



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Report to : Inner West Leeds Area Committee

Date: 3rd April 2008

Subject: Neighborhood Renewal Funding changes and impact on Inner West Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected:
Armley
Bramley and Stanningley

Ward Members consulted

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.0 This report highlights the impact of the changes to Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) in Leeds and its impact on the delivery of schemes in Inner West Leeds.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 This year (2007-08) Leeds received £15 million of NRF from the government. Due to this funding finishing there are obvious impacts on all parts of the city.

2.2 The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) is a special non ring-fenced grant which has been made available to England's most deprived local authorities, to enable them, in collaboration with their Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), to improve services, narrowing the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country.

2.3 Due to changes in budgets from the Department of Communities and Local Government, NRF is being replaced by the Working Communities Fund. NRF was focused on improvements to the lowest 3% Super Output Area (SOAs) neighbourhoods across the country with regards to the 'environment'. Working Communities Fund will target levels of worklessness across government defined cities. Unfortunately Leeds has not been classified as being in enough need for this strand of funding so is therefore only eligible for a small amount of transition funding to allow completion of some schemes.

- 2.4 The transition funding for Leeds means that some of the current schemes can continue in some form.

	NRF Allocation (£)
2007-08	15.0 million
2008-09	8.9 million
2009-10	3.4 million
2010-11	0

- 2.5 There are currently 72 projects running in the city that are funded through NRF. Of this number 32 are active in Inner West Leeds in some way i.e. as a City wide provision (please see appendix 1 for full information). In addition, 3 schemes are specific to West Leeds:

NRF Scheme Number	Project Title
CYP09	Looked after children
GAP13	Area Regeneration Team – West
HCOP07	More than a school

- 2.6 The nature of the city wide bids mean that at this time, there is no way of confirming if the schemes will continue in their current form as most of them will have significantly reduced funding. This reduction does not mean that the project will cease, as other funding may have been secured to continue this work.

The three schemes specific to west will be impacted upon as follows:

- 2.7 **Looked after children:**
As the scheme is running as a pilot with some experimental works being done, Children's services would like the scheme to continue to see effective outputs over a longer period of time. This project is therefore being funded at the same level in 2008-09 as this year.

- 2.8 **Area Regeneration Team – West**
As part of the re-structure proposals in the regeneration section programmes such as this are to be mainstreamed into the councils permanent structure. This means that the work will be undertaken as part of a new team not funded through NRF. Although the exact level of work in the area will be determined once the restructure is in place, this team will take forward the West Leeds Gateway.

- 2.9 **More than a school**
Negotiations are currently ongoing regarding the exact delivery strategy for the next year on this scheme but transition funding has been confirmed but at a reduced level compared to this year.

- 2.10 **Wardens**
The Neighbourhood Wardens across the city are funded through a combination of sources. This funding package pays for all of the wardens so in effect the wardens

that are NRF funded are only partly affected by the loss of the funding. Inner West currently has one post funded in this way as all others are funded through partnerships, for example West North West Homes Leeds. Transitional funding has also been secured for 2008-09 so there are no implications on the wardens in the next financial year, and long term funding is being investigated at this time to allow further years to be funded.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The reduction in funding will impact heavily on certain projects but the full impact may not be seen for some time. As each project will have very different funding they will obviously all be investigating how they will be able to continue their work even if they are receiving some of the transition funding. This means that there could be some applications to wellbeing in the early stages followed by more at a later date.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 The reduction in funding may have an impact on the Well Being Budget as those agencies affected will seek to make good the loss incurred.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The reduction in NRF could lead to various applications for funding to the Inner West Area committee thus placing additional pressures on this pot of funding. This should be considered by the Area Committee.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Delivery of projects and outputs will be effected by the changes to the funding but the full impact will not be seen until future funding is confirmed for the continuation of the schemes.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the report and discuss the implications of the reduction in funding with regards to its impact on Well-being funds.