

Design & Cost Report

Capital Scheme No: 13030/000/000

REPORT OF: Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing

MEETING: Executive Board

DATE : 17 May 2006

SUBJECT: Intensive Neighbourhood Management

Electoral Wards Affected :

Bramley and Stanningley, Pudsey, Hyde Park and Woodhouse, Chapel Allerton, Gipton and Harehills, Killingbeck and Seacroft, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, Temple Newsam, Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet, Middleton Park

Specific Implications For :

Ethnic Minorities

Women

Disabled People

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Board Decision

Eligible for Call In

Not eligible for Call In
(details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to inform members of the Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme targeted at the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the City. The programme has been developed through the District Partnerships of the Leeds Initiative.

The programme is largely funded through the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, a pooled funding resource under the Leeds Local Area Agreement. This includes the Neighbourhood Element revenue grant funding of £4.8 million over 4 years and the Safer, Cleaner and Greener capital grant funding of £2.1 million capital over 2 years.

The report seeks approval to inject £2.1 million capital grant into the approved capital programme (£970,000 in 2006/07 and £1,130,000 in 2007/08) for a programme of work to deliver cleaner, safer and greener public spaces in target neighbourhoods subject to consultation with local stakeholders.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information on the draft Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme developed by the District Partnerships of the Leeds Initiative under the Leeds Local Area Agreement.
- 1.2 The report sets out the resources allocated to support the delivery of the programme and the key activities and outcomes that be delivered to improve the quality of life of residents in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- 1.3 The reports seeks authority to inject £2.1 million capital grant into the approved capital programme (£970,000 in 2006/07 and £1,130,000 in 2007/08) for a programme of work to deliver cleaner, safer and greener public spaces in target neighbourhoods subject to consultation with local stakeholders.

2.0. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Index of Deprivation 2004, with the new lower level geography of super output areas (SOAs), has assisted in informing the development of programmes that target resources and activities to the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Residents in these neighbourhoods experience a relatively degraded environment and streetscene; high crime levels and fear of crime; antisocial behaviour; poor housing conditions and a high number of empty properties. These problems are often exacerbated by service responses that do not always meet local needs; a lack of community engagement; and low levels of community pride and cohesion. The Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme is designed to address these issues.
- 2.2 Two new funding blocks under the Government's Safer and Stronger Communities Fund were announced earlier this year to support targeted activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods. These are the Neighbourhood Element and the Safer, Cleaner and Greener grants allocated as part of the pooled resource to support the delivery of the Leeds Local Area Agreement (LLAA) for which the Council is the accountable body.
- 2.3 The Safer and Stronger Communities block of the LLAA includes a work strand that aims to Improve Service Delivery in Neighbourhoods. The achievement of the mandatory targets within this block will be dependent on the successful implementation of the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Programme. The draft programme has been developed by the District Partnerships of the Leeds Initiative led by the Council's Area Management Teams. This will be subject to consultation with local stakeholders.

3.0 Neighbourhood Element, Safer and Stronger Communities Fund

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Element of Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) merges into a single funding stream ODPM funding programmes for community empowerment networks, neighbourhood management and neighbourhood wardens. Eligible areas have been selected by the Government using the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 to identify the poorest 3% of SOAs nationally. The amount of funding allocated relates to the number of SOAs within this range. Only areas which fall within the most deprived 3% are eligible for funding.

3.2 The Neighbourhood Element provides funding to improve outcomes for people living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The funding is targeted to achieve the SSCF outcome: 'to improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and to ensure that service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery'.

3.3 Leeds is eligible to receive the following tapered revenue funding:

Financial Year	Neighbourhood Element
2006/07	£ 1,238,400
2007/08	£ 1,548,000
2008/09*	£ 1,238,400
2009/10*	£ 774,000
Total	£ 4,798,800

*Year 3 and 4 funding is subject to confirmation in the 2007 Spending Review.

3.4 The programme guidance draws heavily from the experience of Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders where experience has shown that key building blocks need to be put in place to stabilise deprived neighbourhoods to lay the foundations in which other interventions will have a better prospect for success. These measures include:

- **Improving liveability**, encompassing crime; fear of crime; anti-social behaviour; physical environmental quality; housing management; basic leisure provision for young people;
- **Tackling poor public services** to reduce educational underachievement, worklessness, poor health, teenage conceptions and offending;
- **Transforming neighbourhoods** through reconnecting them with housing and job markets where this is possible;
- **Empowering local people**, which is important in enabling local people to get involved and have a say in local decisions, and foster community cohesion;

3.5 The guidance states that whilst deprived neighbourhoods may need more resources, the management and co-ordination of resources and services is often the more serious challenge. The guidance includes a model approach to neighbourhood management but allows local partners discretion about the arrangements recognising that many areas have satisfactory arrangements in place on which they will wish to build.

4.0 Safer, Cleaner and Greener, Safer and Stronger Communities Fund

4.1 This funding is aimed at delivering cleaner and safer greener public spaces, one of the four SSCF national outcomes and is designed to compliment the above programme. It is predominantly capital funding that can be used to deliver physical improvements to public spaces but local authorities and their partners can determine local priorities that will contribute to SSCF outcomes within the Local Area Agreement.

4.2 Leeds is eligible to receive the following capital allocations:

Financial Year	Safer, Cleaner and Greener allocation
2006/07	£ 970,000
2007/08	£1,130,000

5.0 PROPOSED PROGRAMME

- 5.1 Target areas have been selected and agreed with GOYH to comply with SSCF programme guidance in the context of the LLAA. Resource allocations to areas broadly reflect the number of SOAs within the 3% most deprived within each target area. The target areas, based on the SOAs, are: Gipton and South Seacroft; Burmantofts and Richmond Hill; Beeston and Holbeck, Middleton Park and Belle Isle; Chapeltown and Harehills; Fairfields and Little London. A map indicating the target areas is attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The draft programme has been informed by experience and builds on the success of recent initiatives. These initiatives adopted a co-ordinated approach to public service delivery to enable front line staff to more effectively tackle the complex problems of maintaining safe and clean neighbourhoods and include:-
- A neighbourhood management initiative on the Halton Moor housing estate, East Leeds resulting in a 80% reduction of property voids with savings around £300,000, a reduction in the crime rate and a subsequent increase in property prices
 - The Signpost project in South Leeds that has worked successfully with 45 families and 65 young people to address anti-social behaviour leading to a 75% reduction in the number of offences committed by young people involved
 - Joint tasking teams to address 'crime and grime' hotspots in East Leeds over the period April 2004 to March 2005 resulted in 233 arrests for priority crimes; the removal of graffiti and rubbish from over 840 sites; 60 Anti-social Behaviour warnings, 20 Anti-social Behaviour contracts and 98 housing cautions issued; 192 fire safety checks on residential properties; and 72 children truanting from school dealt with by Education Welfare.
- 5.3 The draft programme attached at Appendix 2 identifies the key areas of expenditure that will enable the delivery of a range of activities reflecting the different challenges and priorities within the target neighbourhoods. Key elements of the programme include:-
- Dedicated environmental management capacity
 - Dedicated community safety capacity linked to Neighbourhood Policing
 - Empty property team
 - Support for young people and vulnerable families
 - Capital resources for problem sites and public realm improvement works
 - Neighbourhood Management staff to lead and co-ordinate activity
 - Community engagement workers
- 5.4 The Safer, Cleaner and Greener capital funding will support a range of improvement works to deliver:
- visible on-street environmental improvements such as repairs to footpaths and highways, enhancing binyards, improving boundary treatments, and enhancing greenspaces
 - security measures such as the target hardening of properties vulnerable to burglary, dawn to dusk lighting targeted at areas with high numbers of older residents, gating schemes to provide security and prevent anti-social activities, and the boarding up empty properties.
- 5.5 Activity programmes will be delivered through the District Partnerships based on:-
- A Neighbourhood assessment and Neighbourhood Improvement Plan based on meaningful consultation

- A performance management framework that links to the Leeds Local Area Agreement reporting mechanisms

5.6 The Intensive Neighbourhood Management approach cannot be successfully delivered with Safer and Stronger Communities Funding alone. The Neighbourhood Element and the Safer, Cleaner and Greener grant will fund additional activity and provide the resources to develop a more systematic approach based on local needs. Complimentary and linked activities will be delivered through NRF resources and partner mainstream resources. Together these provide the opportunity to re-engineer service delivery to improve and sustain change in the target neighbourhoods.

5.7 The Government anticipates that successful outcomes will be sustained through mainstream resource provision by achieving efficiency savings and targeting delivery for service providers. This time limited grant funding will enable a 4 year programme of interventions to restore target neighbourhoods to a position where they can be effectively managed within mainstream resources. The need for a robust exit strategy to effect a managed transition on expiry of the grant is recognised by partners.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The programme has been developed by the City Council's Area Managers on behalf of the District Partnerships and reported to the Narrowing the Gap Executive of the Leeds Initiative. Elements of the work programme, in particular environmental improvement works, will be subject to consultation with local stakeholders in the target areas to ensure that the planned activities reflect community needs.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 The programme will address a number of community safety issues including physical improvements to create safer public spaces; target hardening of vulnerable properties; the provision of positive activities for young people and work with young people and their families or carers to reduce anti-social behaviour and offending; and additional neighbourhood warden patrols and targeted policing interventions.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The programme will be fully funded from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund allocation to the City. This includes the Neighbourhood Element grant and the Safer, Cleaner and Greener grant.

Previous total Authority to Spend on this scheme	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2006 £000's	FORECAST				
			2006/07 £000's	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's	2010 ON £000's
LAND (01)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (03)	0.0						
VEHICLES (04)							
FURN & EQPT (05)	0.0						
DESIGN FEES (06)	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (07)	0.0						
TOTALS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2006 £000's	FORECAST				
			2006/07 £000's	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's	2010 ON £000's
LAND (01)	120.0		60.0	60.0			
CONSTRUCTION (03)	1686.9		742.5	944.4			
VEHICLES (04)	55.0		43.0	12.0			
FURN & EQPT (05)	59.0		47.0	12.0			
DESIGN FEES (06)	179.1		77.5	101.6			
OTHER COSTS (07)	0.0						
TOTALS	2100.0	0.0	970.0	1130.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2006 £000's	FORECAST				
			2006/07 £000's	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's	2010 ON £000's
LCC Funding							
Yorkshire Forward	0.0						
SSCF Grant	2100.0		970.0	1130.0			
Total Funding	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

10.0 RISK ASSESSMENTS

10.1 Risk Assessments will be incorporated into the design and implementation of the various elements of the programme as appropriate.

11.0 COMPLIANCE WITH COUNCIL POLICIES

11.1 The programme is a partnership programme to be delivered under the umbrella of the Leeds Local Area Agreement to contribute to the achievement of targets under the Safer and Stronger Communities block. This programme will contribute to the corporate objectives of Narrowing the Gap through targeted improvement works in most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the City.

12.0 COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

12.1 This report is not exempt from the call in of decisions.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 Executive Board is asked to

- i) approve the injection into the capital programme of £2.1m Safer, Cleaner and Greener capital grant
- ii) to note the proposed programme of work to deliver cleaner, safer and greener public spaces in target neighbourhoods subject to consultation with local stakeholders.