



14 November 2008

Dear Theme Board Chairs

### Theme Board Performance Management and the Area Based Grant

As you know a review of the Area Based Grant was carried out over July and August 2008 and I attach a copy of the report. The principal focus of the Review was to provide a greater understanding of how the Area Based Grant is being utilised across the Partnership; informing on whether projects and programmes in receipt of funding are delivering against the priority outcomes agreed by the Partnership within the 2008/09-2010/11 Local Area Agreement.

The report has now been considered by the HSP's Performance Management Group and the recommendations agreed for the way forward have also been ratified by the Haringey Strategic Partnership at its meeting on 04 November 2008. The main recommendations are:

- As the Area Based Grant is allocated to local authorities on a three year basis, it is recommended that this stability is extended to thematic boards. As such I am confirming that theme boards will receive two year allocations of ABG, subject to final confirmation from government of Haringey's allocation of ABG for years 2009/10 and 2010/11. Chairs will be informed of their indicative allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11 in due course.
- Theme boards are responsible for managing and delivering against partnership priorities within their remit including Local Area Agreement outcomes and national indicators. To support this there is the expectation that theme boards commission programmes of activity and interventions to support delivery and achievement of the priorities. Theme board are responsible for overseeing the performance management of all activities financed through allocations of ABG, tacking remedial action as required where performance is as risk. In addition to commissioning, theme boards also hold the responsibility for de-commissioning programmes of activity and interventions, where projects are not deemed to be delivering against outcomes and performance management is poor and remains poor despite remedial actions implemented.

- In March 2008 all projects received confirmation of funding for one year only (April 2008 until March 2009), subject to satisfactory review. It will be up to theme boards to decommission or approve project funding from April 2009 onwards.
- There should be a clear link between Area Based Grant funded activity and the delivery of local area agreement outcomes and national priorities. Theme boards must performance manage their allocation of the ABG, ensuring that project activity is reported and considered quarterly with the theme board score cards on outcomes. Theme boards must consider what remedial action if any should be taken against amber and red RAG rated projects to bring performance up. Theme boards are accountable to the HSP for delivery and achievement of outcomes; as such any remedial action that the board deems necessary to implement against underperforming projects or outcomes should be reported to the HSP within the cycle of reporting. I therefore look forward to receiving from you within your quarterly report any action to be taken relating to projects that were overall RED or Amber rated within the ABG review.
- For future years thematic boards are asked to streamline the overall number of projects into programmes of specific partnership priorities or outcomes. This will help reduce the burden of reporting and minimise duplication.
- The PMG has agreed to continue to review the ABG activity yearly, in addition to the quarterly performance monitoring to be undertaken by theme boards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the officers for participating in the Area Based Grant Review. I look forward to continued progress being made, and successful partnership working to improve the life chances of all our residents.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor George Meehan**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**Chair of the Haringey Strategic Partnership**