

# Item 5

## REPORT TO CABINET

8 December 2005

### REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGY AND REGENERATION

#### Regeneration Portfolio

#### COMMUNITY REGENERATION BUDGET 2004/05 and 2005/06

#### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval for the proposed use of the Community Regeneration Budget in 2005/06. The funding will benefit disadvantaged communities in the Borough and facilitate the provision of match funding for the community capacity building activities and local funding packages.
- 1.2 This report describes the way in which the Community Regeneration Budget will be used in 2005/06 to assist local community based partnerships and initiatives, contribute to the wider economic, social and environmental regeneration of the Borough and to assists partnerships and community groups to obtain match funding to help them complete their projects. This fund is not a demand led, bidding fund, but is meant to fill a funding gap at the discretion of the Strategy and Regeneration Manager.
- 1.3 The level of funding available for 2005/06 totals £55,000, including a £15,000 carry over figure from 2004/05. The proposed use of the funding is detailed in the report.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the use of the Community Regeneration Budget for 2005/06 as detailed in this report.

#### 3. REGENERATION SERVICES COMMUNITY REGENERATION BUDGET

- 3.1 The Regeneration Services Community Regeneration Budget for 2005/06 currently has an allocation of £40,000, supplemented by £15,000 carried forward from last year.
- 3.2 The budget allows the Council to respond positively to a number of regeneration programmes operating within the Borough's most deprived areas, assisting community groups to access resources from sources such as European Structural Funds, SRB6, NRF and various charitable sources. It is useful as it can provide added value, provide match and gap funding, a resource to support the work of local partnerships and to assist innovative projects in targeted wards. It is not the intention for the budget to be an awards fund that is demand led.

- 3.3 Through the operation of the budget the Council is contributing to the achievement of one of its four key aims, “A Borough with Strong Communities” as it will assist in tackling disadvantage and social inclusion, and help engage local communities.
- 3.4 The budget will operate on a “commissioning” approach through local partnerships, as previously reported, but also has a large element this year to commission consultancy work on behalf of the partnerships throughout the Borough to provide community appraisals covering all the Borough’s non priority wards.
- 3.5 The targeted wards are currently undergoing a refreshing of their Community Economic Appraisals jointly funded through resources carried forward from this budget and European Regional Development Fund, to ensure their continued eligibility for European Structural Funds until 2008.
- 3.6 It is the intention to ensure that all neighbourhoods within the Borough can have access to their own community appraisal that identifies key areas for the implementation of projects that will improve opportunities for local communities. As well as a firm foundation for the development of Community Regeneration activity, the presence of community appraisals will assist in the appraisal of schemes brought forward by the Council’s Area Forums under the Local Area Improvement Programme. In addition, community appraisals form a key element in the community planning process and demonstrate the Council’s contribution to Community Governance which will be examined through the next round of Comprehensive Performance Assessment

#### **Implementation**

- 3.7 There is a limited amount of unallocated resource in the current financial year, however as previously, community partnerships in the targeted wards of NRF, SRB and European funding will be advised that this funding support is available. The partnership will then nominate projects to the Borough’s Regeneration Section for support through this budget.
- 3.8 The Partnership should show clearly the linkages of the project with the Partnership’s and the Borough’s objectives, and the expected outcomes. The expected sources and amounts of match funding should be identified as well as the community’s need for the project. It is expected that projects identified for support will be in accord with the Council’s Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, the Community Strategy and Action Plan in contributing towards a healthy, prosperous, attractive Borough with strong communities.
- 3.9 There are a number of existing commitments for the budget to meet as detailed in paragraph 4.1 below and Appendix 1. As such for 2005/06 the available funding will be £21,000 and in the distribution of this, account will be taken of existing commitments to Partnerships. It is planned that from 2006/07 onwards more funding will be available to support new schemes from community partnerships.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The proposed expenditure for 2005/06 is:

	<b>Available resource</b>	<b>Allocation 2005/06</b>
<b>Existing Commitments</b>		
Refreshing the Community Economic Appraisals (matched funding for target wards)		£8,575
East Durham Rural Transport Partnership		£2,000
Support to community Partnerships		
Local Partnership Co-ordinators		
a) Trimdon Partnership		£5,000
b) Cornforth Partnership		£5,000
Sedgefield Learning Borough		£5,000
<b>New Commitments</b>		
Sedgefield Borough Community Appraisals (total cost £50,000 over 2 years)		£25,425
Support for small community partnership projects		£4,000
<b>2004/05 Carry forward</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	
<b>2005/06 Allocation</b>	<b>£40,000</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£55,000</b>	<b>£55,000</b>

#### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 The majority of those projects that have been identified for support are managed by community led regeneration partnerships and all have either consulted with local residents or are related to existing Community Appraisals. The local area forum will also be consulted by community partnerships wishing to access this resource.

5.2 Community appraisals in both targeted and non-targeted wards are built upon the principle of widespread participation and ongoing consultation.

#### **6.0 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **6.1 Legal Implications**

There are no immediate direct legal implications associated with the identified expenditure. Community appraisal processes are to be undertaken by external consultants appointed in line with the Council's procurement rules.

##### **6.2 Risk Management**

Activities supported by this budget are subject to a risk management assessment. Support for community appraisals is seen as minimising risks for future programme allocations by improving local community intelligence.

### 6.3 Health and Safety

No direct implications

### 6.4 Sustainability

Revenue support to community partnerships has been provided over a period of years to assist with matched funding requirements. The ongoing support for these partnerships will be reviewed during the year.

### 6.5 Information Communications Technology

No direct implications

### 2.0 Equality and Diversity

Community regeneration Partnerships and Community Appraisal Activity are supported on the basis of recognising Equality and Diversity issues and actively working to overcome discrimination and disengagement.

### 6.7 Crime and Disorder

Localised crime and disorder concerns will be identified as part of the Community Appraisal process.

### 6.8 Human Rights

No direct implications

### 2.0 Social Inclusion

Revenue support to community partnerships and to commissioning revised Community Appraisals is primarily focussed around supporting social regeneration to aid social inclusion.

## 7. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 This report will be subject to the normal overview and scrutiny arrangements.

## 8. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

8.1 Appendix 1 Key Projects for Support in 2005/06

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**Contact Officer**  
**Telephone Number**  
**E-mail address**

Andy Palmer  
01388 816166 Ext. 4360  
[anpalmer@sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:anpalmer@sedgefield.gov.uk)

**Wards:** All wards in the Borough

**Key Decision Validation:** This is not a key decision

**Background Papers:**

Community Strategy Action Plan 2005

Reports to Cabinet March 2003

Community Economic Appraisal 2002

Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 2002

**Examination by Statutory Officers**

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY REGENERATION BUDGET

Key Projects for Support in 2005/06

**1.0 Key Projects**

- 1.1 The Borough has a number of existing commitments to projects this year identified below.

**2.0 Refreshing the Community Economic Appraisals**

- 2.1 The European Secretariat demand that all eligible wards have an up to date community appraisals that is no older than 2years to remain eligible for European funding. It was, therefore, essential that the refreshing of the current Community Economic Appraisals be commissioned this year to ensure communities remain able to access this resource. Tribal HCH won the contract at a price of £16,950 and the final document is due for submission to the Borough at the end of November 2005.

**3.0 East Durham Rural Transport Partnership**

- 3.1 Continuing support for a Project Officer and associated costs for implementation of the Rural Transport Action Plan.

**4.0 Sedgefield Learning Borough**

- 4.1 The Learning Borough Project originated with the Local Strategic Partnership and receives resources from Neighbourhood Renewal, SRB 5 and 6, European funds and Single Pot. This project co-ordinates learning activity throughout Sedgefield Borough building upon previous SRB 5/6 programmes. The Borough is supporting this initiative aiming to increase learning in the Borough after government statistics revealed 1 in 3 of Borough residents have poor literacy and numeracy skills. A contribution of £5,000 is identified for this project.

**5.0 Trimdon and Cornforth Partnerships**

- 5.1 Trimdon and Cornforth Partnerships have been supported by the Borough through this budget with resources used as match funding to European resources for the posts of Partnership Co-ordinator. It is proposed that this support run until 2005/06 when support will be re-evaluated in light of the progress being made by the partnerships, new partnerships forming, and the desire of the community to support partnerships or projects.