

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP

MEETING ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2002

REPORT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STEERING GROUP

STATEMENT OF USE – NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING

This paper reports on action taken since the last meeting on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF).

FOR INFORMATION

1. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SPENDING PROGRAMME

- 1.1 The Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group (NRSG) includes voluntary sector members from the KCP Steering Group, and we have been responsible for developing and implementing the NRF spending programme. We recently considered some adjustments to the programme in the light of projected underspending, mainly on economic development projects. In doing we were able to take into account the issues emerging from the development of the Action Plan for the regeneration of Golborne and St Charles.
- 1.2 A letter was sent to all Members of the KCP Steering Group on 4th September giving details of the proposed changes inviting comments before Councillor Paget Brown took a key decision on approving the recommendations made by the NRSG. No comments were received and Councillor Paget Brown has now signed the proposed key decision so that spending on the new projects can get underway as soon as possible.

2. STATEMENT OF USE

- 2.1 The Council has to submit a formal 'Statement of Use' to the government by 30th September this year giving details of actual NRF spending in 2001/02 and projected spending in 2002/03. This has been prepared to take account of the changes recommended by the NRSG.
- 2.2 The Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the government last year. Long awaited revised guidance has still not been issued. A draft was sent to local authorities for comment a few weeks ago and the final version is expected before the end of September; local authorities will be expected to use it when preparing their Statements for this year.

- 2.3 It is unreasonable for the Government to give LSPs such short notice of changes to the guidelines and expect the Statements to be submitted by the end of September. Nevertheless, assuming the guidelines come out before 30th September, the Officers will use their best endeavours to comply with them. A copy of the Statement prepared in accordance with the existing guidelines was sent to all Members of the KCP Steering Group on 12th September for any comments on the content prior to Councillor Paget Brown taking a key decision to approve it. The decision will be taken on 19th September after taking into account any comments received before then. The content of the Statement is unlikely to change very much under the new guidelines but the presentation will.

3. UNDERSPENDING

- 3.1 Notwithstanding the use of over programming and the inclusion of new projects, we estimate that up to 20% of the allocation of NRF for this year may remain unspent at the end of this year. The government has been asked to agree to up to 20% of this year's allocation to be carried forward into next year. Other NRF partnerships are making similar requests. A response is expected shortly.

FOR INFORMATION

Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Group

Background Papers used in the Preparation of this Report:
None

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