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## Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing

### Executive Board

Date: 24 January 2007

Subject: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund 2007/08 Programme

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Alwoodley, Armley, Beeston and Holbeck, Bramley and Stanningley, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, Chapel Allerton, City and Hunslet, Cross Gates and Whinmoor,, Farnley and Wortley, Gipton and Harehills, Hyde Park and Woodhouse, Killingbeck and Seacroft, Kirkstall, Middleton Park, Moortown, Roundhay and Temple Newsam.

#### Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrowing the Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund is allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government to 86 local authority areas across the country including Leeds, to target resources at improving services in the most disadvantaged areas to narrow the gap between them and the rest of the country. The City of Leeds has been allocated £14,938,567 in 2007/08.

From April 2007, the NRF grant awarded to the City becomes part of the pooled resource in the Leeds Local Area Agreement for which the City Council is the accountable body.

The 2007/08 programme has been developed in collaboration with the Leeds Initiative, the Local Strategic Partnership, through the Leeds Local Area Agreement lead officers and the Resources Partnership. The resulting programme covers a wide range of targeted activity that aims to improve the quality of life of residents in the City's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and contribute the achievement of the targets in the Leeds Local Areas Agreement.

Executive Board is asked to approve the recommended NRF programme for 2006/07.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

This report sets out:-

- the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund grant allocation for Leeds for 2007/08
- the process undertaken with partners to develop a forward programme to meet funding criteria focused on the achievement of PSA floor targets included in the Leeds Local Area Agreement
- the 2007/08 programme recommended by the Local Area Agreement leads and the Resources Partnership of Leeds Initiative for approval by the Executive Board of Leeds City Council.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 NRF is allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to 86 local authority areas across the country including Leeds to target resources to improve services in the most disadvantaged areas to narrow the gap between them and the rest of the country. In 2007/08 the City of Leeds has been allocated £14,938,567.
- 2.2 The City has received NRF grant over the last 5 years and has targeted this grant funding to areas and priorities agreed through the local strategic partnership. Programme implementation has been monitored to ensure that resources are directed to the achievement of the Public Service Agreement (PSA) floor targets and supports the accreditation of the local strategic partnership. The programme is managed by the Regeneration Service, Neighbourhoods and Housing Department, supported by Corporate Services. Input from the local strategic partnership, The Leeds Initiative, is provided through the Resources Partnership and its Funding Sub-Group.
- 2.3 From April 2007, the NRF grant awarded to the City becomes part of the pooled resource in the Leeds Local Area Agreement (LLAA) for which the City Council is the accountable body. The programme will operate in a revised context but priority must still be given to activity that will contribute to the achievement of the PSA targets within the 4 LLAA themes. The inclusion of NRF within the LLAA performance management framework brings into sharper focus the type of outputs and outcomes to be delivered with this funding.

## **3.0 Programme Review**

- 3.1 The 2006/07 programme was developed on the basis of applications for funding which were individually appraised against programme criteria to determine funding allocations. A two year indicative funding allocation was notified to the City but allocations were made for 2006/07 only in light of the need to review these in 2006 in the context of the LLAA which was still being developed at that time.
- 3.2 External consultants were commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the NRF programme to meet the requirements of the funding regime. As part of this work they were tasked with reviewing the 2006/07 programme to identify existing funded activity that was aligned to LLAA objectives and targets and where performance was at or above target. The LLAA includes a number of mandatory PSA floor targets and therefore there is a strong correlation between the 2 programmes.
- 3.3 The LLAA Theme leads were also asked to identify existing NRF funded activity that contributed to the delivery of PSA targets within the LLAA themes and to identify any gaps in provision particularly in light of the Mid-term Review of performance submitted to GOYH on 1 November. The submission and the initial feedback has enabled the

identification of key areas where performance needs to be accelerated to ensure that PSA Targets can be achieved over the lifetime of the LLAA and the priorities for commissioning new activity as resources allow.

- 3.4 In addition to individual projects, other activities that support the delivery of the NRF programme and the LLAA as a whole were also reviewed. These include the programme management function, local co-ordination of area based initiatives and more recent work involving the community empowerment network in delivering the cross cutting VCFS theme across the LLAA.

#### **4.0 Recommended Programme**

- 4.1 Following the review, projects with a total value of £4.8m are recommended to roll forward into 2007/08. These projects are listed at Appendix 1 by LLAA theme and are assessed as being fully aligned to LLAA targets and performing at or above target. Projects with a value of £6.7m were also identified as making a significant contribution but where additional work is required to ensure that the activity is appropriately targeted and linked with other mainstream provision to ensure a fuller contribution to the PSA targets in the LLAA. These projects are listed at Appendix 2 by LLAA theme and are recommended to roll forward conditional on further work by the project sponsors to strengthen delivery that will be reflected in the project Delivery Plan.
- 4.2 Priorities for new activity are informed by the LLAA Mid-term review and the traffic light assessment of the progress made against the mandatory PSA targets. The PSA Crime indicator within the Safer and Stronger Communities theme is the only mandatory PSA target where performance is assessed as red. The mandatory PSA Worklessness target in the Employment and Economic Development theme is assessed as amber.
- 4.3 Detailed performance information behind these headline indicators has informed the commissioning areas including the type of interventions and outputs to be delivered. The specifications and guidance on submitting proposals for NRF funded activity are detailed on the Leeds Initiative website. The process is open to all LLAA partners and will be determined through a competitive process with proposals assessed against the specification and criteria set out in the commissioning documentation. The closing date for the submission of proposals is 19 January 2007.
- 4.4 The key programme outcomes are summarised below:-

##### **Housing Outcomes**

- Improved housing conditions
- A reduction in the number of empty homes through work with landlords

##### **Community Safety Outcomes**

- A reduction in crime in particular burglary, vehicle crime and criminal damage
- An improvement in offender management
- A reduction in anti-social behaviour
- A reduction in the fear of crime through community reassurance services

##### **Employment Outcomes**

- A reduction in unemployment in target groups – young people, lone parents and black and minority ethnic residents.
- A reduction in the number of benefit claimants / households in receipt of benefits

### **Education Outcomes**

- Increased educational attainment (particularly underachieving young people, those with poor attendance or those at risk of exclusion)
- Increased skill levels

### **Health Outcomes**

- A reduction in health inequalities
- A reduction in coronary heart disease
- A reduction in teenage pregnancies
- An increase in the number of people with healthier lifestyles

### **Liveability Outcomes**

- Improvements in the physical environment and streetscene
- A reduction in environmental nuisance

### **Cross Cutting Outcomes**

- Development and co-ordination of area based regeneration programmes
- Effective targeting of resources and performance monitoring
- LSP accreditation
- VCFS co-ordination and community empowerment

4.5 Whilst the majority of projects in the 2006/07 programme are recommended to roll forward into 2007/08, there are a small number of projects which are not recommended to be refunded. Whilst some of these projects are delivering worthwhile activities they make only a limited contribution towards the achievement of PSA targets in the LLAA or are considered to have performed poorly against their agreed output targets based on assessment of their quarterly returns. These projects are listed at Appendix 4. Project sponsors were advised at the beginning of December 2006 that funding will cease on 31 March 2007 in compliance with the Compact requirements to provide 3 months notice of termination on 1 year funding agreements. Project sponsors are being offered guidance and assistance to secure resources from elsewhere although it should be noted that these opportunities are limited.

4.6 The review outcomes and the recommended programme were reported to a meeting of the Resources Partnership and the LLAA theme leads on 6 December 2006 and were broadly agreed.

### **5.0 Opportunities for the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector**

5.1 The open application process undertaken last year raised expectations about the availability of funding that could not be realised. Work has taken place to ensure that the sector has equal access to information and grant funding opportunities through the commissioning process supported by Leeds Voice and the VCFS Strategy Group. This has included the dissemination of information on the review and commissioning process through news bulletins and a workshop held in early December to provide guidance on submitting proposals.

### **6.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

6.1 It should be noted that funding allocations in 2007/08 will expire at the end of March 2008. DCLG commissioned consultants to undertake a national review of the NRF programme. This has now been completed but an announcement about the future of the NRF programme has yet to be made.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

Executive Board is asked to:-

- Approve the allocations to projects subject to the submission of a satisfactory Delivery Plan
- Delegate the approval to officers of commissioned activity against the specification and funding criteria.