

Committee: Cabinet	Date: 5 th March 2008	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item No:
Report of: Corporate Director of Development and Renewal		Title: Draft - Ocean New Deal for Communities – Delivery Plan for 2008/09		
Originating Officer(s): Jackie Odunoye - Head of Housing Strategy		Wards Affected: Limehouse, St. Dunstons & Stepney Green, Mile End & Globe Town		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval of the draft New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan for the 2008/09 financial year. The Council, as the Accountable Body for the programme, is required to approve the Annual Delivery Plan prior to its submission to the Government Office for London (GOL) for approval and completion of the funding agreement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the 2008/09 draft New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Authorise the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Lead Member Regeneration and Community Partnerships, to finalise the plan, making any appropriate and necessary minor amendments prior to submission to Government Office for London.
- 2.3 Note that any significant changes to the draft 2008/09 NDC Delivery Plan, which represent key decisions for the Authority, will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of “Background paper”

New Deal for Communities - NDC Delivery Plan 2008/09

Name and telephone number
of holder and address where open
to inspection

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3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Each financial year, in its role as Accountable Body, the Council is required to approve the Annual Delivery Plan for the NDC Programme. The Delivery Plan provides a detailed breakdown of the proposed expenditure for the financial year and describes the project activities to be undertaken together with project milestones and key indicators of performance.
- 3.2 Once the Delivery Plan has been approved, it will be forwarded to the Government Office for London (GOL) for approval. GOL will then issue a contract to the Council for expenditure on the programme. Following approval of the Delivery Plan by GOL, each project is appraised and approved through processes set out in and governed by the official NDC guidance.
- 3.3 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a summary of the Delivery Plan for the NDC Programme in the 2008/09 financial years. Cabinet must approve the Delivery Plan prior to its submission to GOL.

4. OVERVIEW

- 4.1 The Ocean New Deal Programme started in 2000 and runs until 2010 with a total funding allocation of £56.6 million. The programme is now entering its final phase with the focus for expenditure facilitating the comprehensive regeneration through the Ocean Regeneration Trust.
- 4.2 The original NDC outcomes have been revised and refined over the last 12 months to take account of the outcome of the CLG Rapid Review, which followed residents' decision to reject the stock transfer option.
- 4.3 Overall, the NDC programme has steadily improved in recent years. A basket of indicators/evaluations highlights education, community safety, and health interventions as the best performing areas.
- 4.4 However a key challenge remains for the programme to work with residents to enable them to benefit from the employment opportunities that exist within the borough and the surrounding areas.
- 4.5 Furthermore a key priority for the remainder of the programme is facilitating the housing regeneration of the estate. This includes implementation of the first phase of a large scale redevelopment as set out in the original vision for transformational regeneration for the area. This also incorporates the successful implementation and sustainability of the community facilities strategy.

Governance and Succession

- 4.6 During last year, and following the CLG review, new proposals were drawn up to deliver the redevelopment of the Ocean Estate and establish a new governance mechanism to achieve this. As already outlined above, this new mechanism is a successor vehicle to continue delivery of the remaining NDC Programme and to manage the transformational regeneration processes.
- 4.7 The governance structure will be a Community Interest Company with an interim board consisting of a maximum of 14 people. This will be comprised of an independent Chair, two council representatives, 3 resident representatives, two RSL/developer representatives and 6 specialist directors from a variety of technical backgrounds.
- 4.8 The board will be supported by three sub boards leading on separate areas of work as follows:
- Neighbourhood renewal board - the role will be to continue the delivery of the remainder of the NDC programme, work with residents to continue to identify and meet local needs and to bid for external funding to enable a succession plan of continued community based activity beyond the end of the NDC programme
 - Housing management board - the role will be involved with developing proposals for the revised Masterplan for the estate, to build local capacity to take responsibility for management of the local housing stock and shape local policies on provision of housing and estates management, building in continuous improvement capacity, on Ocean
 - Development board - the role will be to participate in the tender evaluation process and to make recommendations on the approval of the scheme most suited to provide the best outcomes for residents. There will be an ongoing role of risk management and mitigation and ensuring that appropriate resident communication and consultation arrangements are in place.

Year 9 - 10 Priorities

In years 9 - 10 the seven theme areas will be focussed around three Crosscutting themes to better reflect our future core strategy and priorities. These themes are as follows:

Crosscutting Theme	Ten Year Outcomes
Community that's Active and Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empower and encourage residents to participate fully in their community, in decision-making and delivery of local services• Reduce the proportion of residents who see young people hanging around as a serious problem• Improve arts, leisure and play facilities in the area• Improve the health and well being of people in the area• Improve health and social care available and accessible to people in the area
Learn, Work and Achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the level of educational attainment of school pupils• Promote opportunity by increasing participation and achievement through learning• Raise employment levels by tackling the barriers to employment• Promote and support a culture of enterprise and business opportunity
Good Quality Homes and a Neighbourhood that's Safe & Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create an attractive well managed environment with good quality open spaces• Promote the development of well maintained, desirable homes that provide an affordable range of housing choices for local people• Influence the delivery of high quality value-for-money services that meet the needs of residents

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and residents' fear of crime
- Reduce the impact of drug-related activity in the area

5. OCEAN NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES 2008/9 (YEAR 9)

5.1 The total forecast NDC supported expenditure for 2008 - 2009 is some £2million, although this is subject to ongoing negotiations with GoL. The key projects of the Delivery Plan are outlined below.

1240 Ocean Collections – *ongoing since 2003*

Enables the collecting, archiving and recording of information and activities relating to the NDC Programme. Will include community events, publications and an internship programme.

1500 Community Facilities – *new project*

The Community Facilities Project will help identify expenditure to rebuild and refurbish community facilities as part of the wider housing programme development.

2113 Ocean Mathematics Project – *ongoing since 2001*

This project has changed attitudes and practice in schools, amongst pupils and families, and in the wider community in order to raise expectations and achievements in the short and long term. This will continue the work of phase 2, and currently the project is in transition, as it becomes a social enterprise selling services.

2125 Widening Participation – *ongoing since 2005*

A partnership project with Tower Hamlets College and Queen Mary's University to jointly fund a range of activities to encourage local post 16 students to enter higher education. The project offers student bursaries to young people who are going to University of Higher Education Colleges.

3113 Jobs in Health – *new project*

A project to develop partnerships with the PCT, Barts and the London and Tower Hamlets college in order to provide a route into employment in the healthcare workforce.

3200 Jobs, Training and Enterprise – *ongoing since 2007*

Provision of employment advice, guidance and support to unemployed and inactive residents. Outreach to engage residents in enhancing their employment prospects. Support for residents to find, train for and secure

employment. A programme of mentoring and support to set up community/social enterprise activity.

3425 Workspace and Community Asset Bases – *new project*

This project will provide and manage workspace units to help promote and develop local business and enterprises; it will identify and develop appropriate workspace in Stepney for organisations in the NDC area. Workspaces will be provided at 'affordable rents'.

4260 Resident Wardens Service – *ongoing since 2004*

The aim of this project is to support independent living by acting as a 'bridge' between the elderly residents and service providers as well as community development and cohesion; reducing isolation amongst older residents and delivering activities that will create a sense of 'community'.

4290 Cancer Screening on the Ocean – *ongoing project since 2006*

This project works in partnership with the GP surgery to increase cancer screening among the residents on the Ocean.

**7310 Combined Redevelopment Programme & Built Environment
- *ongoing since 2002***

Redevelopment of parts of the Ocean Estate will comprehensively transform the housing stock by creating multi-tenure, multi use homes designed and built to reflect varying needs and uses of the Ocean community in to the 21st Century. It will actively seek to ensure full participation in design and project development. Funding realised from the cross-funding proposals will also be utilised to improve remaining homes to the Decent Homes Plus standard.

8600 Delivery, Evaluation and Communication – *ongoing since 2006/7*

This project supports the delivery of the Ocean NDC programme to 2010, ensuring the framework of probity, systems, structures and processes are in place and enforced in the area of delivery. As well as provide evaluation and audit methodologies, which will be delivered by internal and external agencies to ensure value for money, identify gaps in service and using an evidence based approach enable the ORT Board to decide on the continuance of projects. The communication part of the project aims to raise and maintain awareness of the NDC Programme among the community and key stakeholders. The project will improve the image and reputation of the NDC Organisation locally and nationally improve access to the services, facilities and benefits the NDC programme provides and encourage greater involvement and participation by local people.

6. THE ACCOUNTABLE BODY ROLE

- 6.1 The role of the Accountable Body in relation to NDC programmes is clearly defined within NDC Guidance. In simple terms, the Council is responsible for overall programme management and financial control. Management and control processes across all programmes are continually reviewed and strengthened, as appropriate, to ensure full compliance with the Guidance.

7. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 7.1 According to the published Guidance, for the purposes of the funding agreement an Accountable Body has to be appointed on behalf of the Partnership, which, in this case is the Council. In this capacity, the Council will be required to meet the liabilities, which flow from the conditions of the grant funding. The Council will have the legal responsibility for the grant money awarded and to ensure that good quality management and project appraisal arrangements are in place.
- 7.2 The recommendations to the report require that, under the Council's own powers of Delegation, the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, shall be requested to approve the final plan before its submission to GOL, with the proviso that any matter which is a key decision should be referred back to the Cabinet.

8. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 8.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the Draft NDC Delivery Plan for 2008/9. In order to ensure effective delivery of the projects it is essential that the Delivery Plan is agreed by GOL. The programme is in accordance with the scheme, approved by the Council in June 2007.
- 8.2 As Accountable Body, the Council must ensure that proper arrangements are in place for effective programme and financial management. The Council also bears the financial risk, should any claw-back issues arise.
- 8.3 Subject to 8.2 above, all agreed expenditure incurred to support the NDC projects is reimbursed through New Deal for Communities specific grant.

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The draft Delivery Plan contains projects aimed at addressing the causes and consequences of social exclusion. The projects would be unable to proceed if the Delivery Plan was not approved.

10. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Ocean NDC area, home to approximately 6,500 people was identified in the 2000 Indices of Deprivation as being one of the most deprived areas of the country. All projects and activities funded as part of the NDC Programme are designed to tackle the causes and effects deprivation including poverty.

11. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 11.1 Several of the projects include environmental improvements and site assembly with related environmental benefits. The specifications for all such works will be consistent with the Council's commitments to develop sustainability and a greener environment.

12 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Council as the 'Accountable Body' needs to ensure that it fulfils all of the Responsibilities/obligations as set out in the funding agreement and guidance manual for the programme. In a worst case scenario the Council can be subject to claw-back of grant. Examples of claw-back would include:

- ◆ Non delivery of falsification of agreed outputs
- ◆ Incurring ineligible expenditure

- 12.2 Robust project and financial management arrangements together with effective monitoring arrangement continue to ensure that risks are mitigated and the Council's exposure minimised.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - 2008/09 draft New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan.