

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF): OUTTURNS FOR 2004-06 AND PRIORITIES, PROCESSES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES FOR 2006-08
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Summary

- Section 1 of this paper provides a summary of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) out-turns for 2004/5 and 2005/6 (covering the two-year Treasury Spending Review allocation for NRF)
- Section 2 sets out the process and priorities for the allocation of the NRF for the two-year period 2006-08. It summarises a framework that will enable the Tower Hamlets Partnership to begin delivery of its 2006-08 programme for neighbourhood renewal from June 2006, and that will ensure that the arrangements for commissioning using the NRF, and for its monitoring and reporting, are appropriate and sound.

1. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF) 2004 – 2006: SUMMARY

Framework for allocation 2004 – 06

The total NRF available for the period was:

Year	£'000
2004/5	13,640
2005/6	18,180
Total	31,820

The framework agreed by the Partnership for it was as follows:

		2004/5 £'000	2005/6 £'000	Total £'000
Focus 1	Development of centrally co-ordinated local management to deliver improvements through Local Area Action Plans	4,500 inc. 500 per LAP	4,500 inc. 500 per LAP	9,000
Focus 2	Co-ordinated cross-borough work focusing on progress towards targets (including hotspots)	7,775	11,860	19,635
Focus 3	Capacity building and development support across the Partnership (<i>Partnership Support Team, communications, engagement and consultation, training, monitoring and evaluation, programme management of NRF initiatives</i>)	1,365	1,820	3,185
Total		13,640	18,180	31,820

In addition, in order to reduce the risk of slippage identified within Year 1, and to ensure maximum spend overall, a 15% over-programming element was agreed, spread over the two years.

Actual Spend for 2005 – 06

Final details of the actual spend will be confirmed on closure of the accounts in June 2006, but present indications are that the final spend profile is as follows:

		2004/5 Actual	2005/6 Provisional	Total Provisional
Focus 1	Development of centrally co-ordinated local management to deliver improvements through Local Area Action Plans	£3,342,484	£4,884,536	£8,227,020
Focus 2	Co-ordinated cross-borough work focusing on progress towards targets (including hotspots)	£9,733,864	£11,615,018	£21,348,882
Focus 3	Capacity building and development support across the Partnership	£705,789	£1,377,904	£2,083,693
Total		£13,782,537	£17,877,458	£31,659,595

For Focus 2, CPAGs were asked to commission activities to deliver agreed Community Plan and Neighbourhood Renewal outcomes. All proposals arising through this process were then subject to a rigorous appraisal process, including independent, external assessment and consideration by an Appraisal Panel.

The breakdown of expenditure and activity area for Focus 2 was as follows:

	2004/5 Actual	2005/6 Provisional	Total Provisional
Living Safely	£2,122,462	£3,110,595	£5,233,057
Living Well	£3,789,604	£2,317,584	£6,107,188
Creating and Sharing Prosperity	£1,308,239	£3,109,341	£4,417,580
Learning Achievement and Leisure	£2,513,559	£3,077,498	£5,591,057
Total	£9,733,864	£11,615,018	£21,348,882

Some headline activities

Living Safely

- Roll out of Safer Neighbourhoods Teams
- Development of in-borough CCTV control room
- Mobile police contact unit
- Challenging ASB programme

Living Well

- Advocacy services for A&E
- PhysioDirect
- GP refurbishment
- Chronic disease management
- Expert patients
- Mobile breast screening
- Community-based spirometry
- New Residents Project
- Single Assessment process for older people
- Enhanced homecare
- Smoking cessation
- School health programme
- Healthwatch
- Decent neighbourhoods programme

Creating and Sharing Prosperity

- Access to Job Entry
- Targeting Recurrent Unemployment
- Progression Routes from Community-based Provision
- Social enterprise programme

Learning, Achievement and Leisure

- Cultural and leisure programme for young people
- Out of school learning programme
- Extended youth services
- Building and refurbishments at Weavers; Davenant; Good Shepherd; St. Hilda's; Attlee

2. ALLOCATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF) 2006 – 2008

Framework for allocation

The Partnership agreed that the broad framework for the allocation of NRF should remain the same as in previous years, adjusted, however, to take into account the priorities agreed through the borough's Local Area Agreement (LAA).

One of the freedoms allowed under the terms of the Local Area Agreement is the ability to 'pool', into a single budget, the NRF and the *Neighbourhood Element* of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. Since the intentions underlying each of these funding streams are consistent with our approach to neighbourhood renewal, it is sensible to do so. This means that the total amount to be allocated through the allocation framework is as follows:

Year	NRF (£m)	Neigh Element (£m)	Total (£m)
2006/7	16.36	1.032	17.392
2007/8	14.54	0.825	15.365
Total	30.90	1.857	32.757

The broad framework agreed for NRF 2006-2008 is therefore as follows:

		2006/7 (£m)	2007/8 (£m)	Total (£m)
Focus 1	The development of centrally co-ordinated local management to deliver improvements through Local Area Action Plans	4.5	4.5	9.0
Focus 2	Co-ordinated cross-borough work focusing on supporting achievement of LAA priority outcomes (particularly those mandatory for neighbourhood renewal areas)	11.252	9.415	20.667
Focus 3	Capacity building and development support across the Partnership	1.64	1.45	3.09
	Total	17.392	15.365	32.757

Accountabilities and Programme Management

A detailed framework setting out the accountabilities and programme management arrangements has been agreed through the Excellent Public Services CPAG. The full framework is available from Alastair King (x4981), but the key elements are summarised below.

Essentially, the framework aims to ensure that there are clear lines of responsibility for all elements of the programme, and that the Council's responsibilities as the Accountable Body for NRF are fully met.

Commissioning proposals for use of NRF

- All proposals for the use of NRF must be agreed at the development stage both by the relevant CPAG Chair and by the Chief Officer / Director of an agreed **Sponsoring Agency** (the sponsoring agency would be either one of the statutory public services or an umbrella voluntary sector organisation with recognised accountable body status).
- Proposals will be prepared by an agreed delivery agency, in accordance with the agreed criteria for the use of NRF, and must be signed off by the CPAG Chair and Chief Officer of the sponsoring agency.
- As in previous years, all proposals are subject to a rigorous appraisal process, including independent, external assessment and consideration by an Appraisal Panel overseen by the Partnership Management Group.
- Each agreed proposal will be subject to a SLA

Programme Management

- Day to day responsibility for the management and coordination of the programme, and for the issuing and monitoring of SLAs, will be carried out by a NRF Operations Unit – a Programme Manager with additional support as necessary – responsible to the Council's lead officer for accountable body functions.
- Each CPAG has identified a Programme Support Manager to ensure that its programme is effectively managed and progress reported to the CPAG, the sponsoring agency and the NRF Operations Unit.
- The Programme Manager and Programme Support Managers will report to a NRF Programme Board, with responsibility for ensuring that the programme is effectively managed and monitored.

Monitoring

- Quarterly monitoring and reports of progress against financial and activity milestone and against targets will be collected and collated through the NRF Operations Unit

Reporting Arrangements

The NRF Programme Board will ensure that the reporting arrangements set out in the following table are adhered to.

Level of impact	Reporting process	Responsibility	Timescales
Progress and impact of individual initiatives to support NRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual initiative monitoring reports to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sponsoring Agency - NRF Operations Unit • Collated progress reports and risk assessments on individual initiatives prepared by NRF Operations Unit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NRF Programme Board - Chief Officers - CPAG chairs - Chair of Partnership • Completed summary reports to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PMG • Overall summary report to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wider Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Officer for Delivery Agency • CPAG Programme Support Managers • NRF Programme Board • Head of Partnership Support Team • Head of Partnership Support Team 	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>Quarterly</p>
Collective impact of initiatives on LAA and floor targets	<p>Evaluation report, including summary of monitoring outcomes and impact on LAA and floor targets, prepared by NRF Operations Unit, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PMG - Cabinet - Wider Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs of CPAGs report to PMG • NRF Programme Board report to Cabinet • Head of Partnership Support Team reports to wider Partnership 	<p>6 months to end Sept (report October / November)</p> <p>Annual (report April / May)</p>
Overall impact of NRS initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation reports prepared (as agreed) by external agency working with NRF Operations Unit, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NRF Programme Board - PMG Evaluation Group - Relevant CPAG - Wider Partnership • Final Evaluation Reports (as agreed) to: wider Partnership • Case studies 	<p>Lead officer for NRF Operations Unit</p> <p>Lead officer for NRF Operations Unit</p> <p>Head of Partnership Support Team</p>	<p>To be specified</p> <p>To be specified</p> <p>To be specified</p>