

**CREWE & NANTWICH BOROUGH COUCL
COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**EXTRACT FROM RECORD OF MEETING
HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2008**

32. WORK PROGRAMME

32.2 Migrant Workers

During 2005, the Borough experienced a significant increase in its population due to an influx of migrant workers, placing pressure on both Council services and the local community. The authority had been quick to identify problem areas and, together with partner organisations had put in place practical assistance (welcome packs) and support (Crewe Polish Association) for migrant workers and their families. The Committee noted that Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council had become a 'pathfinder authority' for its work on migrant workers which had been recognised at national level.

The Community Development Manager updated Members by reporting progress on current activities which were to be expanded to include emergency planning and homelessness. Members praised the work of the officers involved in the project since its inception and a number of questions were put to the Community Development Manager, which were responded to accordingly.

In 2006, the Borough had been awarded government funding from the Invest to Save Budget (ISB) to '*address the needs of a changing community*'. Although the project was due to end in June 2009 the challenges associated with changing communities would be inherited by Cheshire East Council and it was considered important that established practices were not lost during this transitional period. The Committee was invited to consider a number of recommendations which would continue to build on achievements to date.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Committee's view that the work presently done under the Invest to Save Budget is crucially important in terms of community cohesion and recommends to the Board of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council and the Cabinet of Cheshire East Shadow Council that they adopt the measures listed below:

THAT:

- a) A mapping exercise be carried out in Macclesfield Borough and Congleton Borough prior to April 2009 to establish baseline figures for Migrant Workers;
- b) Emergency planning procedures be developed to consider the impact of fluid communities and external influences that may bring about sudden or rapid change in population demographics;

- c) Continuing support be given to the newly emerging Migrant Worker Association, to ensure viability and sustainability;
- d) Consideration be given to commissioning work and/or setting up service level agreements between Cheshire East Council and the Migrant Worker Association to deliver on key pieces of research or consultation; and
- e) Changing Communities is adopted as a mainstream element within Cheshire East Council.