

Item 4

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

14th October 2004

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGY AND REGENERATION

Portfolio: Regeneration

COMMITMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report reviews the background and usage of NRF (NRF) monies from Government in the Borough during 2003/04 and identifies the future planned use of NRF until 2006.
- 1.2 It describes the Service Improvement Plans that have been prepared through the LSP to guide the use of NRF over the period to March 2006 and the expected leverage that the NRF expenditure will secure to assist in promoting the economic and social regeneration of the Borough's most disadvantaged communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- o That Cabinet:
 - As the Accountable Body for NRF expenditure accepts the LSP's commitment of Neighbourhood Renewal Funds during 2003/04 and the planned use over 2004 to 2006.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

Background

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) is a resource provided under the Government's National Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy to 88 Local Authorities that have the most deprived wards in the country within their boundaries. The purpose of NRF assistance is to improve services in the most deprived areas, and so contribute to the achievement of Government targets to narrow the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country.
- 3.2 It is expected that each authority will prepare a Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in consultation with the areas Local Strategic Partnership to support the use of NRF. This was undertaken in September 2002. The level of NRF awarded to Sedgefield Borough in

the period 2002 to 2006, totals £4,840,973. For the years 2004/05 and the final year 2005/06 the level of NRF support is £1,230,113 and £1,138,926 respectively.

- 3.3 In determining the award of NRF funding over the period 2004 to 2006, the LSP's Board have agreed that a strategic approach should be taken to Service Improvement Plans (SIPs) linked to the National and Local Targets as detailed in the Borough Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS). This approach sought to move away from an annual appraisal process to a two year programme of activities with a financial weighting to those service areas furthest from target and a NRF intervention rate of no more than 40% so as to ensure the bending of mainstream funding and a sustainable future for the SIPs. The SIPs are focussed on a number of key themes linked to the Borough's LNRS, these are Increasing Employment, Increasing Educational Attainment at Key Stage 4, Renewal of Targeted Neighbourhoods and Community Reassurance, Transport and Accessibility, and Integration of Targeted Health Services.
- 3.4 In addition part of NRF resources has been top-sliced over the final two years to continue to resource the Neighbourhood Management Initiative in the western area of Newton Aycliffe and the operation of a Community Response Fund to provide resources to local community Partnerships in the targeted areas to determine their own service improvement priorities.
- 3.5 Sedgefield Borough acts as the Accountable Body for NRF managing and administering the resources from Government. There is a requirement to monitor progress and in delivery and expenditure and report to Government Office on a quarterly basis.

Use of NRF in 2003/04 - Achievements

- 3.6 The Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has three main themes of creating more Prosperous, Attractive and Healthy neighbourhoods, to ensure the economic social and environmental well being of the Borough's residents so that no one is disadvantaged by where they live. The first half of the programme used the three themes of Attractive, Prosperous and Healthy Neighbourhoods as the basis of the Policy Group service improvements.
- 3.7 NRF spend in 2002/03 of £850,000 levered in £2.1m in match funding with £1.25m NRF in 2003/04 levering in £1.84 into the Borough. This resource has been spent on improving the services in the targeted wards to improve residents quality of life and life chances. The first half of the programme has moved significantly more than half way to meeting the 2006 and 2008 targets in the LNRS, significantly reducing the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the more affluent. A summary of individual NRF supported schemes is attached at Appendix 1.

Planned use of NRF 2004 – 2006

- 3.8 The new SIPs were developed by the Policy Groups to achieve the targets set out in the LNRS and National Floor targets. Each of the themes is linked to a National Floor Target. Appendix 2 provides further detail on each SIP.
- 3.9 The “Increasing Employment” theme is directed at improving overall business start up rates to be nearer the national average, and includes promotion of community enterprises and self-employment. Linked to this the Jobsearch project will continue to reduce unemployment in the adult and young people populations in the targeted wards. It is expected that the 2006 targets will be met and exceeded.
- 3.10 The target of Increasing Educational Attainment at Key Stage 4 is planned to be met by using a number of interventions concentrating on full service schooling and removing the barriers, whether emotional or physical, that prevent children learning. The targets are on course to be met by 2006.
- 3.11 Renewal of Targeted Neighbourhood Areas and Community Reassurance have already made significant progress to achieving their 2006 LNRS and National Floor Targets. The SIP is wide ranging and aims to reduce the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and renew neighbourhoods prioritised in the LNRS through partnerships with the private sector as well as mainstreaming the Neighbourhood Wardens scheme.
- 3.12 Accessing services in Sedgefield is looking at the means of improving public transport across the borough as a means to access employment, education and health services. It will not however result in any projects to bring about service delivery changes until after a mapping exercise and further research work is completed.
- 3.13 Integration of Targeted Health Services has begun the mainstreaming process and is on course to meet its 2006 LNRS targets. However, this innovative programme of change working towards improved delivery of adult services on a community basis will form part of a longer term programme of health actions to address ill health and life expectancy levels currently being experienced in the Borough.
- 3.14 The overall forecast expenditure of the SIPs over the 2004 – 2006 is £11,380,808, of which NRF is £1,986,000 leveraging in £9,394,808 in other resources.

Monitoring and Review

- 3.15 Outputs, measurable progress, milestones and financial expenditure are required to be reported to Government Office on a quarterly basis. This is to ensure that the LSP is making, through its partners, measurable progress towards its own targets, and if any problems arise they are identified and managed appropriately.

- 3.16 The SIPs commenced in April 2004 are already demonstrating their progress toward target from the first quarter monitoring recently reported to Government Office. These reports are also provided to the LSP and Policy Groups for their information and comment.

NRF Post 2006

- 3.17 The recent Local Government Spending Review 2004 indicated that there would be further NRF after 2006, however, it is uncertain on what criteria this money will be distributed. It is likely that the decision will be based on the most deprived wards that remain furthest away from delivering actual targets and closing the gap of disadvantage. A further factor will probably be the performance of local authorities in committing expenditure and improving their most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 NRF funding of £2,347,800 has been identified for the remainder of the programme to support the themed SIPs until March 2006. This figure includes £126,320 equating to a 9% carry-over from 2003/04. The SIPs are overprogrammed by 10% to ensure full spend in 2004/5 and 2005/6 as there is very limited scope for carryover into 2005/06 and none at the end of the programme into 2005/06.
- 4.2 The financial implications to the Borough are those associated with monitoring and management of the programme. NRF resources are top-sliced to pay for the administration of the LSP and Management of the programme, making a total of £282,000 as income to the Borough over 2004 – 2006.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Community Empowerment Network has been fully consulted on the development of SIPs and support their implementation. The LSP's Policy Groups have community representation which ensures that from the start of the process of producing SIPs the community and LSP partners have been involved.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 A key element of the National and Local Targets is sustainability through the mainstreaming of the proposed Service Improvements. These Improvements contain targets relating to the reduction of crime and community reassurance, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

7. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The use of external funding to support the regeneration of the Borough including the use of NRF was considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 in March 2004.

8. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Schedule of Approves schemes 2003/04 – containing a description of activity expenditure, leverage, locations of delivery.

Appendix 2 SIPs 2004 –2006 Containing a description of activity, expenditure, leverage, location of delivery.

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Wards: Cornforth, West, Sunnydale, Thickley, Old Trimdon,
New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange and Dean Bank.

Key Decision Validation: This is a key decision

Background Papers:

Monitoring Report to Government Office for the North East January to March 2004
Sedgefield Borough Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
Sedgefield Local Strategic Partnership Board Report 28th April 2004 Agenda number 3.3.2 Sedgefield Borough Council Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy – Use Of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Resources.

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

APPENDIX 1

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding 2003/04

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Economy		
Jobsearch	Successfully assisted 171 residents into work with a further 40 into training. This improvement has operated exceptionally well overachieving so as to have hit the hit the 2008 target.	£62,213
Fostering Entrepreneurship in Target Communities	Assisting residents to set up their own businesses. 15 have been set up during the year. On course to meet its target of setting up 24 new businesses.	£7,000
Enterprising Communities	Aims to set up community enterprises in the target communities. 9 community groups have been supported to assist in their development towards becoming community enterprises.	£15,000
Sedgefield Training Retail Initiative	Set up to help recruitment for Tesco's from the residents of target communities. 43 residents have obtained jobs with Tesco's through this initiative.	£7,931
Lifelong Learning		
Community Counselling	The counselling service has been used by a local primary school and proved to be very successful as student performance in exams, attendance, and social exclusion has achieved it's 2004 target.	£15,000
Full Service Schooling – Greenfield	Provided faster intervention work to break down the barriers to learning. Full Service Schooling allowed pupils to focus on learning, and staff to focus on teaching and raising attainment that resulted in record GCSE achievements making Greenfield the top performing school in the County.	£35,000
Full Service Schooling – Shildon	NRF was used to develop a range of activities linked to pupil attainment and reported good progress but actual result not available until 2 nd quarter of 2004/5.	£45,000
Out of Hours Learning Support – Coalfield Communities	Trimdon set up a "Freezone" engaging pupils out of school hours. The 30 pupils benefited from learning how to use e-learning as a revision tool and by being	£15,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
	encouraged to access teaching staff on an informal footing. Proving very successful and will be extended in 2004/05 and mainstreamed at the end of 2006.	
ICT Bridge Teacher	The NRF supported ICT link teacher has continued to work with all Key Stage 2 pupils in the five-partner primary schools developing ICT, literacy and numeracy skills as well as business and enterprise skills with Year 6 pupils. The impact will be seen through exam results in August 2004.	£15,000
Access to Impact Programme	NRF secured extra places on the Impact programme that enabled alternative provision to be made for Key Stage 4 pupils who attended school less than 50% of the time or were excluded. 240 young people have benefited. The programme has been successfully mainstreamed.	£40,000
Sedgefield Learning Borough	A large number of new learners were engaged in the service, 542. This service has increased the number of residents with NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. 23 local residents were directly supported into employment this year. Proved very successful.	£35,000
Community and Education Worker – Cornforth	Individuals (at Key Stage 4) have been targeted for support and individual programmes developed to re-integrate pupils into school. Will continue to receive NRF support because of it's success.	£12,000
Enterprising Youth Venture Fund Support	Teachers at Ferryhill and Sunnydale School have been teaching the course to students in Key Stage 4 with the result that result students are more aware of enterprise skills and pupils leaving education had developed a more informed view of how to use their enterprise skills.	£11,000
Health		
Integration of Services for Older People and People with a Physical Disability and Integrated Community Services	Preparatory work has taken place to establish 5 integrated Health and Social Care teams with a full implementation plan for 2004-. The first team (Pathway team) should be established July 2004 and negotiations for a pooled budget have been successful. The following 2 years of NRF support will allow for mainstreaming of this improved service.	£15,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Extension of Passport to Health Activities	Healthy Lifestyle courses have been successfully delivered covering a range of topics from healthy cooking to first aid. Targets for the number of people reporting increased knowledge and skills, physical and mental health, and social interaction and self-esteem have been exceeded. Smoking cessation classes were popular and since the courses were delivered in April, 36% of clients have not smoked for 52 weeks and an additional 72% of people had quit smoking at a 4 week check point.	£30,000
Improving Community Equipment Services	A Service Manager and Occupational Therapist ensured that clients who accessed the service obtained assessment and specialist advice. The Home Independence Service was one of only six in the country short listed for an ICES (Integrating Community Equipment Services) award during March 2004 for the most innovative service development.	£18,000
Community Mental Health Worker	The Expert Patient Programme, provided opportunities to people who live with long-term chronic conditions to develop new skills to manage their condition more effectively on a day-to-day basis. Sedgefield is still leading the region on the pilot with 79 people having completed courses in 2003/4. 98% of attendees felt the course provided them with the skills to manage their condition more effectively, 100% reported increased levels of social interaction and 89% felt more confident and more able to cope. NRF support ended in March 2004, and the post was successfully mainstreamed.	£30,000
Tackling Teenage Pregnancy	A Young People's Steering Group made up from 6 residents (aged 12-17) and a Partnership of professionals (Health, Connexions, Education in the Community and Voluntary sector organisations) worked towards establishing a Young Peoples Drop In service to tackle teenage pregnancy rates within West Ward. NRF support ended in March 2004 with the drop-in centre mainstreamed and officially opened in May 04.	£20,000
Sure Start	The delivery of core community nursing	£30,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Enhanced Health Worker Provision	services have been successfully re-shaped with increased resources allocated to Trimdon and West Cornforth allowing Community Parenting Programmes to be developed by the Worker. The majority of activities have been mainstreamed	
Community Safety		
Domestic Violence Intervention	Those people who accessed the Outreach facility have received regular counselling in order to obtain help with domestic violence. The success of the programme is highlighted by the significant reduction in repeat victims and reported incidences. NRF will continue for the remainder of the programme.	£10,587
High Street Project	The project provided an intense outreach service to people in the local community in a practical and supportive way. NRF enabled waiting times for treatment to be reduced resulting in a 37% increase in referrals enabling the service to have a real impact within the community. The project made good progress towards meeting local and national targets.	£41,200
Removal of Abandoned Vehicles	The project successfully resulted in more than 351 vehicles being removed, an increase of 251 on the previous year, reducing the risk of those vehicles being used in an anti social manner or being involved in further criminal activities.	£25,163
Homesafe	This service continued to provide home security to the vulnerable residents in Sedgefield Borough to reduce crime and the fear of crime. NRF allowed a total of 267 homes to be secured with either lighting or security. 100% of clients reporting that the security has made them feel safer, 94% stating that their quality of life has improved as a result of the security and 99% of clients feeling able to stay in their home.	£29,626
Neighbourhood Wardens	Neighbourhood Wardens worked successfully with the Targeted "Hot Spot" areas and worked alongside the police to deliver local initiatives and provide a more strategic response to community needs. Anti-social behaviour has remained a high	£40,050

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
	priority for the Wardens who have provided diversionary schemes for young people.	
SMART Bus	The SMART bus was converted as a facility for youth and community engagement used by a number of agencies to assist in the delivery of services in hard to reach areas. The bus is fully equipped with laptop computers, internet access, a wide range of play and sporting equipment. NRF support has ended however the service is planned to be mainstreamed.	£31,500
AIRTIME Mobile Skatepark	The Airtime Mobile Skate Park is the first of its kind in the UK and provides low-cost access to state-of-the-art skateboarding facilities such as jumps, ramps, rails and half-pipes within the Borough. NRF funding was won in 2002/03 of £21,200, with the intention of monitoring into this year. It has attracted 600 members, of which 60-70% are from the targeted neighbourhoods And contributed to reducing levels of anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	£0
Environment		
Under 18s Swimming Sessions	636 young people aged 8 months to 17 years were registered on the scheme, which increased junior swims over 2002 – 2004. Feedback from the young people and their parents showed the scheme had a positive impact on their health and well-being, although it is difficult to measure the extent of this impact, but no reduction in anti-social behaviour.	£10,000
Dean Bank Environmental Improvements Programme	Physical improvement works started in January 2003 and the impact within Dean Bank is already evident.	£65,000
Securing Affordable Warmth	This service has reduced the number of households in fuel poverty. 1,212 assessments have been carried out over the year, of which 283 households or 22% were found to be suffering from fuel poverty, spending over 10% of their income on fuel. 32 households have been removed from fuel poverty to date and it is	£105,777

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
	hoped that 80% will be removed from fuel poverty in the near future. Over the past year the average level of fuel poverty has dropped from and estimated 23% (9,201 homes) to 22% (8801) homes in the Borough. It is still planned to eradicate fuel poverty in the Borough by 2016 in line with Government targets, and therefore this service will continue to receive NRF support.	
Young People and Physical Activity	The Physical Activity Co-ordinator has introduced the activity sessions at Elmfield and Fishburn schools; 'at risk' children (children with behavioural problems) were targeted and engaged in the activities. Five local residents from each community have gained sporting qualifications to ensure the service will continue to be delivered.	£33,000
Civic Pride	A supervisor and 5 Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) employees were recruited. The 5 ILM employees had previously been long term unemployed residents of the target communities. Work was undertaken in West Ward.	£26,000
Housing		
Private Sector Renewal	A group repair scheme in Shildon has been completed at Redworth Road, contributing towards reducing the number of unfit properties within the Borough. This service received £80,000 in 2002/03 and was monitored into 2003/04. It has been highlighted as a priority and will receive NRF support into the final two years of the programme.	£0
Decent Homes	1,254 homes were improved over the year to meet the Governments decency standards, reflected in the reduction of the proportion of Council housing which did not meet the decency standards between 2002/2003, (39%) and 2003/2004 (35%). NRF support of £85,000 ended in March 2003. The service was successfully mainstreamed and will meet its long-term target.	£0
Improving Service Delivery,	The Shildon Housing and Resource Centre is well established. Financial	£35,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Access and Engagement	support ended in 2002/03. The Shildon Gateway project has been mainstreamed.	

APPENDIX 2

Lifelong Learning

Title: Increasing Educational Attainment at KS4

Lead Organisation: Various

Description of Service: The development of the principles of Full Service Schooling in all the Borough's secondary schools, using existing projects to extend current practice.

Every school is currently working with other agencies in order to support young people and their families. Practices differ from school to school and areas of good practice exist although no single organisation would claim that the service is perfect from the client's point of view. The aim of this service improvement will be to use NRF funds to extend good practice: enabling an audit of current practice/s, identification and communication of the best practice, dialogue with agencies which serve all of the schools in order to develop a consistent range of services. All schools and agencies will ultimately need to change their working practices and use of funding in order to provide coherent and comprehensive support.

- **Out of Hours Learning Support:** ICT facilities are used to support out of hours learning through a homework club 'Freezone' at Trimdon Grange Community Centre which aims to improve school attainment at 16. The Joint Trimdons Partnership is also supporting this activity through their NRF Community Response fund. Continued NRF and CRF support will enable further Freezone's to be established at Trimdon Colliery and Trimdon Village Library.
- **Raising Attainment Through ICT:** NRF will be used to employ an additional primary-trained teacher to work across 5 partner primary schools and their secondary school and will provide resources to support learning. The aim of the service is to provide better continuity between KS2 and KS3 and to support the ICT curriculum in KS3.
- **Full Service Schooling in Newton Aycliffe:** Maintenance of existing project 'REACH' which provides multi-agency support to young people and their families and aims to combine the Health & Education agendas. It also provides consistency and continuity of support between agencies with the aim of promoting full integration from the client's perspective.
- **Community Counselling:** Extend service available to young people and their families with one further year's funding. This will enable

more hours of support to be purchased and will work towards raising educational attainment levels at 16.

- **Full Service Schooling in Shildon:** Provides multi-agency support to young people and their families and consistency and continuity of support between agencies. The service builds the foundations for engagement in learning at an early age, therefore enabling good practice to continue throughout school life.
- **Community Education and Liaison:** Provides support to improve attendance and therefore attainment at age 16 via the appointment of an additional member of staff to work with ten students from West Cornforth. The service provides consistency and continuity of support between agencies and aims to ensure that young people involved achieve their qualification aims at 16.
- **Sedgefield Learning Borough:** NRF is used for the appointment of key personnel to ensure that all learning provision is co-ordinated. The service provides consistency and continuity of support between providers of supported learning and also supports the aim to develop a learning culture amongst all families. This will in turn support young people in their attainment of qualifications at KS4.
- **Full Service Schooling: extending the practice**
Working towards a fully integrated service for all young people attending secondary schooling in the Borough. Close collaboration to develop between all agencies supporting young people and their families to pilot new ways of working with the aim of sustained practice beyond the end of funding. The service will also pilot ways of working with the Primary Care Trust in order to improve general health and well-being of the school-age population and therefore their capacity to learn. Resources have been given to each senior school in the Borough to investigate the most appropriate way of rolling out the Full Service Schooling principles.

Targets:

- Improved KS3 and KS4 results, with no school achieving less than 38% as an average of GCSE results by 2008.
- Reduced number of exclusions.
- Development of co-ordinated learning provision in the District with increased participation by adults.
- Improved co-ordination of services available to young people.
- Increase in attendance rates at Secondary schools for KS3 and KS4.

Resources

	2004/2005	2005/2006
NRF Allocation	£180,000	£199,000
Match Funding Identified	£513,300	£573,300
NRF Intervention Rate	31%	29%

Housing and Community Safety Service Improvements Plan

Title: Private Sector Housing Renewal

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: To facilitate the delivery of a 10-year scheme of intervention to replace obsolete housing in the targeted neighbourhoods. Both Ferryhill Station and Dean Bank have been the subject of detailed option appraisals. Whilst several rows of housing in Ferryhill Station have already been demolished the remaining homes are subject to market collapse and it is considered that further demolition will be required. The preferred option for Dean Bank will include selective demolition, the building of replacement housing and the modernisation of some homes. An appraisal and delivery plan will be prepared for Chilton.

Title: Abandoned and Untaxed Vehicle Scheme

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: Abandoned and untaxed vehicles are not only a constant source of complaints from Borough residents but also present a safety and fire risk. The prompt removal of these vehicles and other large and un-slightly abandoned articles assists in improving the image of targeted neighbourhoods. Appropriate enforcement action and a programme of education also assists in deterring further offences. The initial scheme sponsored by NRF has proven to be extremely popular with residents. Over 100 vehicles have been removed from the street. Further funding is required to continue with the scheme and to allow for this operation to be mainstreamed through the emerging Neighbourhood Warden Service.

Title: Community Reassurance

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: Fear of Crime is perception based. Perceptions are influenced by profile and consistent supportive communications and actions. This scheme will use NRF to purchase a mobile CCTV unit that will:

- Increase public confidence.
- Reduce fear of crime.
- Provide mobile CCTV facilities in areas where CCTV is not available.
- Support school curriculum (PSHCE) in raising awareness of anti-social behaviour and measures to tackle it.
- Support Police led activities.
- Provide evidence base for action.

This service is to be launched in the second quarter of 2004 and the evidence base for action will be described at that time from surveys carried out in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Title: Domestic Violence

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: Sedgefield Borough has the highest reported levels of Domestic Violence in the County. 1 in 6 men, and 1 in 4 women are victims of domestic violence. A number of interventions are in place via statutory and voluntary bodies. This proposal will look to bring together discrete activity areas within an agreed strategy for the Borough. NRF funding will support the development of the Strategy, which will enable the service to work smarter by focusing on partnership-based approaches to tackle domestic violence.

Title: Sedgefield Energy Securing Affordable Warmth Phase Two

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: 9,000 households (20%) are experiencing fuel poverty within Sedgefield Borough. On average fuel poverty rates are 5% higher in the targeted wards than in the rest of the Borough. This means residents are spending a high proportion of income on fuel and are suffering from cold, damp and poorly insulated or badly heated homes. The Neighbourhood Renewal Funding contribution during phase 2 will be used specifically to continue to reduce fuel poverty in 30% or more of the 2,800 homes suffering from fuel poverty in the targeted wards.

Title: Neighbourhoods Wardens Scheme

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: The Borough Council was one of the first in the Country to introduce a Community Force as part of its Community Safety Function. In recent years, with assistance from NRF this role has been supported by the introduction of Neighbourhood Wardens operating exclusively in some of the most deprived wards in the Borough. Building upon the success of the Neighbourhood Warden pilots the Council intends to re-brand the entire service to that of Neighbourhood Wardens focusing on engagement with communities whilst being able to support enforcement activities within other parts of the organisation.

NRF will provide funding to support transition to a mainstream funded Neighbourhood Warden role with appropriately skilled and trained staff.

Title: Dean Bank Environmental Improvements

Lead Organisation: Groundwork East Durham

Description of Services: To provide strategic landscape infrastructure upgrading to the Dean Bank road corridor to improve its image and appearance and the living conditions of people in Dean Bank. The activity will also support the local communities involvement in environmental improvement projects.

Title: Handy van

Lead Organisation: Age Concern

Description of Services: Handyvan is an accident prevention/home safety and maintenance scheme designed to keep older people safe in their homes and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. It is a holistic service which in addition to a home small repair service treats an older person as an individual by ascertaining their needs and signposting them to other services which include Age Concern and Ageing Well.

Targets for the overall SIP:

- Reduce number of calls to police and Community Care Force Centre (Community Safety) by 10%
- Reduce the number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour across the Borough by 7% and in the targeted areas of Ferryhill Station, West ward and Dean Bank by 10%.
- Reduce recorded crime rates in the western area of Newton Aycliffe by 30% by 2005.
- Positively impact on the number of people who feel safe in their communities.
- Increase the number of residents who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- Ensure all social housing meets the set standards of decency by 2010.
- Achieve a reduction in the unfit housing stock in the target areas of Shildon, and Ferryhill by 2007.
- Attract new private sector housing into Shildon, Ferryhill and the western areas of Newton Aycliffe.
- Increase successful prosecutions of Domestic Violence by 3%
- Achieve a sustained reduction in repeated domestic violence victims by 2%
- To reduce by at least 10% the gap between those areas with the lowest life expectancy at birth and the population as a whole.

Resources

	2004/05	2005/06
NRF Allocation	£290,000	£304,000
Match Funding Identified	£2,063,880	£4,070,500
NRF Intervention Rate	12%	5%

Match funding is so high because Private Sector Renewal has identified £4,880,000 of the match funding. Therefore a resource table has been included below which does not include Private Sector Renewal.

	2004/05	2005/06
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NRF Allocation	£290,000	£304,000
Match Funding Identified	£713,880	£540,500
NRF Intervention Rate	25%	25%

Integration of Targeted Health Services

Title: Development of Integrated Services

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Partnership Board

Description of Services: The case for integrated working between the Borough Council, Social Services and the Primary Care Trust to deliver more effective joined up services in Sedgefield has been made by users and stakeholders many times. Each agency recognises that there is an interdependency of their roles if effective care and accommodation services are to be developed for users and carers in the locality. In order to focus the agencies on integrated working and the development of integrated services, a Partnership Structure and Board has been established. This voluntary agreement between agencies will use this structure to act as the integrated management group to develop and implement integrated working within the Locality

This joint management of the adult care service agenda in Sedgefield is a highly significant and important activity and represents a significant amount of resources.

The establishment of 5 geographically based integrated teams will provide and commission services for: -

All adults over the age of 18 who have needs associated with:

- Physical ill health including those with continuing ill health and those who require preventative services
- Physical frailty/difficulty, including sensory impairment
- Mental Health problems (older people)

Presently these services are provided by individual statutory agencies.

The scope of the initiative has been developed to be a way of implementing integrated working between Health, Social Services and the Borough Council for the

- prevention of illness
- provision of care
- promotion of health

to local people and the communities they live in.

This is a radical transformation. The Partnership is undertaking and achieving fundamental change in infrastructure (i.e. support systems), culture, service delivery and capability of services.

This radical transformation will provide a new 'future proof' structure and organisation capable of delivering the highest levels of performance and which is fit and flexible enough to be able to cope with any future demands.

Title: Tobacco Control and Inequalities in Health
Lead Organisation: PCT

Description of Service Improvement:

Aim: To develop Tobacco Control initiatives across the identified areas of Sedgefield Borough

To reduce by at least 60% the conception rate among under 18's in the worst 20% of wards.

Objectives:

- To develop project work with young people utilising an arts based approach
- To develop 1 project in each Sure Start area focussing on smoke free homes
- To increase smoke free public places through the development of guidelines and user involvement
- To Lobby local retailers and encourage an agreed approach for the reduction of tobacco sales to under age children
- To work alongside Trading Standards and Customs and Excise in order to reduce availability of tax free tobacco

Targets:

- To reduce by at least 10% the gap between those areas with the lowest life expectancy at birth and the population as a whole.
- Reduce levels of smoking across the targeted neighbourhoods.
- Work towards a reduction in deaths from heart disease in the Borough by 2010.

Resources

	2004/2005	2005/2006
NRF Allocation	£230,000	£199,000
Match Funding Identified	£612,600	£347,600
NRF Intervention Rate	37%	57%*

*overall rate is 44%

Environment

Title: Accessing Sedgefield Services

Lead Organisation: Groundwork East Durham

Description of Service Improvement: Access to services in the Borough is a truly cross-cutting issue with challenges being faced by all service providers and deprived communities in the Borough. The service improvement is needed to maximise the availability of services to the deprived communities that the LSP serve. If transport links can be improved then access to and thus the efficient delivery of all public services can be sustained.

This improvement will result in better co-ordinated service delivery across the LSP as users of the mainstream services have better access to employment, education and health services in particular leading potentially to better health and wealth in the most deprived communities.

The provision of NRF will seek to clearly identify and quantify existing transport service issues and barriers, recommend strategies for improvement, pilot a small number of direct interventions and seek to directly impact upon the development of the County Local Transport Plan in respect to actions to be delivered in the Borough. NRF funds will be entirely additional and without NRF this work would not go ahead.

Aim

To clearly identify the barriers to public services, employment and leisure opportunities that access precipitates; recommend strategies for minimising these barriers; and provide some 'pilot' initiatives in order to inform the potential for mainstreaming / commissioning joint transport actions and influence the outcome of the Local Transport Plan in the Borough.

1. Access Services Study (Year 1)

Groundwork East Durham will source officer time to collate information concerning the provision of existing public / community transport services. Transport service users, providers and public service providers will be consulted to ascertain gaps, problems and issues with the network of services as they exist at present.

2. Transport Action Plan (Year 1)

In partnership with transport providers, community network, service providers and other partners we will produce a 5 year 'Transport Action Plan' that will make recommendations to solve or make a significant change against the gaps, problems and issues identified in the 'Access Services Study'.

3. Pilot Transport Initiatives Programme (Year 2)

This phase of the service improvement will focus on the delivery of a small number of time limited pilot interventions that will seek to demonstrate the opportunity to 'join up' local transport problems for a wide range of service providers into commissioned solutions. The pilot programme will in addition seek to add significant value to the Durham County Local Transport

Plan 2, which is due to start impacting within the Borough in 2006-7. Initiative that will be progressed in this programme will be directly informed by the actions identified in 2. Transport Action Plan.

Targets:

- Employment – Improve the number of people accessing jobs.
- Health - Provide better access to Health Services.
- Education – Provide better access to educational services.

SMARTer targets will be produced when the consultancy work has identified actions.

Resources

	2004/2005	2005/2006
NRF Allocation	£60,000	£145,000
Match Funding Identified	£31,000	£80,000
NRF Intervention Rate	72%	64%

Economy Service Improvement Plan

Title: Fostering Entrepreneurship

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Business Service

Description of Service to be Improved: It is proposed to enhance the existing activity aimed at encouraging self-employment in the target wards. At present, a small financial incentive is used in order to encourage people from the target wards to enter in to self-employment. This has had a certain level of success but the persistent low levels of business start up across the Borough highlight the need to bolster activity.

In addition to the mainstream delivery of business support and mentoring offered to new start companies and individuals entering into self employment by the Small Firms Team at SBBS, additional NRF resource will allow a more comprehensive and proactive approach to promoting entrepreneurship and self employment to be delivered.

This will involve facilitating seminars and awareness raising exercises and events which will actively promote self-employment and business start up. This will then be accompanied by a comprehensive support programme, which will include training to support the development of the skills necessary to become a successful entrepreneur.

Targets: - Increase overall business start-up rates across the Borough bringing the rate closer to the national average.
- Increase self-employment rates in the target communities.

Title: Enterprising Communities

Lead Organisation: Business Link

Description of Service to be Improved: Work has begun building capacity in the target communities, and identifying potential Community Enterprises. Continuation of support would allow the Community Enterprise Coordinator (funded through NRF support) for Sedgefield Borough to enhance the relationship with Community Groups, and support the newly established Community Enterprises.

In addition, it has been proposed by the policy group that extra resource should be made available to 'kick-start' the establishment of a Community Enterprise where appropriate. These could potentially be linked with other Economic Regeneration projects such as the NRM Shildon, and Netpark.

Targets: - To contribute to increased business start up rates through helping 5 new Community Enterprises start up by March 06.
- To have contributed to increased self-employment rates in the target communities, through promoting a more entrepreneurial culture.

Title: Job Search

Lead Organisation: Jobcentre Plus

Description of Service: The project has achieved a great deal of success, resulting in a large number of unemployed residents of target communities gaining work. The service allows for an enhancement of mainstream services by offering additional support to job seekers in the target wards who face specific barriers to entering employment.

It is proposed that with continued NRF support, the service improvement could be rolled out to all the target wards in Sedgefield Borough.

Targets: - To assist 297 local people into jobs through specifically targeted employment advice, and support services. This will actively contribute to reducing unemployment in Sedgefield Borough.

- To continue to reduce youth unemployment, by assisting young people to enter employment.

Title: Civic Pride

Lead Organisation: Groundwork East Durham

Description of Service: To provide an additional level of service to the existing Sedgefield 'Prospect' ILM (Intermediate Labour Market) by establishing a bridge to employment for unemployed 'New Deal' eligible young people aged 18- 25 and 25 plus, who are resident within the targeted wards via counselling, training and useful, properly paid work as soon as they are 'job ready'. Civic Pride will also assist in the renewal of the NRF targeted wards, via the undertaking of Rapid Response / Environmental Improvement activities, including;

- Horticultural works to enhance deprived areas
- Collection of sharps (needles) and additional street cleaning
- Removal of graffiti
- Cleaning out communal areas (Flats) and council gardens
- Cutting down and thinning out shrubbery

Targets: - To assist local people into jobs through specifically targeted employment, advice and support services.

- Reduce youth unemployment in those targeted wards where the levels are currently above the County average.

Resources

	2004/05	2005/06
NRF Allocation	£180,000	£199,000
Match Funding Identified	£534,488	£548,140
NRF Intervention Rate	25%	26%

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