

BRECKLAND PARTNERSHIP

3 February 2011

Report of Mark Fretwell, Partnership (LSP) Officer, Breckland Council

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB) – YEAR 2

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1.1 To update LSP Board members on the delivery to date of the Participatory Budgeting project entitled 'Your Partnership Your Decision' – Year 2.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the LSP Board:

- 2.1.1 Note [for information and planning purposes] the contents of this report.

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 Following on from the highly successful 'Your Partnership Your Decision' participatory budgeting project in 2009/10. A report was submitted by the Partnership Officer to the July 29th Board meeting seeking partners to come forward to offer their commitment through either a joint initiative, match funding or offering resources in-kind to deliver a further PB project.
- 3.1.2 A report was submitted at the October 7th Board meeting by the Breckland Operational Partnership Team who had successfully bid for £11,266 funding from the CDRP for a PB project to be delivered in each of the five Breckland 'neighbourhoods'.
- 3.1.3 At the October 7th Board meeting it was agreed to approve £11,666 match funding for the PB process, subject to there being an equal focus on creating Stronger Communities together with the Safer priority as per the Breckland Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.1.4 The decision taken by the Breckland Partnership to match fund the year 2 PB project, together with an outline of the proposed delivery was taken to the Partnership and Tasking Coordination Group (PTCG) on 9th November.
- 3.1.5 A decision was taken at the meeting to add a further £10,000 capital funding to the project in order to increase the availability of funding in each Breckland Neighbourhood.
- 3.1.6 The additional funding provided allows a total of £30,000 to be available for projects across the Breckland District.
- 3.1.7 Once it is broken down into the 5 areas it provides £6,000 (£4k capital & £2k revenue) to be available for community projects that meet the priorities of creating 'Stronger and Safer' communities.

3.2 Issues

Delivery

- 3.2.1 A coordinator (lead) has been set up in each of the 5 areas to act as the key contact for the applicants, set up local delivery models and to organise other community representatives as required.
- 3.2.2 A community representative's panel including Police, local ward members, business, faith groups and area partnerships has been set up in each area to oversee the delivery and to ensure fair representation and to provide a range of skills and contacts.

- 3.2.3 A broad range of publicity including press releases, distribution to contact lists, Breckland Council's website, Voice magazine, the One Stop Bus and posters at key locations across the district has been used to promote the availability of the funding.
- 3.2.4 The applications have been received steadily and there has been more interest generated in the final week, this in part has been assisted by the availability of an online application form available on the Breckland Council website.
- 3.2.5 The key delivery dates are as follows:
- 31st January at 5 PM submission deadline
 - W/C 7th February – short listing of projects across the district
 - W/C 21st February – decision events across the district
 - W/C 7th March onwards – offer letters and release of funding and projects commence

3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 To note [for information and planning purposes] the contents of this report

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 3.4.1 The 'Your Partnership Your Decision' – Year 2 will build on the success of the County wide PB initiative delivered by Norfolk County Council and the locally delivered PB project by the Breckland Partnership.
- 3.4.2 The learning and the experiences gained by the partners, Councillors and communities involved in the delivery of the project will be rewarding.
- 3.4.3 The project will enhance participation in local democracy and improve community cohesion whilst supporting local community focussed projects.
- 3.4.4 The Local Government White Paper of 2006 and the Lyon's Report of 2007 provided both an incentive and an opportunity for local authorities to adopt PB. The emerging policies included:
- A duty to "inform, consult and involve" citizens.
 - Accountability via information to citizens.
 - Local public ownership of assets.
 - More citizen and user choices.
 - Citizen involvement in debates on local priorities, services and budgets. and
 - Public engagement to be a "bottom up" rather than a "top down" process.
- 3.4.5 The 'Your Partnership Your Decision' project offers a valuable opportunity to engage with local communities and to empower them to take decisions in their local area.