



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Outer East Development
Date:	10 December 2008
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Relevant Background Information

In 2007 BCC and EBCDA initiated a pilot for Community Improvement within an area of weak infrastructure that was outside established Neighbourhood Renewal areas. This took place in the Sydenham area and resulted in the formation of the Sydenham Working group an active amalgam of statutory, community and church organisations from the area.

Considerable benefits have resulted including increased cooperation between groups that has led to an area action plan being developed. This has been supported from DSDs areas at risk scheme and has led to major community development work being undertaken to improve the area, develop services and work towards community sustainability and cohesion.

Key Issues

BCC in partnership with EBCDA are proposing to undertake similar development work in 4 other areas in East Belfast, these areas are not situated within Neighbourhood Renewal areas but, like Sydenham have weak community infrastructure. The areas are Ardcar, Bloomfield, Clarawood and Knocknagoney. While a number of groups are undertaking community development work in these areas, no cohesive or coordinated approach is being followed.

Based on the previous pilot model, the development process would include:

- Identifying and bringing together key stakeholders including community groups, statutory agencies and Church groups etc.
- Formation of and interviews with Area Working group
- Undertake community needs audit
- Through the use of an independent facilitator identify and prioritise needs.
- Draft area action plan
- Support the Working group to implant action plan and ensure the sustainability of the work undertaken.

The process takes 6 months in each area and the entire project for the 4 areas would be completed within an 18 month period.

Resource Implications

The costs of the pilot project in the Sydenham area was £7,450.00

The total cost for the 4 areas would therefore be £29,800.00 which would be spread over the 2 financial years of 08/09 and 09/10

This would be found from within the established area development budget

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the information.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Proposal for Development Partnership between Belfast City Council and East Belfast Community Development Agency

Appendix 2: Sydenham Report

Abbreviations

EBCDA – East Belfast Community Development Agency

DSD – Department for Social Development