

Report of: Jacquie Mutch - Programme Director, Groundwork LW&W

Report to: Chorley BC Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 2nd September 2009

Objective: Core Funding Update

1.0 Background

The Groundwork vision is of a society of sustainable communities which are vibrant healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals prosper. We deliver programmes that can help to:

- Build safer stronger communities
- Give young people something to do and somewhere to go
- Promote health and well being
- Reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change
- Support local skills and enterprise.

Our aim is to develop Groundwork's portfolio of services in Chorley. Our strategy has been aligned to demonstrate how our services contribute towards the council's achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.0 Core Funding

To aid the development of the charitable activities delivered by Groundwork, the council invests around £27k per annum core funding into the organisation.

3.0 Making the Core funding work for the people of Chorley

3.1 Development effort

The core funding provides for development and subsequent delivery of community environmental, youth and climate change initiatives across the borough of Chorley. It enables Groundwork to allocate strategic and developmental time to develop projects identified by partners as needed and secure funding from a variety of sources to ensure their implementation.

3.2 2008/09 Leverage (£8:£1)

With the support of Chorley Council, local partners and communities, Groundwork has delivered projects to the value of £212k over the last year which equates to approx. £8 for every £1 invested by the council. We believe this provides significant added value to the Borough.

In 2009/10 we are developing and delivering environmental initiatives to the value of around £79k, with further opportunities in the pipeline.

3.3 Work Programme

Environmental projects delivered in the past twelve months include:

- Big Wood access improvements
- Ecclestone heritage trail
- Westway Ponds
- Clayton Brook Village greening.

In 2008/09 our youth and NEET initiatives generated external funding of around **£131,000**.

Youth and NEET focussed personal development programmes delivered in the past twelve months include:

- Princes Trust Team Programme
- Breakthrough for Schools
- Dig IT/Build IT
- Introduction to child care.

In 2008 we began our climate change initiatives working with local schools such as Holy Cross High school on eco education and energy efficiency projects with a value of **£3,000**.

An outline summary of the Groundwork programme running from March 08, to date can be found at **APPENDIX 1**. This highlights the full Groundwork programme, **with cross year programmes** and includes contracts delivered for and on behalf of Chorley Borough Council.

3.4 Strategic Input

The core funding also enables Groundwork to make a strategic contribution to the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy through the LSP Executive and Environment theme group plus ad hoc contributions to other thematic groups. Our strategic contribution also enables other Groundwork partners including Lancashire County Council and the Business Environment Association to bring forward funding and development opportunities to Chorley Borough as part of larger funded programmes.

4.0 Our Programme and how it meets your priorities

4.1 Priority 1 – Ensuring that Chorley is the pulse of a thriving Central Lancashire economy:

We have delivered the Prince's Trust TEAM programme in Chorley for the past 12 years and during this time have improved the opportunities of over 250 young people to move into sustainable employment; more than 70% of young people go onto jobs, training or education within 3 months of completion of this programme. We have more recently

developed new programmes to support NEET young people in the borough and address the increasingly important Worklessness agenda.

Our Breakthrough, Dig IT, Build IT and Introduction to Child Care programmes concentrate on the transferable employability skills that both employers and young people need, whilst providing the catalyst to inspire young people to want more from life as they grow to adulthood.

This funding has helped us to identify the needs of the area and transfer appropriate projects from our portfolio of services into the Chorley area.

The creation of Gateway improvements (e.g. Landscape, Art design) have and will provide an important attractor to support economic development. We will utilise this funding to target development opportunities to engage at key strategic sites such as Buckshaw Village and within Chorley town centre, with our focus on local people gaining local jobs.

4.2 Priority 2 – Improving life chances for all:

Groundwork develops and delivers environmental projects that provide safe, accessible and attractive open spaces to encourage people to walk, cycle, exercise and establish a new connection with the natural environment, improving health and well being in all.

Opening up green spaces for more productive community use can deliver a wide range of other public health benefits from providing spaces for children to play and develop, to encouraging more people to grow their own fresh produce on allotments.

We support schools in developing their grounds to increase learning about health and the environment – for instance through supporting food growing; increasing physical exercise; addressing bullying through skilled design; and teaching citizenship through the development process

We always integrate health messages within programmes delivered to young people and communities as well as providing sexual health awareness to young people including controlled access to condoms and signposting to health related services inc Chlamydia screening.

We are very aware of the rapid increase in over 65's anticipated in Chorley and will be looking to target developmental resources to consider programmes that can provide subsidised basic support to aid independence such as a basic sustainable gardening project. We will also be utilizing our youth project links to support intergenerational activity wherever possible.

4.3 Priority 3 – Developing local solutions to global climate change:

Groundwork are fully committed to our role in educating schools, business and householders to understand how they can each play their part in reducing carbon emissions.

We employ a specialist climate change and sustainability team, who are currently working directly in schools such as Holy Cross High and

working with local business to implement environmental management systems and reduce waste.

We are delivering training in communities and implementing pilot projects such as “Warmer Living” that can both reduce Co² emissions and reduce the effects of fuel poverty.

We will be expanding our targeted programmes in Chorley to support Chorley’s target to reduce Carbon by 10% by 2009/10 and would utilise this core funding to aid this developmental process.

4.4 Priority 4 – Developing the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live, work and play:

We are able to provide a range of services for the borough these include:-

Master planning and project management services

Public realm work including the designing and commissioning of public art which could enhance the engineering aspects of the work.

Feasibility studies to aid opportunity mapping.

Develop crucial connecting green infrastructure projects such as footpaths, cycleways and greenways. Utilising our in-house contracts team or local contractors.

Manage the whole process – from the strategic planning needed to identify a coherent network; to the partnership working required to bring together landowners and communities; to practical delivery of new or improved routeway and promoting their usage.

Improve the external quality of the landscaping, through redesign and thoughtful planning process; aspects include rearrangement of access routes, curtilage improvements, therefore creating more secure and safe environments.

Engage local residents and users to make sure that redevelopments are tailored to local needs and local heritage and sensitivities are taken into account.

Reclaim derelict, underused and neglected land, transforming these a areas into new public spaces for leisure, sport, education and wildlife

We are very aware that Chorley aims to be the safest borough in Lancashire and will continue to work with the borough to implement projects that reduce the fear of crime, re-develop areas of land that can provide local pride by engaging local residents in the process and utilising our strong links with local young people on structured programmes.

4.5 Priority 5 – Building stronger communities with improved access to services:

Our contribution to this priority is linked to our role in community development and training that provide clear signposting for local people

to additional support and services, such as accessing education and training facilities provided by the public sector.

We are committed to ensuring that the communities we work in are fully engaged in the design and development of our projects, to enable ownership and pride to flourish.

We are able to utilise tangible projects such as environmental improvements and youth diversionary activities to address direct needs, whilst integrating education around health and climate change into those projects and wherever appropriate providing intergenerational opportunities to reduce fear of crime and increase tolerance and understanding.

We provide volunteering opportunities for local people that have led to permanent roles within and external to the organisation and are able to work in all neighbourhoods regardless of deprivation status.

We support the focus on key neighbourhoods of Chorley and have allocated a member of staff as the key link person for each neighbourhood area

5.0 The next 12 months and beyond

Core funding from Chorley Council enables our trust to prioritise Chorley as an area of developmental focus. The core funding supports the developmental time of officers from operational to strategic level this in turn enables us to support the delivery of local objectives and identify external funding opportunities to support their realisation. We are able to strengthen our existing partnerships with key funders and in some cases direct these funds in to the Chorley area.

Within the next 12 months we will be focusing on further expanding our contribution to Chorley by continuing to build on all three areas of our work i.e. people, places and prosperity and where appropriate, by transferring the proven skills and programmes developed in other geographical areas to meet the needs identified within the Chorley area.

6.0 Groundwork in other areas covered by the trust

The organisation also delivers services in Lancaster, Preston, Wigan, South Ribble, Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Morecambe, West Lancashire, however, the funding received is to develop and deliver services specific to Chorley and will be linked to an area programme plan developed in line with local priorities.

APPENDIX 1

PROJECT	FUNDER	Income	Grant / Contract / Donation
Eco Education	TEC / LSC	2,578	Contract
Eco Education	Corporate Donations	190	Donation
LCC Small Sites - Wymott Play Park	Lancashire County Council	5,000	Grant
Laburnam Road Access Improvements	Lancashire County Council	5,679	Grant
Laburnam Road Access Improvements	Chorley Borough Council	2,500	Grant
Clayton Brook Village Greening	Lancashire County Council	6,170	Grant
Clayton Brook Village Greening	Chorley Borough Council	2,500	Grant
Euxton Millenium Green Phase 2	LA District - Parish etc	10,740	
Big Wood Access Improvements	Chorley Borough Council	11,640	Contract
Big Wood Access Improvements	Biffaward Landfill Tax	49,287	Grant
Rivington Phase 1 Study	Groundwork UK - United Futures Partnership	11,550	Contract
All Seasons Leisure Centre	Lancashire County Council	2,120	Contract
Chorley Prince's Trust	TEC / LSC	57,441	Contract
Chorley Prince's Trust	TEC / LSC	18,057	Contract
Build It	Lancashire County Council	5,000	Contract
Build It	Chorley Borough Council	25,000	Contract
Chorley & South Ribble ESF - LIFE Project	TEC / LSC	12,769	Contract
Astley Park Animal Centre / Pets Corner	Lancashire Environmnet Fund	25,000	Grant
United Futures Brinscall Goit (Design)	United Utilities	2,500	Contract
United Futures Brinscall Goit (Construction phase)	Groundwork UK - United Futures Partnership	17,500	Grant
United Futures Brinscall Goit (Construction phase)	LCC - Environment Directorate	20,000	Grant
United Futures Brinscall Goit (Construction phase)	LCC - Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund	15,000	Grant
United Futures Brinscall Goit (Construction phase)	LCC - Transport Plan	10,000	Grant
IYSS in Lancashire (Breakthrough, Build It, Dig It)	Public Sector Under Contract (Lancashire Youth Association)	19,620	Contract
Breakthrough for Schools	TEC / LSC	31,314	Contract
Supergrounds	Private Sector Under Contract - RBS	1,150	Contract
Astley Village PfP Consultation	Housing Associations - PfP	2,800	Contract
Sports Devlopment Railway Park	Lottery Sports	3,600	Grant
Sports Devlopment Railway Park	Groundwork UK	2,511	Grant
Withnell Fold Memorial Garden	LSP NES Sub Group	3,000	Grant
Ulnes Walton Trail Bridleway	Chorley Borough Council	7,340	Contract
Hic Bibbi (Nature Reserve)	Biffaward Landfill Tax	5,500	Grant
Hic Bibbi (Nature Reserve)	Biffaward Landfill Tax	29,176	Grant
Programme Value		389,556	