

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**  
**19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010**

**General Exception Report**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	Not applicable
<b>CORPORATE PLAN AIM:</b>	A Well Run and Responsive Council
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Cabinet Member for Legal and Corporate Services
<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Caroline Newlands, Director of Legal and Corporate Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Diana Glendenning, Principal Committee Officer, Ext. 2763 Diana.glendenning@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix 1 – Report to Cabinet - Stourport Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas.  <i>This appendix to this report has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details)</i>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To apprise Council of an urgent report considered by Cabinet in the quarter 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 The Council is asked to:**

**Note the quarterly report to Council on an item considered by Cabinet under the Special Urgency rules.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 the Cabinet considered a report under the Council's special urgency rules (Section 15 Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution) regarding Stourport Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas.
- 3.2 Wyre Forest District Council's constitution requires under the Special Urgency Rules if, by virtue of the date by which a decision must be taken Rule 14 (general exception) cannot be followed, then the decision "can only be taken, if the decision taker (if an individual) or the Chairman of the body making the decision, obtains the agreement of the Chairman of the relevant scrutiny committee that the taking of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred."

- 3.3 The approval of the Chairman of the Community and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee was sought and given.
- 3.4 Under the special urgency rules the Cabinet is required to prepare a report for submission to the next available meeting of the Council. The report is required to set out particulars of the decision, the individual or body making the decision and if the Leader is of the opinion that it was not a key decision, the reasons for that opinion.
- 3.5 The constitution requires the Leader to submit quarterly reports to the Council on Cabinet decisions taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 15 (Special Urgency) in the preceding three months. The report is required to set out the number of decisions so taken and a summary of the matters in which those decisions were taken.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

**Stourport Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas**

- 4.1 The Cabinet gave agreement for the virement of additional funds from within existing budgets to support the last of the Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCA) projects, the match funding for which ended in March 2010.
- 4.2 Whilst a maximum provision of £50,000 was agreed, it is anticipated that the actual funding may be less than this, once final eligible works are agreed.
- 4.3 The virement is from LABGI or Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. It is considered that this is an appropriate use of these monies to support the economic viability of Stourport Town Centre, 'district wide regeneration' being one of the Council's four Corporate Priorities.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no significant financial implications as a result of this report.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no legal or policy implications arising as a result of this proposal.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 There are no equality impact matters arising as a result of this proposal.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 There are no significant risks resulting from this report.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The reason the matter was considered under the Special Urgency Rules was that the scheme was due to finally close for applications on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and it was an opportunity for the Council to ensure that four further grant applications and the financial support for them was gained before the scheme closed for applications on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

**10. CONSULTEES**

10.1 Director of Legal and Corporate Services and Chief Executive

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 Report to Cabinet 23 March 2010 – Stourport Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas.