



WARDS AFFECTED: 13 DEPRIVED WARDS

Beaumont Leys,
Belgrave,
Charnwood,
Coleman,
Eyres Monsell,
Latimer,

Mowmacre,
New Parks,
North Braunstone,
Saffron,
Spinney Hill,
West Humberstone,
Wycliffe.

CABINET

2 JULY 2001

**NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND
SUGGESTED YEAR ONE PROGRAMME**

Report of the Director of Housing

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Government issued their guidance on the NRF at the end of March 2001. They also issued supplementary guidance in April 2001. This meant that the year one process had changed goalposts. Also, the guidance emphasised the improvement/protection of mainstream services. This differed considerably from the press releases issued in January 2001, which highlighted the Fund as a neighbourhood/community pot. This has meant disappointment that some good schemes will not be able to be supported this year.
- 1.2 This report sets out a programme of projects and service improvements to be carried out in this financial year using the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. The Fund is intended to help narrow the gap between deprived communities and the rest of the city by improving services. It has to be used in partnership with the Local Strategic Partnership for Leicester but in its absence for this year the Leicester Regeneration Agency was used.
- 1.3 The programme has been integrated to include the priorities of the Leicester Regeneration Agency and the City Council. The programme is ambitious in its breadth and has been designed to support the establishment of an effective Local Strategic Partnership, to build the foundations for a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for the City and to support over stretched services in deprived areas whilst making a real contribution to the Public Service Agreement targets attached to the fund.
- 1.2 The report also seeks to establish an evaluation and monitoring framework to ensure the programme lives up to its promise.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 All the ideas that are included in the programme have been assessed to ensure that:

- They are primarily focused at Wards that feature in the worst 10% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- They will contribute to the PSA floor targets.
- They support the goals of the National Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan and Leicester's Community Plan and help tackle social exclusion.
- They support mainstream service priorities and where possible the corporate priorities of the Council.
- Wherever possible they can be contained within year one and will not fetter the LSP in subsequent years but will definitely not place an on going financial burden on the City Council.

2.2 In total 125 ideas have been generated throughout the consultation process identifying £20 million of potential expenditure in the first year. 43 of those ideas are suggested for support this year, valued at £4.20 million. A further 76 proposals were thought to have merit and agencies could be invited to submit proposals in years two and three if they fit with the new national criteria (when they become known), the views of the emerging Local Strategic Partnership and the priorities identified in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

2.3 The programme recommended for adoption fits the criteria and uses of the NRF agreed by Cabinet on 21 May 2001.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

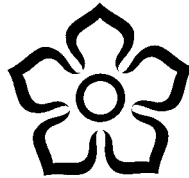
3.1 Cabinet is recommended to agree the year one NRF programme detailed in the supporting information section of this report and to delegate to the Director of Housing authority to progress all the proposals throughout the year.

3.2 Cabinet is further recommended to agree to the Director of Housing working with the LRA (NRF) Task Group to create an evaluation and monitoring framework for this programme that is linked directly to the Council's financial regulations and the PSA and Community Plan targets.

4. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report seeks agreement for £4.204 million Neighbourhood Renewal Fund expenditure for the remainder of this financial year and delegated authority to enable all the proposals to be carried out.

- 4.2 As the NRF is paid to the Authority as Special Grant all of its financial regulations will apply.
- 4.3 Legal Services have been consulted and had no specific comments to make.



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION/APPENDICES

1. THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- 1.1 The process for making decisions on the NRF in year was considered using a dual approach. Firstly, the Council ran an internal process looking at developments and improvements to its own services. Secondly, the Leicester Regeneration Agency appointed a task group from within its ranks to look at ideas generated from communities and other agencies.
- 1.2 After the initial assessments had been made all ideas were looked at using the methodology of the LRA Task Group, from which all ideas were ranked as either A, B, C or D.
- 1.3 The Council Process
 - 1.3.1 All departments were requested by Director's Board to submit their ideas for uses of the NRF at the end of February looking at service improvements in deprived areas. Using the known criteria attached to the fund. Ideas were submitted in mid March.
 - 1.3.2 At the beginning of April the Government's NRF conditions of Grant became available. Ideas underwent three different filters, firstly from the neighbourhood renewal perspective incorporating some of the conditions of grant. Secondly cross-departmental officer groups reflecting on service and corporate priorities of the Council assessed ideas.

Finally, the financial strategy team looked at the ideas using some of the conditions of grant, financial viability, deliverability and innovation.

- 1.3.3 On the 3 April 2001 Director's Board considered a report, which prioritised the Council's internally generated ideas and asked for ideas to be looked at in terms of supporting a year one spend only and to look at support for mainstream services as included in the governments conditions of grant.
- 1.3.4 Throughout April Departments fed back new or changed proposals to the AD for Neighbourhood Renewal, which in May were prioritised according to the same criteria as contained in the governments special grant report and their further guidance issued in April.
- 1.3.5 In late May these ideas were worked into a combined list with the work of the Leicester Regeneration Task Group.

1.4 The Leicester Regeneration Agency Process

- 1.4.1 On the 16 March 2001 (using the distribution list for Objective 2 funding, Community Forums and Tenants Associations) an information pack was sent to over 100 agencies and groups asking for their ideas and suggestions for the NRF.
- 1.4.2 Subsequent information was sent to the same groups and agencies after the Government's special grant report was published updating them on new criteria. Also in mid April a third letter was sent informing groups and agencies of the desire to consider proposals with a year one emphasis.
- 1.4.3 On 4 May the LRA Task Group re-examined the NRF in the light of the expressions of interest that had arrived. The following key questions were considered:
 - The relative importance of: identified targets in the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, the HM Treasury proposals for PSAs with local authorities, and goals and targets in the community plan (for Year 1 and for the full 3 years)
 - Whether to introduce further new criteria e.g. other key strategies, previously agreed.
 - How to deal with bids identified for Year 1 only, years 2 and 3, all 3 years, or more than 3 years.
 - How to identify bids which might impact on main programme provision, and how to use this factor.
 - Whether the range of bids submitted is wide enough or whether the panel would prefer to explore a wider range and invite further bidding

- The total amounts bid for, and the various proposed (sub) allocations

1.4.4 The conclusions from this meeting were that:

- The key focus of the NRF was to direct a new approach to the delivery of mainstream services, to respond to targets from March 2002. It was therefore vital that the NRF was used to set up the strategic and physical infrastructure, to the extent that it could be identified now. This is a strategic fund not a windfall.
- The meeting preferred the LRA and Cabinet to apply funding to Year 1 only, at the present time, recognising the need to develop this infrastructure, and also acknowledging a bias towards capital works in that year. It was noted that unspent funds could probably be held over to year 2 (under certain conditions). Capital grants should not tie up resources available in years 2 and 3 as the Government had signalled that its criteria for those years would probably change.
- An analysis of the expressions of interest that had been received demonstrated that in some cases there are gaps in main programs and that in others the proposals could simply duplicate existing provision. There is clearly a need for a proposal to demonstrate how it relates to main programmes.
- Indicative figures previously advised to partnerships should not be treated as prescribed budgets, and should not work against crosscutting initiatives.

1.4.5 The Task Group then examined all applications received by the LRA and categorised them as follows:

- “A” Recommended for funding
- “B” Recommended for further consideration within year 1 only
- “C” Not supported for year 1, but applicants to be invited to submit proposals for years 2 and 3 when Government funding criteria are known
- “D” Not supported.

1.5 Bids submitted within the City Council were also prioritised during this period and then categorised according to the same criteria “A” to “D”. A joint list was then prepared for the LRA task Group meeting on 24

May. This identified four main strategic applications of funds as detailed in section two of this report.

- 1.6 The Leicester Regeneration Agency agreed the programme at its meeting on the 4 June 2001. That meeting recommended that the Task Group be involved in setting up the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the fund.

2. THE DETAILED PROGRAMME

- 2.1 Reflecting the previous report agreed at Cabinet on 21 May 2001 the Leicester Regeneration Agency Task Group and Council Officers identified four main strategic applications of the NRF in year one.

- Strategic planning for the new Local Strategic partnership and pump-priming joint working and infrastructure development between services and agencies.
- Neighbourhood proposals that complement mainstream activity and support the aims of neighbourhood renewal, and which will deliver a visible output in the first year
- Community development and complement to the Community Empowerment Fund
- Support for mainstream service priorities and improvements in services in deprived areas.

- 2.2 The tables on the following pages give a description of the suggested year one programme. The left-hand column describes the proposal and where applicable the department/agency that has submitted it. The second column shows the amount of funding requested by the particular agency to support the proposal. The final column shows the suggested allocation.

A.

Strategic planning for new LSP and pump-priming of joint working and infrastructure development

Proposals and ideas received from	Amount Requested Agency £k	by	Recommended Allocation £k
St Matthew's Area Forum – Development of an area plan and strategy	20		Agencies and organisations to develop joint analysis, a plan and strategy to inform the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and joint commissioning and delivery of services. Joint City Council, Health and Voluntary Sector project group to be established. Allocation: £300k
New Parks – Mapping of current resources and development of a neighbourhood action plan and strategy	?		
Voluntary Action Leicester – Community development and needs mapping	390		
Resources For Communities – further development of project in New Parks and Eyres Monsell (Hsg)	40		
Revitalising Neighbourhoods- City-wide project to devolve decision making to communities and improve, join up and possibly collocate services in neighbourhoods (CXO)	177.5		
Feasibility Study for Young person's centre (SSD)	25		
Cross Agency Planning of Children's Services (SSD)(LCPP)	Not Specified		
Establish baseline assessment tool for nature & extent of service infrastructure in individual communities, identify Critical mass of service activities to current local centres of provision (PCT West)	Not Specified		
Better Strategic Response and Joined Up Working (PCT East)	Not Specified		
Map Current Community Education Provision and develop an inclusive city-wide strategy	Not Specified		

B.

Neighbourhood proposals that compliment mainstream activity, support the aims of NR, which will deliver a visible output in the first year

Proposals and ideas received from	Amount Requested by Agency £k	Recommended Allocation £k
Establish communications strategy and newsletter (Eyres Monsell Multi Agency Forum)	2	2
Improve dilapidated perimeter fencing enabling community based activities to be run in partnership with the school (Scraptoft school and Netherhall TA)	46	46
Building Foundations - providing placements in the construction industry for difficult to reach school leavers (Touchstone HA)	8.3	8.3
Environmental Improvements at Meynells Gorse (E&D)	5.5	5.5
Secure fencing targeted at elderly people's housing in high burglary areas (Rowlatts Hill Beat – Hamilton Police Station)	33	33
Burglar Alarms targeted at elderly people's housing in high burglary areas (Rowlatts Hill Beat – Hamilton Police Station)	27	27
Neighbourhood Warden Scheme (SRB6)	15	15
Aylestone post-coding of property (Neighbourhood watch)	2	2
Improving school attendance of children from Gypsy and Traveller families – purchase of a minibus (E &D)	24	24
Security improvements to prevent vandalism and theft from schools in IMD Wards (Ed)	450	150
Better street lighting in high crime hotspots - an acceleration of a current Council commitment (E&D)	150	75
Adaptations for respite carers' homes – targeted at vulnerable families in deprived neighbourhoods (SSD)	200	120
Learning co-ordinator for the New Deal area (Ed & BCA)	13	13 (match funded by BCA)

C.**Community Development and compliment to the Community Empowerment Fund:**

Proposals and ideas received from	Amount Requested by Agency £k	Recommended Allocation £k
The development of capacity within the African Caribbean Community (African Caribbean Citizens Forum)	100	40
Development of Community Learning Forums (Ed)	118.4	37
Pump-prime Community Empowerment fund (LRA)	Not set	50

D.**Mainstream Service Priority and Improvement in deprived areas.**

Proposals and ideas received from	Amount Requested by Agency £k	Recommended Allocation £k
Study Support for looked after children through a partnership with the library service. (A and L/SSD)	35	35
Doorstep delivery of Library resources (A&L)	41.5	41.5
Reading Development project with Primary school children and parents (A&L)	29.8	29.8
Extension of statutory duty for support for care leavers (SSD)	580	500
Service improvements for single homeless people and new vulnerable households (Hsg)	629	250
Development of Customer Services Centre at the New Parks Housing Office (Hsg/TC&CR)	280	150
Creation of employment in two IMD Wards through the creation of a New Science Park at Abbey Meadows (E&D/LRA)	1.5m	750
Active community and resource centre (VAL)	300	300

Proposals and ideas received from	Amount Requested by Agency £k	Recommended Allocation £k
Raising education attainment and reduce school exclusions in deprived wards (Ed)	715	715 (matched by the Standards Fund)
Development of a First Steps learning strategy for basic skills (Ed)	127.7	35
To provide 3 Learning Support Units to provide behavioural support to enable young people to stay in mainstream schools (Ed)	50	50
Neighbourhood Centres/Community Learning Provision		Group to establish strategic response and execute 1 or 2 projects based on Needs assessment and mapping of current resources.
Development of a Neighbourhood ICT Network (Ed)	305	
Extend Saffron Sports Hall to enable more community based health activities	187	Joint LEA, A & L and Voluntary Sector (Led by VAL) Project Group to be established.
Peepul Centre	267	
Belgrave Development and Enterprise Centre	300	Indicative allocation: £400,000
Extension of Red Kite Nursery to enable it to be self financing from April 2002	175	
Sparkenhoe Space for Arts	500	
Targeted support to primary schools and business mentoring	375	

Totals: £k

	Total	Cumulative Total
A	300	300
B	520.8	820.8
C	127	947.8
D	3256.3	4204.1

3. MONITORING THE PROGRAMME

3.1 It is important that this fund is used for its intended purpose and that the financial programme is managed effectively and in line with the Authority's financial regulations.

- 3.2 The Director of Housing, the Chief Financial Officer working with the LRA (NRF) Task Group should be delegated the responsibility of establishing and implementing a framework based on a monthly reporting structure informing the Director's Board of the Council and reporting to Cabinet twice yearly.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Leicester City Council has widely disseminated information on the NRF including its aims and context to partners in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.
- 4.2 The list below demonstrates the key events throughout March, April and May in the consultation process adopted by the Council.
- 4.3 LRA 12 March 2001 considered NRF process and invited to give ideas.
- 4.4 LRA Sub Group established and met twice in March and April at which discussions on ways to take NRF forward in the context of the emerging LSP and developing a local neighbourhood renewal strategy.
- 4.5 The Leicester Partnership against Crime and Disorder and the Health Executive Partnership considered NRF aims and process in March.
- 4.6 Information pack and request for ideas sent out to 102 agencies and partnerships 16 March 2001 deadline given for submission of ideas 16 April 2001.
- 4.7 Further letter sent out to the 102 agencies 4 April providing additional information contained in the Special Grant Report.
- 4.8 LRA meeting agreed these mechanisms on 23 April 2001.
- 4.9 Two briefings have been presented at separate meetings to Cabinet members in March and April.
- 4.10 Presentations have been given to the St Matthews and Highfields Area Forums and the African Caribbean Citizens Forum.
- 4.11 This consultation process has resulted in over 120 ideas being submitted to the Council for consideration.
- 4.12 Since the 4 May 2001 the LRA Task Group has worked with officers from the Environment and Development Department to develop a priority list of proposals from partners and the community and voluntary sector. Council Officers then integrated those proposals with the Council led proposals to develop the NRF year one programme. The LRA Task Group included representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, LABA, VAL and the Voluntary Sector, the LSC and Councillors.

- 4.13 On the 25 May 2001 the LRA task Group met with a Cabinet group of members, who discussed and noted the suggested programme accepting that the Council may wish to change some of the detail contained within the programme.
- 4.14 Finally, the Chief Financial Officer of the Council has been consulted who arranged for departmental financial teams to be consulted.

Other Implications	Yes/No	Para within supporting papers	References
Equal Opps Policy	Yes	1 & 2	
Sustainable & Environmental	Yes	1 & 2	
Crime and Disorder	Yes	2	
Human Rights Act	No		

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