



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18TH SEPTEMBER 2012

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SOUTH EAST WALES
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED) PROGRAMME IN
CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH**

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the progress of the South East Wales Community Economic Development Programme within Caerphilly county borough.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

Voluntary and community sector organisations make a major contribution to the Council's Improvement Plan and the Community Strategy through promoting the wellbeing of local citizens. The long term sustainability of the third sector is therefore an issue of great concern in the current difficult financial climate.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the programme of the South East Wales Community Economic Development (CED) Programme within the county borough.
- 3.2 The CED Programme is a collaborative EU Convergence project that is being delivered in the county boroughs of Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly, with Merthyr Tydfil as the lead body for the project. The project overall provides the employment of a number of development and finance staff within the local authorities plus a grant scheme and ongoing support for the third sector, which will operate between December 2010 and August 2015. In Caerphilly County Borough Council we employ one Development Officer.
- 3.3 Funding is available to a wide range of organisations that have ambitions to develop into economically sustainable organisations within the third sector i.e. voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals. The purpose of the CED Programme is to build sustainable and vibrant communities through the development of community economic activity and social enterprises. The grant fund options are aimed at supporting and developing sustainability within the third sector, and reducing their reliance upon grant support.
- 3.4 The total project value is £13,475,856 across the 6 local authorities involved with the programme. The total funding available to Caerphilly county borough over the life of the programme is £1,599,162.

- 3.5 The CED Programme was launched in Caerphilly county borough in January 2011. A Grants Panel was established to consider applications under the CED Programme. The Grants Panel is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning and also includes public, private and voluntary sector representation. The Head of Legal and Governance (or his representative) is also a member of the Panel, in order for the award of funding to individual projects to be made using delegated powers, as agreed by Cabinet on 24th May 2011.
- 3.6 The membership of the Grants Panel is as follows:
- Chair – Cabinet Member for (Regeneration and Planning)
 - Representative from the Caerphilly Business Forum
 - Representative from the Wales Cooperative Centre
 - Director of Caerphilly County Borough Citizen's Advice Bureau (on behalf of the Voluntary Sector)
 - Head of Legal Services and Governance (or his representative)
- 3.7 The approval from the Wales European Funding Office states that the various grant approvals for the support of social enterprise awarded from Convergence should work collaboratively to avoid duplication and to maximise the added value of the individual approvals. The Wales Cooperative Centre have received £7.1m Convergence funding for the support of the sector, and are working collaboratively with Caerphilly County Borough Council on the delivery of the programme utilising their secured funding and expertise to add value to the delivery of the programme within the county borough. The funding the Cooperative Centre has received provides support and training but does not have a grant fund.

4. PROGRESS TO DATE WITHIN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH

- 4.1 The Social Economy Development Officer funded via the CED Programme was appointed in January 2011 and is based within the Business Enterprise Support Team, which is located in the Tredomen Business & Technology Centre.
- 4.2 A launch event was held in the White Rose Centre in New Tredegar on 26th January 2011 and was attended by John Bennett (Chair of the Welsh Social Enterprise Coalition) and Cllr Ron Davies (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning), with support from the Wales Cooperative Centre and the CED Coordination Team from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. There were over 100 delegates in attendance from the community/voluntary sector and existing social enterprises. The launch event also received coverage in the local press.
- 4.3 The first Expression of Interest stage generated over 12 possible projects, and three went forward to the full application stage and were considered by the Grants Panel in June 2011. These were subsequently approved, with the projects supported as follows:
- Smart Money Credit Union (based in Caerphilly town centre – staffing to expand their services)
 - Menter Iaith Caerffili (based in Bargoed – capital equipment and staffing to expand their services)
 - Groundwork Caerphilly (based in Pontllanfraith – redevelopment of an existing derelict building as part of a wider project funded by the Big Lottery Community Asset Transfer Programme)
- 4.4 The second round of full applications took place in January 2012 and 5 grants were awarded to the following organisations:
- GreenCap (based in the Caerphilly Basin – capital equipment and staffing for an office furniture refurbishment project)

- Playworks Playcare (based in Caerphilly but operating throughout the county borough – capital equipment and staffing to expand their childcare services)
- Graig y Rhacca Resource Centre – Ann’s Kitchen (based in Graig y Rhacca – capital equipment and staffing to provide a café and sandwich delivery service)
- Rainbow Community Enterprises (based in Rhymney – capital equipment and staffing to provide recycling of used bikes and bike training)
- Samye Foundation Wales (based in Caerphilly town centre – capital and staffing to expand their stress reduction programmes for the workplace)

4.5 The third round of full applications took place in June 2012 and 3 grants were awarded to the following organisations:

- GC Enterprises (based in Rhymney – salary for Business Development Manager and a van for delivery and collections of furniture)
- Rudry Parish Hall (based in Rudry – salary for Business Development Manager and a laptop)
- TyFu Café (based in Caerphilly town centre – salary for Café Supervisor)

4.6 To date the targets that have been achieved are as follows:

1 individual financially assisted to set up a new social enterprise
 3 Social Enterprises created
 6 Organisations financially supported
 17.6 full time equivalent jobs created

4.7 The overall targets across the life of the programme within Caerphilly county borough are:

Full time jobs created – 15
 Organisations financially supported – 10
 Individuals financially supported – 1
 Social Enterprise created – 2
 People accessing services – 48

4.8 The total amount of grant funding awarded to date is shown in the table below:

	Capital	Revenue
Menter Iaith Caerffili	£505.66	£77,017.77
Smart Money Credit Union	£0.00	£36,000.00
Groundwork Caerphilly	£25,000.00	£0.00
Playworks Playcare	£23,842.14	£81,029.00
GreenCap	£23,348.03	£80,000.00
Rainbow Community Enterprises	£7,000.00	£67,323.75
Samye Foundation	£6,644.25	£78,932.00
Graig y Rhacca Resource Centre - Ann's Kitchen	£14,538.00	£78,776.65
GC Enterprises	£19,995.00	£66,034.00
Rudry Village Hall	£914.94	£25,706.25
TyFu Cafe	£0.00	£47,194.59
Total Awarded	£121,788.02	£638,014.01

4.9 It should be noted that where staff are funded under the programme, their employing organisation can receive up to 100% funding in Year 1, up to 75% in Year 2 and up to 50% in Year 3. The revenue awards shown above therefore cover up to three years of funding to an organisation. The remaining shortfall is contributed by the organisation from the trading activities generated within each project.

- 4.10 Marketing literature has been developed to promote the grant throughout the county borough in line with WEFO guidelines.
- 4.11 A new Social Enterprise networking forum has been developed and was launched on 16th March 2012 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Pengam. The 'Enterprising People in Caerphilly' (EPIC) Forum will offer organisations the opportunity to network with like minded people and forge new business contacts, actively helping them to achieve their long term sustainable business goals. The Forum will offer a mix of workshops, guest speakers and visits to established social enterprises. The Forum will link with the Social Enterprise forums established in the other five authorities involved in the Programme, and in due course a regional forum will also be established. The launch was attended by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning and John Bennett (Chair of the Welsh Social Enterprise Coalition).
- 4.12 The CED Programme has made steady progress to date and we are now beginning to see positive results in developing and supporting the growth of Social Enterprise and community economic development across the Caerphilly county borough.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All proposed expenditure will be met from existing budgets.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 Comments from consultees will be reported to the meeting as appropriate.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 In order to keep Members informed or progress with the CED Programme within Caerphilly county borough.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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