

Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Steering Group  
Meeting 14th May 2003  
Report of the Strategies Implementation Group (SIG)

The Kensington and Chelsea Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF)  
Programme 2001-2004

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

This report:

- Describes the background to the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) programme in the Borough. **FOR INFORMATION.**
- Provides an end of year report on the NRF Year 2 programme, including expenditure, achievements and lessons learned. **FOR INFORMATION.**
- Updates the position on the Year 3 Programme, which currently shows an unallocated amount of £84,300. **FOR DECISION** (See paragraph 5.3 ).
- Suggests taking to account at its September 2003 meeting the priorities emerging from the Year 1 review when considering the allocation of Year 4 and 5 NRF. **FOR DECISION** (see paragraph 6.2 ).

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 In January 2001, the Borough was allocated a total of £2.43 million over three years from the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. In April this year, the Government announced that Kensington and Chelsea will receive an additional £2,162,000 for 2004-06.
- 2.2 The table below shows that by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003, the KCP, through its agencies had spent 99% of its £1,351,000 NRF allocation for years 1 and 2 of the programme. A breakdown, showing allocations to each initiative, is attached as Appendix 2 .

Financial Year	NRF Allocation	Carried forward from previous year	Total available	Expenditure by 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Carry forward to next year
	£	£	£	£	£
2001/02	540,000	n/a	540,000	400,000	140,000
2002/03	811,000	140,000	951,000	942,900	8,100
2003/04	1,081,000	8,100	1,089,100		
2004/05	1,081,000				
2005/06	1,081,000				
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,594,000</b>				

2.3 There is local discretion how the NRF should be spent. However, according to the guidance issued by the Government, “NRF is aimed at kick-starting improvements in mainstream services in deprived areas.”

### **3.0 Year 1 Programme (2000/01)**

3.1 Following discussion of the Council’s outline plans with the health authority, police, the TMO, housing associations, the voluntary sector and the regeneration partnerships in North Kensington, there was broad support that:

- the emphasis should be on crime reduction & community safety and on economic development. But there was a view that health should also feature in the programme.
- funding should help to achieve the strategic objectives of the Council and its partners, including the regeneration partnerships.
- Initiatives should focus on St Charles and Golborne wards but that this should not preclude expenditure outside these wards if it could be demonstrated that it would benefit St Charles and Golborne residents.

3.2 Instead of establishing a separate entity to oversee the allocation of the NRF, as had been the case for previous area based programmes, the Borough brought together representatives from the existing regeneration partnerships, the voluntary sector and other key partner agencies to oversee its application. The Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group (NRSG) met on 25 occasions between May 2001 and March 2003 and has been accountable to the KCP Steering Group since the accreditation of the KCP in February 2002. Before that, it was the Borough that was responsible for the NRF programme.

3.3 A ‘statement of use’ of the NRF funds was submitted to the Government Office for London in September 2001 detailing the programmes and intended outcomes, with an anticipated expenditure of approximately £440,000 by 31 March 2002, against an allocation of £540,000. By 31<sup>st</sup> March, £400,000 had been spent; £140,000 was carried forward to the 2002/03 programme.

### **4.0 Year 2 Programme (2002/03)**

4.1 To receive NRF funding for 2002/03 the local authority needed to show that it was part of an accredited Local Strategic Partnership. The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership was accredited in February 2002. Details of the initiatives making up the programme were set out in pages 18-26 of the September 2002 Action Plan, which forms part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. This schedule has been updated to incorporate subsequent amendments (summarised in Appendix 2) and to record activities and achievements during the year. The revised schedule will be put on the KCP website and print- outs will be available at the meeting.

### The NRF Year 2 programme financial position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003

4.2 The NRF Year 2 allocation was £811,000 and approval was given to carry forward £140,000 from 2001/02. The total NRF available in Year 2 was **£951,000**.

4.3 At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 the total expenditure by the NRF Year 2 Programme was **£942,900** (23/04/03). The programme had spent **99%** of its allocation and will carry forward **£8,100** of its total NRF available in year 2 into year 3. Appendix 2 provides details of NRF Year 2 expenditure.

4.4 The NRSRG at its March 18th 2003 meeting recommended support for four NRF Year 2 initiatives, that had mainly 'building or other capital commitments', to carry forward funding into Year 3 to complete their work. The initiatives were, Under 4's Play-Area, Environmental Improvement Initiatives, Domestic Violence Campaign and Economic Development Fund. Appendix 2 provides details.

### Year 2 Programme achievements and lessons learned

4.5 The tables below summarise the achievements of the NRF Year 2 initiatives to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 and of the lessons learned from their implementation

**Table 1:**

<b>Achievements to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003</b>
<b>Crime reduction and Community Safety</b>
200 households and 42 businesses& community organisations in Golborne and St Charles benefited from security improvements
Portobello Police Sector Working Group supported 6 initiatives that work with young people to provide diversionary activities and opportunities to become more involved in their local area
Acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) scheme launched and promoted across Borough to key agencies including RSLs and the police.
Anti Social Behaviour Team established to co-ordinate multiagency approach to anti social behaviour in the Borough
500 older people attended week long road show event that promoted personal safety whilst in and out of the home environment
<b>Economic Development</b>
Construction work began on Barandon Walk site to build 39 new business units by August 2003. Additional £320,000 funding secured from London Development Agency and £300,000 from RBKC.
Job- Centre Plus secondees based at North Kensington Opportunities Centre supported 101 unemployed parents in Golborne and St Charles to access in work benefits such as Working Families Tax Credits
Bridging the Gap research report completed, identifying the barriers people face in taking up employment in the local NHS and how these barriers can be addressed. Stakeholders workshop took place on 28 <sup>th</sup> March to launch report

and to discuss ways of supporting local people to access employment in local NHS
Kensington and Chelsea College recruited a Work Placement Co-ordinator to identify appropriate work opportunities in local NHS for students on its health care courses
Joint working took place between Realising the Potential and Employment and Childcare NRF initiatives to raise the profile of employment and training support services in North Kensington
<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Skills and Knowledge</b>
3 Regeneration Exchange events took place that brought together local service providers across the Partnership
Kensington and Chelsea Social Council appointed a Neighbourhood Renewal Officer and launched its training programme to strengthen the capacity of voluntary and community sectors to engage in the delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal.
25 Community organisations received grants through the Social Council to purchase IT equipment. The NRF helped to address an issue identified by the Community Empowerment Funded report 'IT: Mapping Survey of Voluntary Sector Organisations' that large numbers of community organisations had limited or no access to IT.
Renewing Our Neighbourhoods Strategy Statement and Action Plan and NRF 2001/2 Statement of Use published and submitted to Government Office for London by 31 <sup>st</sup> September 2002
<b>Others</b>
The Government announced that Kensington and Chelsea to receive £2.16 million of NRF from 2004-2006.
London Underground agreed in principle to support proposals from community consultations to improve visual appearance of Portobello Bridge
North Kensington Perinatal Depression Forum completed pre-production of video and information booklet that will encourage Arabic speaking women in North Kensington to access support services
Registered Social Landlords in Dalgarno area signed up, to Neighbourhood Management action plan that will be regularly reviewed
Refugee Education Team launched training courses for teachers and staff in North Kensington schools to raise awareness of needs and issues relating to refugees and asylum seeker communities
Refugee Education Team launched programmes and events to encourage parents from asylum seeker and refugee communities to play a more active role in North Kensington schools
Purchase of additional bilingual books and materials for Sure Start North West Kensington Toy and Book bus, to encourage greater use of the service and libraries in North Kensington

**Table 2:**

<b>Lessons learned from the implementation of NRF initiatives</b>
Initiatives dependent on more than one funding source are less likely to implement their programmes, if delays in approval of match funding occur.
Negotiations with partner organisations such as London Underground may take longer than anticipated due to a lack of understanding about organisational cultures and working practices
A long lead in time is required when consulting and involving hard to reach groups in the planning and delivery of an initiative, including those who are awarding grants to community organisations
Recruiting and seconding staff often take longer than planned
Some organisations receiving NRF need to work more closely with their finance colleagues to fully understand NRF invoicing practices and procedures. The council as accountable body is able to offer guidance and advice when needed
Discrete, well tried initiatives carry low risk; however innovative multi partnered initiatives carry greater risk, such as Barandon Walk Economic Development Fund initiative, but can benefit from the greater flexibilities that NRF offers over other funding programmes
NRF can be used to attract match funding from partners to meet Neighbourhood Renewal objectives e.g.Barandon Walk Economic Development Fund initiative attracted £320,000 from the London Development Agency and £300,000 from RBKC. Local businesses benefiting from non domestic burglary reduction initiative contributed £38,000 of their own funds. The Realising the Potential Initiative secured an additional £30,000 from North West London NHS Workforce Development Confederation to fund a Work Placement Co-ordinator post.
NRF support to the Social Council to appoint a Neighbourhood Renewal Officer can create greater opportunities for their Community Programmes to contribute towards Neighbourhood Renewal objectives set out in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. This an example where NRF complements and adds value to the work funded by the Community Empowerment Fund.

## **5.0. NRF Year 3 (2003/04) Programme**

### **5.1 Appendix 2 sets out the financial position for the year 3 programme**

- The NRF Year 3 allocation from GOL is **£1,081,000**.
- Adding the £8,100 carried forward from year 2, means that the total NRF grant available in year 3 is **£1,089,100**.
- The total programme shown in Appendix 2 is **£1,189,000** which is 10% above the grant available. Experience suggests that over-programming of this amount is advisable to ensure that the overall spending target is met.

- Most of the funding in Year 3 is committed to continuing initiatives, with an estimated 2003//04 expenditure of **£1,104, 700**.
- Deducting the estimated expenditure of £1,104,700 from the total programme of £1,189,000 gives a figure of **£84,300** of unallocated NRF in 2003/04

5.2 The current position is that most of the funding in year 3 is already committed to initiatives already in the programme. There will be **£84,300** unallocated funding. The NRSRG at its March 18th meeting suggested that this unallocated funding could be applied to continue and/or expand the existing initiatives listed in table 3 below. The NRSRG at its February 2003 meeting agreed that further development work should take place with the Chamber of Commerce and its partners to prepare an NRF proposal, up to £12,000 (the amount of NRF requested by the Chamber of Commerce in their outline funding request to the NRSRG), that will increase the level of business involvement in Neighbourhood Renewal. The Work and Business Cluster Champion and Co-ordinator will work together to develop this proposal

**Table 3: Potential additional Year 3 initiatives**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Police Sector Working Group Local Initiatives Fund (Notting Dale and Portobello)	£30,000	£15,000 for each Police Sector Working Group to fund diversionary projects, implement environmental improvements, assist young people in gaining employment and reducing anti-social behaviour. The remaining three Sector Working Groups in the Borough have received the same amount of funding from the Basic Command Unit Fund. All Sector Working Groups will receive match funding of £5,000 from the Metropolitan Police Authority
Environmental Initiatives	£20,000	To fund environmental projects such as, improving the environment near Sainsburys in North Kensington, replacing the appearance of forbidding security grilles of properties on Tavistock Piazza and improving the visual appearance of Ladbroke Grove railway bridge
NR Skills and Knowledge Programme Development	£10,000	To support the commissioning and publication of a North Kensington regeneration handbook, presenting examples of good practice and innovation since the 1970s, from the developments under the Westway to the Tabernacle Arts Centre, and from self-help projects to the sponsoring of young people to help maintain the gardens of house-bound residents.
	<b>£60,000</b>	

### 5.3 There are a number of possibilities open to the Steering Group

- Allocate a proportion of £84,300 unallocated monies, up to £60,000 to the initiatives set out in table 3, plus any additional funding to support a proposal to increase the level of business involvement in Neighbourhood Renewal (see paragraph 5.2)
- Allocate some or all of the £84,300 to other initiatives.
- Hold over some or all of the £84,300 until September to take account of the outcome of the Year 1 review of the Community and Neighbourhood Renewal strategies.

### **FOR DECISION**

### **6.0 Years 4 and 5 (2004/06) Extension to the NRF programme**

- 6.1 On the 8<sup>th</sup> April the Government announced that Kensington and Chelsea would receive £2.16 million of NRF from 2004-2006.
- 6.2 The Government also confirmed the continuation of funding for Community Participation programmes (Community Empowerment Fund, Community Chests and Community Learning Chests) in the current 88 Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) areas. A three-month consultation begins in April with the community sector on how best this money should be distributed to deliver the aims of community participation most effectively. Copies of this consultation document will be available from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit website ([www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)). In addition the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit has also published Supplementary Guidance on the Community Empowerment Fund to give an indication of the direction it proposes to take the fund in the future
- 6.3 Over the same period the Year 1 Review of strategies is taking place. The steering group may wish to see the priorities emerging from the review before considering at its September meeting how the year 4 and 5 NRF and Community Participation funding should be allocated

### **FOR DECISION**

#### Officer Contacts

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## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **The Development of the Year 2 NRF Programme**

1. The three year NRF programme, approved in 2001, is targeted at Community Safety (supporting measures to combat burglary) and Economic Development, specifically through the development of business units to generate income to support employment related projects in the long term. The emphasis did not preclude support for other initiatives, which would meet Neighbourhood Renewal objectives.

2. On the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2002 the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership (KCP) Steering Group considered proposals for adjustments and additions to the programmes. The KCP Steering Group agreed that,

- There should be further consultation with the voluntary sector. This included a meeting involving 3 voluntary sector members of the Steering Group, and as a result changes were proposed, i.e. establishment of a capacity building initiative run by the Social Council
- The bulk of the money should be used within Golborne and St Charles wards, and that a proportion, up to 12% of the Year 2 budget should be available for the next most deprived wards

3 The KCP Steering Group was consulted again in a letter to all members on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2002 on the revised programme for what was then expected to be the final 2 years of funding. No further comments were received and Councillor Paget Brown made the formal decision to approve the revised programme in May 2002. A further report was submitted to the Steering Group on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2002 to keep Members informed of developments. Councillor Paget Brown's decision made provision for the Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group (NRSG) to make adjustments to the programme during the course of the year in the event of any major underspending.

4 The Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group (NRSG) monitored spending monthly reviewed the position in August 2003. It was apparent at that time that there was danger of underspending because of potential slippage on various projects, notably Barandon Business Units and that there was a prospect of losing some of the NRF at the end of the year. In those circumstances the NRSG made some suggestions to revise the programme to ensure maximum spend. The timing was opportune as the NRSG was able to develop these proposals against the background of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Action Plan that was emerging at that time. Details were circulated to all Members of the Steering Group on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2003 for comments. No adverse comments were received and the changes were then put into effect.

5 In early January 2003 some further fine-tuning was necessary. A letter was sent to all Members of the Steering Group on 13th January with details of the proposals. No adverse comments were received and the changes were implemented.



6. Please refer to Table A for 2002/03 Year 2 Original, current allocations and final expenditure

APPENDIX and Tables available on request – phone Helen Kay on 0207 361 3671