

TITLE:	YOUTH ENGAGEMENT BEACON YEAR – REQUEST FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE SPICETACULAR AND YOUTH BUS PROJECTS
TO/ON:	SPECIAL EXECUTIVE – 24TH JULY, 2006
BY:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY
PORTFOLIO:	COUNCILLOR A. TAYLOR
STATUS:	REPORT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Executive's approval for continued funding for the SPICETACULAR and Youth Bus projects during this Beacon Year for Youth Engagement in the knowledge that:
- (i) both projects will be independently evaluated during this year in order that Members (and other funders) will have detailed data to determine whether any further commitments should be made to the projects; and
 - (ii) both projects have secured substantial external funding since they were last presented to Executive in June, 2005 and as part of the 2006/07 budget process.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Executive will be well aware that the Council has recently received its third Beacon Council Award, in this case for Positive Youth Engagement. An award that is particularly pleasing given the Council was the only District Council to independently achieve this status.
- 2.2 As a consequence of receiving this award, the Council has been allocated £48,000 to run a series of dissemination events to spread best practice as to how we engage with young people in Derwentside. As part of this programme, Elected Members were recently invited to attend a meal with members of the Derwentside Youth Forum to, among other things, learn about the work of the Forum – key elements of which include the SPICETACULAR project and 'Ellie' the Youth Bus.

3. SPICETACULAR

- 3.1 The SPICETACULAR project, originally titled the "SPICE Smartcard Rewards Scheme", began as a pilot for the 2003/2004 school year and involved 15 schools in NRF targeted areas. As reported to Executive in June, 2005, an evaluation of the scheme found it to be highly valued by the headteachers of the participating schools. Based on this evaluation, Executive took the decision to allocate - £46,863 for the project in 2005-

06 and that the scheme would end in the Summer of 2006 unless a written commitment was received from the County Council to support the project.

- 3.2 Following a series of intensive negotiations with headteachers and the County Council, 19 schools have confirmed that they would be willing to increase their contributions from £2.00 per pupil to £4.00 in order for the scheme to continue. Furthermore the County Council has given a written commitment to provide £20,000 towards the project in 2006/07. As a result of these efforts, in order for the scheme to continue until Summer 2007, the project will require additional resources of £19,783 from the Council as opposed to the £41,823 requested in June, 2005. Details of the funding requirements are set out below:

Funding Source	2006/07	2007/08
Derwentside District Council	£ 5,785	£13,998
Existing NRF Funds	£10,000	
Local Schools @ £4/child p.a.	£12,184	
Year 1 savings (50/50 between DDC/DCC	£ 9,879	
Durham County Council	£20,000	
TOTAL	£57,848	£13,998

4. 'ELLIE' THE YOUTH BUS

- 4.1 In common with the SPICETACULAR Project, Ellie the Youth Bus has been subject to an internal evaluation, the results of which have been fed back to Member via the Members' Bulletin and through the Members' seminar on the Beacon Award. The key points of the evaluation being the drop in incidents of youth nuisance in the areas visited by the bus, the support for the initiative by Police Beat Officers, the award by Durham Constabulary in 2006 of a Streetsafe Award for the bus and the 8,000 attendances on the bus in 2005/06.
- 4.2 Based on these achievements, the recent Beacon Award and the securing of £30,000 match funding from the Crime and Disorder Partnership, £32,578 is requested from the Council to ensure the bus can operate for the remainder of the financial year. A breakdown of the costs is set out in the following table:

Funding Source	2006/07
Derwentside District Council	£32,578
NRF Funds	£30,000
2005-2006 Savings	£ 2,316
TOTAL	£64,894

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Given the level of support for these two projects in this the Council's Youth Engagement Beacon Year, Executive is requested to provide the match funding to ensure the Youth

Bus can continue operating until March, 2007 and SPICETACULAR can operate for the 2006/07 academic year.

- 5.2 However, it is also recognised that this annual bidding procedure is not ideal for Executive Members, staff or the project users. As a consequence, if Executive agrees to provide the match funding to ensure these projects can continue operating, it is also recommended that an element of the Beacon Dissemination funding can be used to independently evaluate both projects. This work could then be used by Members and partner agencies to take a considered view as to whether they feel it appropriate to continue funding these projects in the future. Use of an independent evaluator will also hopefully given the results more voracity with external bodies and help secure additional resources if the findings are positive.
- 5.3 Also as part of this evaluation, it will be possible to examine the scope for greater use of the Bus by other elements of the Council as well as the potential for joint working with other authorities that run similar initiatives.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Executive is recommend to approve the funding for the SPICETACULAR and Youth Bus projects as set out in sections 3 and 4 above.