

REPORT TO BETTER PLACES PARTNERSHIP

NRF AND SSCF PROGRAMME – MID YEAR REVIEW AND PROPOSALS FOR 2007/08

I. Introduction

1.1 The Better Places Partnership is responsible for agreeing and monitoring delivery of the NRF and SSCF programme – Safer, Cleaner, Greener block. This report sets out progress for the current year (performance and spend), identifies those projects that could be considered for removal from the programme in 2007/08 and asks the Better Places Partnership to bring forward proposals for any replacement projects.

2. Background

2.1 The current year's programme for NRF and SSCF is arranged under five key themes, each comprises a series of individual projects which collectively are expected to deliver improved services in some of the most deprived parts of Haringey. The five themes are:

- Improving the environment – a package of enhanced services to improve the overall cleanliness and quality of the built and natural environment;
- Promoting participation and increasing recycling – a programme of education, campaigns and targeted information to boost participation and increase the amount of trade waste recycled;
- Improving safety on the roads and in open green spaces;
- Tackling climate change – developing a borough wide approach to tackling climate change and promote sustainability; and
- Promoting healthy lifestyles – particularly among vulnerable and excluded communities.

2.2 The total budget for the programme is £3,370, £970k (capital) funded from the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund and £1,230k funded through NRF. (The complete programme is attached as Appendix A.) Currently, NRF funding is expected to continue for a further year, until April 2008, while SSCF is expected to continue for two further years. However, both funding streams will be subsumed into the new single allocation pot aligned to the Local Area Agreement, due to come on stream in April 2007.

3. Programme delivery progress

Performance and outcomes

Improving the environment

3.1.1 This part of the programme largely comprises enhancements to existing mainstream services with some additional projects targeted at some of the most deprived wards in

Haringey. Additional mobile clean teams, new Saturday night refuse collections on the highroads, clearing and prevention of fly-tipping, additional community clear ups and street washing and parks cleaning are all part of a programme aimed at keeping streets and open spaces cleaner and increasing resident satisfaction. The most recent resident satisfaction data collected during the summer showed significant improvements in satisfaction for parks, playgrounds and open spaces and street cleaning. Highest levels of satisfaction were found for:

- refuse collection (69% good / very good)
- street lighting (72% good/very good)
- street cleaning (62% good / very good)
- parks, playgrounds and open spaces (59% good / very good).

- 3.2 Performance against a number of indicators has improved and been maintained. The borough has 7 accredited green flag parks and between April and October 2006 548 abandoned vehicles were removed from the streets and a further 222 residents took advantage of the vehicle take back scheme (whereby the Council remove unwanted vehicles and dispose of them free of charge). Nine percent of abandoned vehicles are removed within 24 hours, 5 per cent short of the end of year target. However, improvements in the overall cleanliness of the borough, as measured through BV199, have still to be achieved.

Promoting participation and increased recycling

- 3.3 Promoting and increasing recycling in the borough is a key priority for the Council and its partners on the Better Places Partnership and additional resources have been targeted through the NRF / SSCF programme to extend facilities to households currently without door step recycling and to strengthen communication and campaigns to encourage participation. These resources have been added to a substantial additional mainstream funding. The programme of work is performing strongly with additional door step and near entry recycling facilities currently being rolled out to 6,000 homes on housing estates in the east of the borough.

- 3.4 The council has set itself a target to recycle 22% of household waste by the end of the financial year. Currently performance is above 21.9% and the addition of new facilities, combined with education and information campaigns, should enable the borough to comfortably meet this target.

Improving safety on the roads and in open green spaces

- 3.5 The area of work comprises a series of projects which include an enhanced presence on the streets and open green spaces, including street wardens, parks constabulary and outreach workers. In addition, the funding is supporting a package of road safety, education and safety campaigns, as well as traffic management and signage. All primary schools in the 10% most deprived (NRF) wards are now working with the project team to set up walking buses and to identify safety improvements to routes used by pupils attending these schools. Some of these road improvements have already been carried out including traffic calming around Bruce Grove Primary and on Brantwood Road in Northumberland Park.

- 3.6 The key performance indicators in this area are the number of people killed or seriously injured each year and the number of people slightly injured. Current performance against the first indicator is worse than at the equivalent time last year, however, the number of people slightly injured in accidents has reduced during the first six months of this year.

Tackling climate change

- 3.7 The main areas of work within this area of the NRF/SSCF programme for Better Places are investment in energy efficient technology such as street lights and pay and display machines, energy improvement efficiencies in private sector homes, flood prevention works and research and policy development to deliver a climate change action plan for Haringey. Residents who receive adaptations from social services and who also live in the most deprived wards are being targeted for free energy efficiency improvements in their homes, while energy efficient street lighting will be piloted shortly in the north of the borough. A package of flood prevention works has already been completed and the Council has now formally signed up to the Nottingham Declaration.
- 3.8 The funding for this part of the programme was intended to kick start some key areas of work which would inform and shape future policy and investment around the emerging 'green' agenda. Currently this programme is making a significant contribution to debate and policy development in this area.

Promoting healthy lifestyles

- 3.7 A series of projects are funded through this programme to encourage target groups to take part in fitness activities and sports programmes across the borough – many of which have also successfully attracted funding from partners and other parts of the Council. Holiday sports activity programmes and sports scholarships are key elements of the programme, as well as a new Youth Active Card due to be launched imminently and expected to attract around 10,000 young people into the scheme. The final project in this area has been commissioned from Hackney Community Transport to review community transport in the borough and bring forward options for future delivery arrangements.
- 3.8 Thousands of young people have already taken part in sports and coaching sessions funded through this programme. In addition, a Walking Project has been set up with 16 walk leaders now trained and working with the Neighbourhood Management teams to set up local walking groups and four of the borough parks now have signed and planned walking routes. A detailed first stage report has now been received from Hackney Community Transport.

4. Spend profile

- 4.1 As previously explained, a substantial amount of the current NRF/SSCF budget is currently funding an enhanced level of those front line environmental services which impact most heavily on the overall quality of the external environment. Many of these services are being targeted to some of the most deprived parts of Haringey. These projects are all projected to successfully spend the entire allocation within this programme.

4.2 In addition, there is a number of substantial capital projects (eg energy efficient technology, automated public convenience, energy efficiency in homes and recycling facilities) that have been required to adhere to procurement contract standing orders and where the spend will be largely back-loaded to the last quarter of the financial year 2006/07. However, these projects are on schedule and expected to spend the full allocation during 2006/07.

5. NRF / SSCF PROGRAMME 07/08

5.1 The programme for the current year was developed to deliver the Partnership priorities and there is now clear evidence that these resources are securing better and extended services and some improvement in satisfaction ratings. In particular, the programme has been shaped to target extra resources to the most deprived parts of Haringey. It is also clear that these resources are largely aligned with significant mainstream services delivered by the Council and partners, helping to deliver improvements against a range of national floor targets, CPA performance indicators and LAA stretch targets such as recycling, cleanliness of streets and open spaces, people killed or seriously injured on the roads and participation in recreational activities. It is suggested that funding in these areas should continue in 2007/08.

5.2 However, there are potentially some projects which could be discontinued in 2007/08 on the grounds that the work will be completed by April 07, that alternative funding has been found or that they are no longer a priority for the Partnership. These include:

- Automated public convenience £125k - this was agreed as a pilot and needs to be fully evaluated before a decision is made to invest in further APCs.
- Ground Work £70k – this project is proposed for mainstream funding from 2007/08
- Investment in energy efficient technology £180k – these funds were intended to test out technology which would then inform future procurement decisions
- Flood prevention £50k – work completed during the current year.

Total - £425k

5.3 Clearly if the Partnership agrees to discontinue funding for some, or all, of these projects it then has some flexibility to bring forward alternatives which will then need to be approved as part of the overall programme by the Strategic Partnership. Alternatively, it could choose to further strengthen existing and successful projects within the current programme.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The current NRF / SSCF programme for the Better Places Partnership is successfully delivering the required outcomes and performance improvements. The Partnership now needs to agree any changes to next year's programme and submit these to the HSP for approval.