

Meeting: Better Places Partnership Board

Date: 11 March 2008

Title: Quarterly Monitoring Update for the Better Places Partnership's Programmes of Projects.

Report of: Joanna David, Assistant Director Service Improvement.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report on the current progress across the two programmes, providing monitoring information for spend and progress against outputs and performance.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The report sets out the current position for the programme of projects that the Better Places Partnership (BPP) has approved and allocated funding to for the current year 2007/08 with Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) and Stronger, Safer Communities Funding (SSCF). The report details of financial spend across the programmes identifying any issues of concern and progress made against delivery of outputs and outcomes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the current position across the programme of projects funded with NRF and to continue to monitor progress for slippage.
- 3.2 To note the current underspend within SSCF programme for the Automatic Public Conveniences project and action being taken to resolve this.
- 3.3 To note that this is the last year of the Cleaner Safer Greener Element (capital element of the SSCF grant).

4. Background Information

- 4.1 Haringey's Local Area Agreement (LAA) Grant allocation for 2007/08 is £15,545,909. This comprises seventeen mandatory funding streams pooled together in accordance with Government guidance. LAA Finance Guidance stipulates that the LAA Grant (2007/08) must be utilised solely for the purposes of delivering the LAA.

- 4.2 The NRF and SSCF are both mandatory pooled funding streams within the LAA Grant. Haringey's NRF allocation for 2007/08 is £7,862,806, of which the BPP was allocated the sum of £2,240,000. Haringey's SSCF allocation for 2007/08 is £2,193,709, of which BPP was allocated the sum of £1,130,000.
- 4.3 In March 2007 the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) agreed the NRF and SSCF funding for projects and activities to be delivered by the Council and partners, through its Thematic Boards, for 2007/8.
- 4.4 The NRF and SSCF programmes of projects have been aligned with the LAA outcomes to demonstrate that all allocated spend contribute to the delivery of one or more LAA outcomes (as per LAA Finance Guidance).

5. The current position NRF – programme value £2,240,000

- 5.1 The BPP has approved a total of twenty projects that are currently in receipt of NRF. The majority of these projects are managed through the council and are working towards the cleaner safer greener agenda adding value to statutory provision.
- 5.2 Current spend (as at 21 February 2008) across this programme is £1,846,778 against the allocation of £2,240,000, with the value of £393,222 remaining to be spent by 31 March 2008. Spend is currently on target for the majority of projects, as per project spend profiles, and the majority of project managers are confident that full spend will be achieved as per allocation. At this stage in the programme where underspend is identified, it will be taken back by the programme management team to off set the level of over programming across the NRF programme.
- 5.3 A number of projects within the BPP programme have identified committed spend, yet to be put through the SAP financial system. This needs to be defrayed as soon as possible in order to achieve the full spend, as only actual spend as of 31 March will count as expenditure in real terms.
- 5.4 The projects align to National Indicators within the Local Agreement, straddling two blocks: Safer and Stronger Communities block; and Healthier Communities and Older people block.
- 5.5 Good progress has been made against delivery of outcomes and outputs and this is detailed within the progress update table.
- 5.6 This is the final year of NRF and a review of the seven year programme will be undertaken in April 2008. Project managers will be required to provide a detailed report of outputs achieved for the life time of the programme, as part of this review, and the thematic board will be required to assess the achievement of outcomes, performance and value for money of their programme against NRF Floor targets.

6. The current position SSCF – programme value £1,130,000

- 6.1 The BPP has approved a total of six projects that are in receipt of SSCF. The majority of SSCF funding is targeted at capital improvements within the three super output areas, with only a small proportion funding revenue expenditure, as per Government stipulation.
- 6.2 Current spend (as at 21 February 2008) across this programme is £606,426, with the value of £523,574 remaining to be spent by 31 March 2008. Traditionally capital spend is profiled heavily towards the last two quarters of the year, and although spend is currently on target, as per project spend profiles) there is always a risk of slippage due to key activity not occurring as originally programmed.
- 6.3 Good progress has been made against delivery of the majority of outcomes and outputs and this is detailed within the progress update table. The exception to this is the 'Automated Public Conveniences' project. Issues of concern were raised about this project at the last meeting on 17 December 2007 and a way forward was identified. Unfortunately the position has changed again and it is now confirmed that this project will not be able to be delivered within the timeframe of 31 March 2008 due to procurement issues amongst other things.
- 6.4 In order to mitigate against potential risk of underspend, considerations have been made as to how the remaining value of spend against this project can be deployed elsewhere. Key actions for consideration were approved by the Chair of BPP and the Lead Member under delegated authority, which now need to be ratified by the BPP members. Key actions include:
- Resurfacing of Greyhound Road, £50,000.
 - Relighting Tottenham High Road, £ 60,000.
 - Request to carry forward £14,000
 - Highways have agreed to release £110,000 from their 2008/09 capital budget which will then be used along with the £14,000 carry forward to finance the delivery of the new APC within the new time scale.
- 6.5 Although there is potential to carry forward 5% underspend into 2008/09 this will need to be officially requested and approved by Government Office for London. The LAA programme management team will request this carry forward on behalf of BPP.
- 6.6 Members will be aware that the LAA Grant is being replaced by the Area Based Grant (ABG) in April 2008. The ABG is a revenue grant only. Government Office for London have confirmed that 2007/08 is the final year that local areas will be awarded the Cleaner Safer Greener Element - capital element of the SSCF grant. This is potentially £1,000,000 worth of funding which is lost to Haringey.