

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEETING**  
**24 JULY 2008**

**Community Leadership Fund – Criteria**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME</b>	<b>Stronger Communities</b>
<b>CORPORATE PLAN AIM:</b>	<b>A Better Quality Of Life</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Nathan Desmond</b>
<b>HEAD OF SERVICE:</b>	<b>Head Of Community And Partnership Services</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Linda Collis X 2783</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>Appendix 1 Amended Community Leadership Fund Eligibility Criteria 2008/9</b>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To recommend an amendment to the eligibility criteria for the Community Leadership fund 2008/9.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that the eligibility criteria be amended to give Members the freedom and flexibility to spend their individual Community Leadership fund allocation on a District wide initiative provided that there is proven evidence of direct benefits for inhabitants in their Ward.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Council agreed £42 000 funding for the 2008/9 Community Leadership Fund on 14 May 2008 to continue the fund aimed at responding to local identified needs within the Wyre Forest District.
- 3.2 Cabinet agreed a report in June 2008 recommending a revised application procedure for the Council's Community Leadership Fund 2008/9.
- 3.3 The fund serves to reinforce the "community leadership" role of Council's and provides a resource to enable Councillors to meet and respond to needs within wards and focus on local priorities within the District.
- 3.4 Point 1.2 of the eligibility criteria for 2008/9 states that:-
- *It is recognised that local initiatives may not always be confined to the geography of a single Ward and may, accordingly, involve communities from adjoining Ward*

areas. However, once a project proposal extends beyond three adjoining Ward boundaries it ceases to be regarded as a 'local initiative' and therefore is not eligible for consideration for Community Leadership Fund support.

- 3.5 The above criteria would not enable Members to contribute to an initiative that covers more than three wards.
- 3.6 Members have in recent weeks received requests for funding towards projects or initiatives that provide benefits to individuals or groups **residing** within particular Wards but that may not necessarily be a project or initiative **geographically** located in an individual Ward.

#### 4. **KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The amendment to the eligibility criteria for Community Leadership Funding 2008/9 would give Members the freedom and flexibility to contribute to a District wide initiative.
- 4.2 To incorporate the amendment point 1.2 of the eligibility criteria would read as follows:-

- *It is recognised that local initiatives may not always be confined to the geography of a single Ward and may, accordingly, involve communities from adjoining Ward areas. **It is advisable that up to 25% of the Community Leadership Fund Ward allocation may be contributed to a project that extends beyond more than one ward provided that there is proven evidence of direct benefits for inhabitants within the individual Ward.***

And a new 1.3 created to read as follows:-

- **In all cases, applications will be judged on a case by case basis and according to the individual merits of the application, thus enabling flexibility where required.**
- 4.3 Any District wide initiative must fulfil **all** eligibility criteria outlined in the application pack and there must be demonstrable evidence of the benefits to people living in the Council Members Ward.

#### 5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications.

#### 6. **LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no additional legal or policy implications.

#### 7. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 There are no additional risk management implications.

#### 8. **CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The amendment to point 1.2 and the addition of point 1.3 of the eligibility criteria for the Community Leadership Fund 2008/9 enables flexibility for Members should they wish to respond to a request for funding that extends beyond three Wards.

**9. CONSULTEES**

- 9.1 Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 Cabinet Report 26 June 2008: Community Leadership Fund Review and 2008/9 Process