

REPORT TO: Halton Strategic Partnership Board
DATE: 17th May 2006
SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Report

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide members of the board with a final summary of NRF expenditure for year end March 2006. This to include an overview of actual SSP and project expenditure compared to original NRF allocation.
- 1.2 To highlight the experiences of the Central Support Team (CST) relating to the monitoring and reporting by SSPs and NRF projects.
- 1.3 To provide members of the board with a final update (Quarter 4) on projects and SSPs.
- 1.4 To provide members of the board with an update on the current activities of the Central Support Team (CST) in relation to 2006 – 2007 Project Service Agreements, financial management arrangements and project monitoring and assessment.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Board is recommended to note of the report and highlight issues for future consideration.

3. NRF EXPENDITURE 2005 - 2006

- 3.1 Halton received £6,720,760 of NRF funding for the period between April 2005 and March 2006. This fund was divided between the five SSPs, Area Forums, Halton Festival and Central Support Team costs. Appendix 1 shows the original NRF allocations by SSP and project, which was approved by the HSPB in March 2005. The table also shows the final amounts actually spent by the projects as of April 2006. It can be seen that the NRF allocation for 2005/06 was spent in full.
- 3.2 Please note that the information provided in Appendix 1¹ is as of April 30th 2006. The Council's Finance Section is still in the process of making final payments for invoices received during the later part of April.

4 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 4.1 As can be seen from Appendix 1, the original allocations differ to actual end of year expenditure. This is due to SSPs re-profiling the NRF allocations of a number of projects during the course of the year and especially at year end. SSPs are entitled to do this, provided inform their respective co-ordinator and the Central Support Team are kept fully informed. Project managers should then amend their service agreements in accordance with the changes. There were a number of occasions when this communication chain broke down and subsequently the financial information held by the Central Support Team was out of date.
- 4.2 At the end of the year three of the five SSPs had projects showing large variances in spend. Consequently the NRF allocation agreed in the Service Agreement did not match the actual amount claimed. This has resulted in a great deal of effort at year end to match resources to spend to ensure the programme balances. As in previous years, the Councils Priorities Fund has been used as a flexible resource to ensure project expenditure has been covered.
- 4.3 The Partnership's new performance management framework, includes procedures to ensure smoother progress this year. Project managers and SSP chairs have been provided with guidance notes that make clear the conditions that NRF funding is awarded under; the procedures relating to re-profiling of project budgets and the responsibilities of SSP chairs and accountable bodies. In addition, HSPB's newly established Performance Management Group, should help to ensure that any problems are quickly identified and resolved.

5 Quarter 4 Project Update

- 5.1 The return date for all projects to return their Q4 monitoring forms to the CST was April 22nd. Not all projects have yet returned their Q4 returns. However, all the projects in this position have been in touch with the team to explain why there has been a delay and this information has been passed onto the SSP chairs and co-ordinators.
- 5.2 Quarterly returns are available to the SSP chairs and co-ordinators and can be used in their monitoring and assessment of project performance. This information is also now available to the Performance Monitoring Group. This provides for scrutiny and overview which brings a further element of objectivity to the process.

6 Update on Central Partnership Team Activities

- 6.1 The Central Partnership Team is working closely with the SSP co-ordinators in establishing the monitoring and assessment procedures that SSPs and their respective projects are required to adhere to during 2006/07.
- 6.2 These procedures include a requirement that all projects submit draft Service Agreements to their SSP chair and co-ordinator in order to check that they have been completed to the appropriate standard. A final approved version of each Service Agreement will then be signed and forwarded onto the Central Support Team. A deadline of 22nd June has been set to get all the Service agreements in place for 2006/07.
- 6.3 Arrangements are currently being finalised for the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) to be managed within Halton Borough Council. (This is covered elsewhere on this agenda). Therefore as accountable body, the council has to ensure that the financial

accounting procedures are in accordance with the councils existing financial controls. As of this year the Central Support Team will be responsible for the administration of the BSCF expenditure between the various partners and projects that will receive this fund.

- 6.4 A series of training workshops are being planned which will help to support project managers within their roles. Feedbacks from project managers, colleagues and from our own observations have identified a number of training requirements and the courses will aim to meet these needs. Once dates are confirmed project managers will be invited to attend. SSP chairs are being urged to encourage project managers within their SSP to attend these sessions.

Appendix 1

Health	Original NRF Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Variance
Implement Recommendations	300,000	155,165	144,835
Partnership Co-ordinator	45,000	45,000	0
Receipe For Health Care Services	29,500	29,500	0
Integrating Services for Children & Young People	290,000	421,510	-131,510
Five A Day Programme (Diet)	50,000	50,000	0
Health & Community Care Forum	40,000	50,000	-10,000
Vulnerable Adults Task Force (Older People)	400,000	400,000	0
Intermediate Care	80,000	79,999	1
Voluntary Sector Counselling Support Project	43,000	37,918	5,082
Teenage Pregnancy Health	35,000	73,000	-38,000
Carer Support Development	50,000	38,010	11,990
Work Retention and Employment - Mental Health	35,000	16,536	18,464
Primary Mental Health Care Services	40,000	40,000	0
Halton Healthy Schools Project	39,832	39,830	2
Advocacy	64,668	1,545	63,123
	1,542,000	1,478,013	63,987

Original NRF Allocation **£1,542,000**

Actual Expenditure **£1,478,013**

Variance **£63,987**

Urban Renewal	Original NRF Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Variance
Housing Sustainability	8,000	8,000	0
Partnership Co-ordinator	20,000	20,000	0
Sites Purchase	150,000	40,000	110,000
Town Centres Streetscapes	320,000	430,000	-110,000
Enterprise Centres	300,000	200,000	100,000
EDZ	199,000	199,000	0
Greening Employment Areas	10,000	10,000	0
Business Improvement Area	50,000	50,000	0
Contaminated Land (Golf Course)	100,000	248,750	-148,750
Strategic Routeways	50,000	50,000	0
Merseyside Waterfront Park	100,000	50,000	50,000
Wigg Island Visitor Centre	-	50,000	-50,000
Waterside Strategy	10,000	10,000	0
Runcorn Town Centre Park	50,000	0	50,000
	1,367,000	1,365,750	1,250

Original NRF Allocation **£1,367,000**

Actual Expenditure **£1,365,750**

Variance **£1,250**

Life Chances & Employment	Original NRF Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Variance
Portage	46,144	46,144	0
Speech & language	15,000	15,000	0
Behaviour Issues	50,000	50,000	0
Attendance Issues	20,000	20,000	0
Vikings In The Community	60,000	60,000	0
Sports Club - Disability	16,000	11,757	4,243
Connexions Cyber Café	40,000	40,000	0
14 - 19 Opportunities For Exchange	40,000	40,000	0
Extended Work Experience Prig	20,000	20,000	0
Halton People Into Jobs	30,000	30,000	0
Fire Service	35,000	35,000	0
Vocational Options	80,000	80,000	0
learning & Skills	50,000	50,000	0
Training and Employment Issues	50,000	37,316	12,684
Halton ILM/Rail Maintenance	80,000	80,000	0
Access To learning and Employment	30,000	31,952	-1,952
Bulky Bob's	45,000	45,000	0
Civic Pride	25,000	16,498	8,502
Sports Partnership	30,000	30,000	0
Transport Barriers/ Neighbourhood Travel Team	107,000	104,964	2,036
Employment Rate Strategy	75,000	25,000	50,000
Improving Education for Vulnerable Youngsters	48,000	48,000	0
Integrated Enterprises & Business Start up Strategy	75,000	45,001	29,999
Kingsway literacy Development	100,000	226,139	-126,139
Partnership Administrator	20,750	15,189	5,561
Health & Physical Activity Development Co-ordinator	40,000	36,304	3,696
Workforce Development	30,000	19,213	10,787
Youth Green Paper	30,000	40,000	-10,000
Supported Employment	78,513	78,510	3
	1,366,407	1,376,987	-10,580

Original NRF Allocation **£1,366,407**

Actual Expenditure **£1,376,987**

Variance (**£10,580**)

Wealth & Equality	NRF Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Variance
Community Empowerment Match	10,000	10,000	0
Going Up Information Pack	1,000	1,000	0
Information Outreach Services	35,000	35,000	0
Good Neighbour Pilot	30,527	30,527	0
University Of The Third Age	35,000	35,000	0
Research and Project Officers **	50,000	45,656	4,344
Benefits Bus	100,000	100,000	0
CLSP Co-ordinator	34,807	13,125	21,682
Homelessness Project	26,000	31,250	-5,250
Bill Payment Service	41,809	41,146	663
ILC Accessible Transport	24,700	24,700	0
Grassroots Development	21,000	21,000	0
Citizens Advice Bureau	76,000	76,000	0
Age Discrimination Training	15,000	16,189	-1,189
Halton Disability Services	20,000	20,000	0
Grandparents and Kids Project	12,000	11,674	326
	532,843	512,267	20,576

Original NRF Allocation **£532,843**

Actual Expenditure **£512,267**

Variance **£20,576**

Safe & Attractive	NRF Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Variance
Youth Splash	100,000	100,000	0
Blue Line/Blue Border	700,000	742,500	-42,500
Pride Of Place	51,000	51,000	0
Multi Skilled Maintenance Team	55,000	55,000	0
Town Centre Initiatives	75,000	75,000	0
Neighbourhood Pride	57,000	57,000	0
Alcohol Harm Reduction	50,000	52,544	-2,544
Domestic Violence	30,000	23,049	6,951
Increased Drug Treatments	70,000	69,822	178
Liveability, Safety and Reassurance	50,000	43,936	6,064
Prolific and Persistent Offenders	70,000	70,000	0
Race Equality Co-ordinator	30,000	0	30,000
Specialist Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator	30,000	22,823	7,177
	1,368,000	1,362,674	5,326

Original NRF Allocation **£1,368,000**

Actual Expenditure **£1,362,674**

Variance **£5,236**

OTHERS	NRF Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Variance
Area Forum 1. BroadHealth/Ditton/Hough Green	54,813	54,813	0
Area Forum 2. Kingsway/Riverside/Appleton	44,664	44,664	0
Area Forum 3. Farnworth/Birchfield/Halton	43,632	43,632	0
Area Forum 4. Halton Brook/Health/Mersey/Grange	63,551	63,551	0
Area Forum 5. Casthefields/Murdishaw/Norton	57,149	57,149	0
Area Forum 6. Beechwood/Brookvale/Palacefields	26,309	26,309	0
Area Forum 7. Hale, Daresbury, Moore & Preston Brook	9,884	9,884	0
Central Support Team & Halton Festival	395,000	413,819	-18,819
	695,000	713,819	-18,819

Others NRF Allocation **£695,000**

Actual Expenditure **£713,000**

Variance (**£18,819**)