /outputs are contained within the Local Area Agreement and Local Community Plan.

14 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

None.

15 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

Safer Stronger Communities Fund - Priority Neighbourhoods governance and finance framework November 2006.

Local Area agreement.

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