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**SURE START LOCAL PROGRAMME WAVE 5**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Stephen Harker, Education Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) – Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. This report informs Cabinet about the securing of Capital funding from the European Regional Development Fund (E.R.D.F) by the Wave 5 Sure Start Local Programme as part of the Darlington Targeted Communities Package and seeks Cabinet's approval for the release of E.R.D.F funding.

**Information and Analysis**

2. Sure Start Local Programmes are a Government initiative with a focus on improving the health and well being of children and families. It is targeted in those areas, which demonstrate the greatest need and disadvantage. The programme supports five major objectives, including:
  - a) Improving social and emotional development, with a focus on supporting family functioning and relationships
  - b) Improving health, in particular supporting parents to care for their children to promote healthy development before and after birth
  - c) Improving the ability to learn, through stimulating and enjoyable play, improving language skills and the early identification of and support for children with learning difficulties
  - d) Strengthening families and communities
  - e) Increasing productivity of operations through reshaping existing services and adding value with additional resources.
  
4. The principles underpinning Sure Start Local Programmes are:
  - a) That Sure Start services must co-ordinate, streamline and add value to existing services within the Sure Start area
  - b) That parents, grandparents and other carers should be involved
  - c) That services avoid stigmatising users by making them available to all local families
  - d) That Sure Start services are linked to older children's services to ensure lasting support
  - e) That the delivery of services is culturally appropriate and sensitive to particular needs
  - f) That the participation of all local families is promoted in the design and working of the programme.

5. Capital expenditure is available to support programmes. A single amount of up to £1,000,000 is available.
6. A Sure Start Centre has been planned attached to the existing Mount Pleasant School at the total cost of £630,845. This development, in Cockerton West Ward, is eligible to attract E.R.D.F funding under Objective 2 2000-2006 Measure 4.1, which seeks to “support the ability of the target communities to reconnect their residents with economic activity”. This development has been earmarked to become a Children’s Centre as part of the strategic plan for Darlington.
7. An application was made by Sure Start Wave 5 programme, with the assistance of Darlington Borough Council Regeneration Unit for £317,922 towards the total capital development cost for the Mount Pleasant development. This application has been successful.
8. The National Sure Start Unit has confirmed release of the final amount, namely £312,923 to Darlington Borough Council.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

9. Consultation regarding the location of a Sure Start Centre attached to Mount Pleasant Primary School took place in a variety of different ways during the period 11<sup>th</sup> January 2002 to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003 and more recently at Sure Start Wave 5 local programme Management and Partnership Boards. Throughout these consultations it was deemed necessary for Sure Start Services to be built in the Branksome area.

### **Legal Implications**

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

12. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council’s policy framework

### **Decision Deadline**

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

### **Key Decisions**

14. This report constitutes a key decision due to the significant cost to the Council.

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that Members give approval for the formal release of the E.R.D.F funding.

### **Reasons**

16. This recommendation is supported to enable building of the new Sure Start Centre to commence at Mount Pleasant, in order to ensure the local delivery of services.

**Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

### **The following background papers are available:**

- a) Application and confirmation of funding
- b) Consultation evidence

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