

**KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP**

**MEETING ON 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2003**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2004/-5 – 05/06:  
BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION PAPER**

The Steering Group is invited to set out its principles, priorities and processes for the allocation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for 2004/05 and 2005/06. The Steering Group is free to determine new arrangements for the allocation of NRF for Years 4 and 5 (2004/05 and 05/06), as long as these are in line with central government guidance on NRF, set out overleaf. This paper provides background information on Years 1-3 of the NRF, and is intended to act as a prompt for thoughts about the arrangements for Years 4 and 5.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND, YEARS 1-3**

(2001/02-2003/04)

### **A. How the NRF was Allocated**

#### **A1 Background**

- In April 2001, the total three year funding (£2,432k) was allocated by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee (in the absence of an LSP) to projects identified by the local authority, in consultation with the Health Authority, the Police, the TMO, housing associations, the voluntary sector, and the regeneration partnerships in North Kensington. Specific initiatives had to meet the government's national criteria (below)
- Since summer 2001, funding to take up potential underspend has been allocated to additional initiatives, identified by the Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group and consistent with the strategic priorities of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy published in September 2002.
- The council acts as the accountable body for the NRF

#### **A2 National Criteria: Government**

- The money is primarily intended to help local authorities improve mainstream services in deprived areas but it can also support services provided by others.
- Where service quality is at risk or requires improvement, NRF funding should be devoted to mainstream services such as schools, health services and the police, provided that the funding benefits the most deprived areas.
- The NRF can be spent in any way that will tackle deprivation in the most deprived neighbourhoods.
- The money can be spent on either capital or revenue or both – there's no restriction.
- The funding should make a contribution towards the achievement of NRF national targets. These relate to: *education, employment, crime reduction, life expectancy, teenage conception, and social housing standards.*

**The Government criteria remain unchanged, and will need to inform the development of the NRF Years 4-5 programme.**

### **B. Locally-adopted Principles - Kensington and Chelsea (Years 1 –3)**

These were:

- Funding should help to achieve the strategic objectives of the Council and its partners, including the regeneration partnerships in North Kensington - FUNK, Golborne United, Dalgarno and Sure Start.
- No revenue commitments should be entered into unless they are time limited or have a clear, forward-funding strategy
- There should be quick spending proposals in the first year of NRF.

**The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Steering Group is invited to set down the principles it wishes to govern the allocation of the NRF funding for Years 4 –5. These may complement or extend the set of objectives agreed as part of the strategic framework of the "Renewing Our Neighbourhoods" document (set out at Appendix A).**

### **C. Local Priorities – Kensington and Chelsea (Years 1 –3)**

These were:

- The NRF programme should focus on community safety and economic development
- Projects should focus on *St Charles and Golborne* wards (plus expenditure outside these wards if it could be shown that it benefited residents of St.Charles and Golborne.) Subsequently, the KCP agreed that up to 12% of the Year 2 budget could be allocated to the next most deprived wards.
- 11 key local issues for St. Charles and Golborne (listed at Appendix B) that were identified through consultation and participative events in 2001
- Priorities included in “Renewing Our Neighbourhoods (Strategy Statement and Action Plan): - shared vision; co-ordinated planning; local participation; partnership working; organisational effectiveness; monitoring and evaluation.

**The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Steering Group is invited to set new priorities for the allocation of the NRF funding for Years 4 – 5.**

### **D. Assessment Criteria**

#### **D1. Government Criteria**

(Assessment criteria are used to judge an initiative when it is put forward by an applicant)

- Will it achieve a higher level of service or improve the quality on offer?
- Will it involve restructuring access and delivery of services at local level to improve effectiveness for specific groups?
- Will it support learning and development activity that helps core services to deliver neighbourhood renewal objectives?

**These remain unchanged, and any initiatives proposed for NRF Years 4 –5 will need to meet one or more of these criteria.**

#### **D2. Kensington and Chelsea Criteria (Years 1 –3)**

These were:

- What issue(s) in Golborne / St Charles wards will the project address?
- What evidence (data) is there of the seriousness of the issue(s) to be addressed?
- What outcomes and targets are to be set, against which the effectiveness of the project can be assessed?
- What resources are currently being used to address this issue locally (money, time, facilities, etc)?
- What other agencies, networks or partnerships are involved in addressing the issue?
- What joint action, if any, is proposed with other agencies?
- In what ways, if any, will the project help improve the knowledge and skills of all those involved?

**The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Steering Group is invited to determine outline assessment criteria for initiatives proposed for NRF Years 4 – 5. The Steering Group may also wish to consider the different routes for securing the delivery of initiatives.**

## **Appendix A**

### **Objectives adopted by the Steering Group:**

#### ***A Borough where:***

1. Best practice is adopted as standard practice by all authorities, departments, agencies and organisations operating within its boundaries
2. Services are tailored to the specific needs of potential users in different neighbourhoods and accessible to all
3. Local people of all ages are involved in developing neighbourhood initiatives
4. Residents, workers and visitors, throughout the area, feel safe and secure
5. Major new developments bring tangible benefits to the neighbourhoods in which they are located
6. Knowledge and skills are shared between different service providers, partners in regeneration and residents' organisations

## **Appendix B:**

Renewing Our Neighbourhoods (Strategy Statement and Action Plan) identifies 11 key local issues that stem from consultation and participative events in 2001. The Action Plan contains actions to be completed or set in train by 2005, to tackle these issues in Golborne and St. Charles.

### **Key local issues**

1. Relatively low satisfaction with streetscape and street cleaning, particularly streets with markets and Ladbroke Grove
2. Inadequate public transport links
3. Poor condition of parks and public spaces, compared to other parts of the Borough
4. Variations in the quality and accessibility of local health and care services
5. Need to improve the quality of management, maintenance and repairs across social housing
6. Some residents never use the leisure, recreation, library and arts services available in the area
7. Some youth facilities are adopted by groups which then exclude or discourage others
8. Residents want to feel safe on the streets and at home
9. Relatively few residents are employed by local public services
10. There is no job centre in North Kensington
11. There is a lack of affordable business and office space