

REPORT TO BETTER PLACES PARTNERSHIP

NRF AND SSCF PROGRAMME – PROGRAMME 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. The total spend for this programme for 2007/08 will be £3.37 million, of which £1.13 million is allocated to the Safer, Stronger, Communities block and ring-fenced to the super-out areas (Noel Park, Bruce Grove and Northumberland Park). At the meeting in December the Partnership agreed to continue the substantial majority of current projects during 2007/08. However, a small number of projects are not continuing and replacement projects now need to be agreed by the Partnership. The complete programme then requires the approval of the Haringey Strategic Partnership at its meeting on 28th February.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Better Places Partnership is recommended to agree the outline project described in paragraph 3 and to approve the total spend and programme for NRF and SSCF for 2007/08 (appendix a).

3. Background

3.1 The current year's programme for NRF and SSCF comprises a series of individual projects that collectively are expected to deliver improved services and a cleaner, greener and safer environment in some of the most deprived parts of Haringey. The four themes which will underpin the programme for 2007/08 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 recycling participation and increase the amount of trade waste recycled;
- Improving safety on the roads and in open green spaces;
- Promoting healthy lifestyles – particularly among vulnerable and excluded communities.

The Better Places Partnership has agreed to continue into next year most projects included in the current year's programme. However, it also agreed to discontinue a small number of projects, leaving £285k unallocated for 2007/08. This is split between NRF (£50k) and SSCF (£235k). In addition, the government has slightly changed the funding for the programme, reducing the NRF programme by £160k and increasing SSCF by a corresponding amount to be used as revenue, rather than capital.

- 3.2.1 In December the Better Places Partnership asked officers to bring back a proposal to use the unallocated funds linked to further improvements to open green spaces in Haringey and encouraging more people to use parks and other leisure facilities in the borough. In addition, any new project will need to underpin and support delivery of one or more of the new Local Area Agreement stretch targets, now agreed by the Haringey Strategic Partnership. Some of the targets directly relevant to the Better Places Partnership include increased recycling rates, improved street cleanliness, increased satisfaction with parks and open spaces and gaining awards for the management and quality of parks (green flags) and small, green open spaces (green pennants).
- 3.3 However, the overall programme will also make a strong contribution to other stretch targets including those to improve the health of older people and to reduce crime in the borough. Enhanced security and enforcement on the streets and in Haringey's parks and open green spaces, as well as work to develop and deliver community transport, health and fitness programmes and energy efficiency and security measures for older and disabled people living in the private sector are all key examples of projects that will help to deliver the LAA.

4. Proposal for a new project for the 2007/08 programme

- 4.1 One of the twelve new targets set out within the new Local Area Agreement relates to improving the quality of open green spaces in Haringey and increasing the overall satisfaction of our residents with their parks and open green spaces. The Council has already successfully achieved 7 green flag parks, the most awarded to any London borough, and has now agreed a stretch target in the LAA to deliver a further five.
- 4.2 The new stretch target also includes gaining 5 green pennant awards – the equivalent of the green flag but for small, green open spaces, and to increase residents' overall satisfaction with their parks and open spaces to 77% by 2010. If achieved, these improvements would deliver substantial reward grant from the government.
- 4.3 In line with the views of the Partnership, it is therefore proposed that the remaining unallocated funds in the NRF/SSCF programme are directed to help deliver this stretch target. The outline project would include a mix of landscaping and infrastructure improvements and community development in five small, green open spaces, within the super output areas. It is proposed that Groundwork should play an active role in working with local residents and tenants to deliver this project. It is anticipated that their involvement would have the benefit of attracting match funding. In addition, a proportion of the resources would be directed to develop walking trails and green gyms in the larger parks and open green spaces that serve the communities within Noel Park, Bruce Grove and Northumberland Park.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The NRF / SSCF programme for 2007/08 is expected to continue to deliver better services in some of the most deprived parts of the Borough and to help achieve several of the new stretch targets included in Haringey's Local Area Agreement.