



Executive 10 June 2009

Agenda Item No.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Betterment of the District</b>
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Councillor Mobbs Telephone 07836 725999 email <a href="mailto:andrew.mobbs@warwickdc.gov.uk">andrew.mobbs@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Service Area</b>	N/A
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</b>	No
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Executive 15 October 2008
<b>Background Papers</b>	Executive Report of July 2008

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Relevant Deputy Chief Exec	27.05.09	Bill Hunt, Andrew Jones
Chief Executive	27.05.09	Chris Elliott
CMT		
Section 151 Officer	27.05.09	Mike Snow
Legal	27.07.09	Peter Oliver
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)	27.07.09	Cllr Doody, Cllr Mobbs

<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>	
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report.	

<b>Final Decision?</b>	No
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>	
A Member Working Party on a Local Green Economic Strategy will need to report back with its findings.	

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report feeds back the conclusions of the Betterment of the District Working Party. The Working Party proposes that £35,000 should be made available on an equal basis to the seven community forums as a one off sum, enabling local members to determine and respond to local priorities.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That £35,000 be allocated from the one-off contingency budget for 2009/10 to be spread evenly amongst the seven community forums to enable Councillors an additional ability to respond to local priorities. .
- 2.2 That a Member Working Party be established to explore the opportunities for developing a local green economy strategy. This to be time bound and to report back to Executive by the end of the year.

## **3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It was agreed at the Executive in July 2008 that a Member Working Party be established, constituted only of members elected in 2007 and who were not on the Executive. The intention was to enable new councillors to have the opportunity to develop ideas for the Betterment of the Whole District and to have them implemented. Whilst it was intended as an all party group, the Liberal Democrats decided not to participate.
- 3.2 Councillor Mobbs was elected Chairman of the Working Party. Two meetings were held, the last on the 19 March 2009.
- 3.3 At the last meeting, it was agreed that the proposal put forward by Councillor Edwards to increase funding for the community forums should be supported. This idea met the concept of bettering the whole district yet it would enable ideas and proposals at a very local level to be supported. It was suggested that each forum should receive £5,000 each and that a new member for each area should be responsible for attending the forums and aiding the decision making on the possible spend. It is proposed that these sums should be in addition to the £40,000 already committed in the budget on an on-going basis to support the work of the forums which is dependent on match funding from by the County Council.
- 3.4 Proposals were also put forward by Councillor Dhillon on Green Job Creation. This idea sought to help stimulate the local economy by developing the “green” economic opportunities. This was a much bigger concept and it was felt that it needed to be explored in more depth with officers and members.

## **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The Executive could decide not to support the proposals but this would be in conflict with the original intention of setting up the Working Party in the first place.

## **5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The 2009/10 Council budget includes a one-off contingency budget of £147,000 which has not been utilised as yet. The £35,000 proposed in this report may be met out of this budget.

## **6. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The support for neighbourhood working is entirely consistent with the Council's established policy as is the proposed examination in more detail of a local green economic strategy.