



Policy and Resources Committee – 5 December 2011

Groundwork Northamptonshire

Purpose of report

To ask members to consider and decide on future funding to Groundwork Northamptonshire given the proposed changes to our community development activities.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment (initial screen)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire (Groundwork) was established in 2004 to support community regeneration projects. It operates as a local trust within Groundwork UK and is a company limited by guarantee.
- 1.2 The former Resources Committee (minute 317 - 20 December 2004 refers) agreed to support the core funding of Groundwork for an initial 6-year period. This was through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with core funding of £25,000 per year. The SLA also made provision for an additional £25,000 to Groundwork for providing the practical 'hands-on' support to our Area Based Initiatives (ABI). The main areas of work have been supporting environmental improvements and positive activities for young people.
- 1.3 This original 6-year SLA terminated on 31 March 2011. Policy and Resources Committee then approved an extension to the SLA with Groundwork (minute 263 - 8 November 2010 refers) to support the completion of the ABI projects. This will expire on 31 March 2012.
- 1.4 Groundwork also supported ENable (the former Local Strategic Partnership) through its Executive Director being a board member. This council agreed to withdraw its support for Enable in July 2011.

2.0 Current funding arrangements

- 2.1 Under the current SLA (referred to in 1.3 above) Groundwork receives core funding of £10,000 and project funding of £10,000. The core funding contributes to the management functions of Groundwork and the project funding supports the community development worker provided by Groundwork for the ABIs.
- 2.2 Groundwork also receives core funding from other councils in the county as follows:-

Local authority	£ amount in 2011/12
Corby Borough	10,000
Kettering Borough	5,000
Northampton Borough	10,000
Northamptonshire County	10,000

- 2.3 Concern has been raised before about the equitability of core funding amounts. Kettering Borough Council has said that it gives various forms of in-kind support to Groundwork for example office accommodation and therefore provides less in terms of

actual finance.

2.4 The council is represented on the Board of Trustees of Groundwork by Councillor Gill Mercer.

3.0 Future role of Groundwork

3.1 The current ABIs will conclude in January/February 2012 and there are no plans to extend these to other areas in the district. This effectively means that Groundwork's current support role will end with the completion of these projects.

3.2 Members are being asked to consider and approve a new Community Development Strategy as a previous item on this agenda. Our approach to community development in East Northamptonshire from 1 April 2012 will be about enabling and facilitating the development of community plans in parishes and towns across the district.

3.3 Groundwork's range of skills and resources may be able to support local communities in delivering their plans. However it is unlikely to retain its presence in East Northamptonshire without some form of specific funding support from us.

3.4 Taking into consideration the completion of the ABI projects and the changes in our approach to community development there are two options to consider and these are set out below:-

Option	Potential impacts	Financial implications
<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>Discontinue with both core and project funding to Groundwork</p>	<p>The ABIs will have concluded by 31 March 2012 and therefore Groundwork's support on the projects will not be required.</p> <p>Without <u>core</u> funding Groundwork is likely to withdraw from East Northamptonshire. This could result in a loss of skilled resources able to support parish groups with improvement projects arising from the new community plans.</p>	<p>No provision would be required in the 2012/13 budget</p> <p>Saving to ENC: £20,000</p>
<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Provide core funding of £10,000 for financial year 2012/13 but no project funding</p>	<p>The ABIs will have concluded by 31 March 2012 and therefore Groundwork's support on the projects will not be required.</p> <p>The core funding would retain Groundwork's presence in East Northamptonshire to provide support for parishes undertaking improvement projects arising from community plans. Funding for these</p>	<p>Provision would be required in the 2012/13 budget for the core funding, which in the current year is £10,000.</p> <p>Saving to ENC: £10,000</p>

	<p>projects would be the responsibility of the group co-ordinating the community plan.</p> <p>The core funding would be given on a 1-year basis in order to evaluate the effectiveness of Groundwork's support. A report on future funding options would be presented to Policy and Resources Committee in 12 months time.</p>	
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4.0 Equality and diversity implications

4.1 As both the options detailed above involve reducing Groundwork's current funding, either in whole or part, an Equalities Impact Assessment (initial screen) has been completed. This is attached at appendix 1 and Members are asked to consider this carefully.

5.0 Risk management

5.1 The withdrawal of any funding in whole or part could result in a loss of skilled resources available in East Northamptonshire for supporting improvement projects arising from the new community plans. However implementation and delivery of the new community plans together with actions arising will be with the local groups co-ordinating them.

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The council has no legal obligations to commission support from or provide funding support to Groundwork.

7.0 Financial implications

7.1 These are set out in 3.3 above.

8.0 Corporate outcomes

8.1 Groundwork has supported our ABIs, which have contributed to the following outcomes:

- A good quality of life – clean
- A good quality of life – safe
- A good quality of life – sustainable
- Strong community leadership

The new community plans will support the council to achieve its Corporate Plan outcomes as follows:-

A good quality of life – sustainable

Development of Master Plans towns in the District, to give local people a say in how all our towns should develop over the next 10 years and Community and Neighbourhood Plans for those villages and rural areas that want them.

Strong community leadership

Engaging Town and Parish councils and local communities in plans and developments that affect their areas and support and develop capacity within local communities to help them to help themselves

Knowledge of our customers and communities

Engage with local communities to understand their needs

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 Members are asked to consider and decide which of the options set out in 3.3 above they want to pursue.

(Reason: to decide on the future role of Groundwork Northamptonshire within the District and the funding arrangements associated with this.)

Legal	Power: Local Government Act 2000				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers:	None				
Person Originating Report:	Mike Greenway (Community Partnerships Manager) – 01832 742244 mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk				
Date:	14 November 2011				
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)



Appendix 1 EIA Initial Screening Form – Committee decision

1. Decision being taken:	Future role of Groundwork Northamptonshire in our community development activities
2. Name and Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	Mike Greenway (Community Partnerships Manager)
3. What is the main purpose of the Service or Policy under discussion?	<p>Groundwork Northamptonshire has provided support to this Council's Area Based Initiative (ABI) projects. The ABIs are 3-year projects that will conclude January/February 2012. There are no plans for further ABIs in the district.</p> <p>This Council is seeking to adopt a new Community Development Strategy 2012-15. The new approach to community development from 1 April 2012 will be supporting local communities to develop community plans. The Council's Community Development Officers will undertake this work.</p>
4. List the main activities of the Service or Policy under discussion	<p>Currently, Groundwork's support covers the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinating environmental improvement projects • Supporting the creation of local community action groups • Supporting the engagement of young people in the ABI projects and encouraging them to take part in positive activities.
5. Who are the main beneficiaries of the Service or Policy under discussion?	Local communities through the ABI projects
6. How is the success of the Service or Policy under discussion measured?	Through the ABI project management groups and the ABI Action Plans
7. Are equality monitoring systems for the Service or Policy under discussion in place?	No

8. Use the following table to indicate using a ✓:

- a) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality of opportunity or improving relations within equality groups.
- b) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- c) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a neutral impact on any of the equality group i.e. no impact

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Gender:				The support provided by Groundwork is to the ABI projects, which are 3-year time limited projects and will end January/February 2012. Groundwork could still be commissioned to support projects in East Northamptonshire by local community groups on an ad-hoc basis
Women/Girls			X	
Men/Boys			X	
Transgender people			X	
Sexual Orientation:				
Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			X	
Race/Ethnicity:				The support provided by
White British people			X	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
White non-British people (including Irish people)			X	Groundwork is to the ABI projects, which are 3-year time limited projects and will end January/February 2012. Groundwork could still be commissioned to support projects in East Northamptonshire by local community groups on an ad-hoc basis
Asian or Asian British people			X	
Black or Black British people			X	
People of mixed heritage			X	
Chinese people			X	
Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)			X	
People from other ethnic groups			X	
People who do not have English as their first language			X	
Disability:				
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.			X	The support provided by Groundwork is to the ABI projects, which are 3-year time limited projects and will end January/February 2012. Groundwork could still be commissioned to support projects in East Northamptonshire by local community
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			X	
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia			X	
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder			X	
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy			X	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)			X	groups on an ad-hoc basis
Age:				
Older People (60+)		X		Groundwork has specialist skills in developing activities for both older people and children and young people. The majority of the activities it has set up in the ABIs will continue to be co-ordinated by the local community groups. However if Groundwork withdrew from East Northamptonshire through a lack of funding support skilled resources available for other community groups in the future could be reduced.
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)		X		
Religion/Belief:				
Christian			X	The support provided by Groundwork is to the ABI projects, which are 3-year time limited projects and will end January/February 2012. Groundwork could still be
Buddhist			X	
Hindu			X	
Jewish			X	
Muslim			X	
Sikh			X	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Other religion (including holding no belief)			X	commissioned to support projects in East Northamptonshire by local community groups on an ad-hoc basis
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			X	Groundwork's current work has been in urban areas as part of the ABI projects
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands		X		Groundwork has skilled resources to support initiatives aimed at combating social-economic exclusion and this has been key in the ABI projects. If Groundwork withdrew from East Northamptonshire through a lack of specific funding support skilled resources available for other community groups in the future could be reduced

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)			X	<p>The support provided by Groundwork is to the ABI projects, which are 3-year time limited projects and will end January/February 2012.</p> <p>Groundwork could still be commissioned to support projects in East Northamptonshire by local community groups on an ad-hoc basis</p>
9. If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group:				
a) Is that impact against legislation?	Yes		No ✓	
b) What is the level of impact?	High		Low ✓	
10. Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?	The negative impacts could be minimised by Groundwork retaining its presence in East Northamptonshire. However Groundwork is unlikely to retain its presence in the district without some form of specific funding support from us.			
11. Could you improve a positive impact of the decision?	N/A			

12. If there is no evidence that the decision promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?	N/A
Head of Service signature	
Date of Initial Screening:	14 November 2011