

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham.**

Date: Monday, 19 December 2005

Time: 10.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November, 2005 (herewith). (Pages 1 - 7)
6. Rotherham Compact (report herewith) (Pages 8 - 85)
7. Women's Strategy Group (minutes herewith) (Pages 86 - 88)
8. "Opportunities for All" Government Paper (Andrew Towleron, Policy and Research Manager, to report)
9. NRF Commissioning 2006/07 and 2007/08 (report herewith) (Pages 89 - 120)
10. Draft Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (report herewith) (Pages 121 - 156)
11. Older People's Conference - Evaluation Report (Andrew Towleron, Policy and Research Manager, to report)
12. Date and Time of Next Meeting - 30th January, 2006.

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION
Monday, 21st November, 2005

Present:- Councillor Robinson (in the Chair); Councillors Ali and Burton.

Apologies for absence:- An apology received from Councillor Hodgkiss.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ali declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 54 being employed by the Diversity Forum and left the room during discussion on this item.

51. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER, 2005

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion held on 24th October, 2005, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

Reference was made to Minute No. 41 (Asian Earthquake) and the fund raising appeal set up to help the victims of the earthquake. A decision was to be made on the best charitable organisation the monies would be given to with links to the affected areas.

**52. ROTHERHAM MBC'S DRAFT CORPORATE COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK**

Asim Munir, Principal Community Involvement Officer, submitted a report which sought approval for the draft strategic framework aiming to deliver improvements in community involvement and consultation activity across the Council.

The framework set out the Council's vision, aims and objectives for consultation and community involvement. It also set out a range of actions to ensure that consultation and community involvement underpinned and was built into Council policy and service delivery.

The report submitted was, therefore, seeking approval for internal and external consultation. The framework would again be received by the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet in February, 2006 after the external consultation was complete. The timetable for the consultation was November, 2005 to January, 2006 to ensure delivery of the Action Plan could commence from 1st April, 2006.

Resolved:- (1) That the content of the attached framework and the Community Involvement/Consultation plan for the internal and external consultation be noted.

(2) That regular reports on progress made be received.

53. LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (L.G.B.T.) HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS IN ROTHERHAM AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE IN FEBRUARY 2006

Zafar Saleem, Equalities and Diversity Manager, submitted a report which provided an update on the proposals for Rotherham's contribution to the South Yorkshire-wide celebrations for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (L.G.B.T.) History Month in February, 2006.

These proposals have been made by Rotherham L.G.B.T. Inter-Agency Group. This report also asks that the proposals to join other South Yorkshire Councils and Partnerships, by flying the Rainbow flag at the Town Hall to launch the celebrations, be taken forward for decision by the Cabinet.

It was noted that this proposal was discussed by the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 8th September, 2005.

Discussion ensued on the procedure for flying flags at the Town Hall and whether there was a policy for such an event. This was to be explored further.

Resolved:- (1) That clarification be sought on the procedure and policy for flying flags at the Town Hall.

(2) That the proposals for the events and celebrations planned by Rotherham L.G.B.T. Inter-Agency Group be welcomed and noted.

(3) That the proposal to join with other South Yorkshire Councils in flying the Rainbow flag at the Town Hall to launch Rotherham's celebrations be supported, subject to this meeting agreeing the criteria in the relevant procedure and policy.

(4) That the Cabinet be asked to agree the proposal to join with other South Yorkshire Councils in flying the Rainbow flag at the Town Hall to launch Rotherham's celebrations.

54. DIVERSITY FORUM - SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Zafar Saleem, Equalities and Diversity Manager, submitted a report, which outlined the funding arrangements for the Diversity Forum and the associated service specification.

Background information was provided on how the Diversity Forum assisted the Council by taking on the management, support, monitoring and supervision arrangements for MAARI and the Immigration Adviser conditional on core funding being made available for supplies and services, administration, Information Technology, and clerical support, and management time.

Such an arrangement safeguarded the projects, posts, and maintained continuity in service delivery to a vulnerable and deprived section of the community and as a result a service specification had been drawn up.

Members were mindful of the good work taking place at the Diversity Forum and other projects funded through I.C.I.B. and requested that visits be arranged to view and put into context the projects and their working conditions.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and service specification be agreed and the ring fenced I.C.I.B. monies for B.M.E work be allocated to the Diversity Forum.

(2) That visit arrangements be made to all the I.C.I.B. advice projects to coincide with the renegotiations of the Service Level Agreements during early 2006.

55. MIGRANT WORKERS

Zafar Saleem, Equalities and Diversity Manager, gave a verbal report on the alleged influx of families of Slovakian origin in the Canklow area. There appeared to be a trend in the rise of numbers of migrant workers arriving in Rotherham, which appeared to be creating tension for a number of reasons. There were some indicators of people being exploited, being offered work only to find that there was no such work available once in Rotherham or that work ceased leaving families destitute.

In addition, some migrant families were being offered accommodation by employers, which were giving rise to some child safeguarding issue due to overcrowding. Registration of children at secondary school after they had left junior school also appeared to be an issue.

Information had been received by Social Services, Neighbourhoods, Job Centre, C.A.B., the Police and the P.C.T., but there appeared to be no strategic leadership or directive to understand the crux of the problem. As these people were neither refugees or asylum seekers there was little support on offer through Neighbourhoods Asylum Team or Social Services.

It was, therefore, suggested, that the Equalities and Diversity Manager take a corporate lead and approach this problem strategically and report back on his findings.

Resolved:- That a further report be provided on the findings of research into issues surrounding migrant workers.

56. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES L.G.C. AWARD SUBMISSION

Zafar Saleem, Equalities and Diversity Manager, confirmed that a submission had been made for an L.G.C. Award for Sustainable Communities highlighting our work on Community Cohesion. Some case studies had been provided and it was hoped that the submission would be shortlisted. Confirmation to this effect would be received by the 2nd December, 2005 if Rotherham had made the shortlist.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

57. BI-ANNUAL PLAN OF CONSULTATION

Andrew Towleron, Policy and Research Manager, submitted a report on the Council's Bi-Annual Plan of Consultation for the period September 2005 to April 2006. It outlined the major consultation activities scheduled for the coming six months within the Council and identified the lead Programme Area, purpose of the consultation, the methodology to be used, its timings and other useful information.

The development of the Bi-Annual Plan was an integral part of a wider programme of actions aimed at strengthening the Council's approach to consultation. These included the Consultation and Community Involvement Position Statements and the emerging Consultation and Community Involvement Framework.

The Bi-Annual Plan sought to improve the co-ordination of consultation and the sharing of results and best practice and underline the breadth and depth of consultation with service users, non-service users and communities of place and interest to ensure that this was an established part of this Council's culture.

It was acknowledged that there were many aspects of consultation taking place in Programme Areas and that there needed to be a co-ordinated approach to pulling this together to ensure robust and clear guidance to sharing consultation.

Resolved:- That the Bi-Annual Plan of Consultation be agreed.

(2) That the revised process for its development be noted.

(3) That the diversity of strategic consultation activity being undertaken over the next six months be noted.

(4) That this Plan be embodied into the strategic and service delivery planning process, policy and performance management arrangements.

(5) That this report be referred to the Cabinet and relevant Scrutiny Panel for approval.

58. ANALYSIS OF THE IRISH POPULATION IN ROTHERHAM

Catherine Dale, Research and Statistics Officer, submitted a report which detailed the main findings from a report commissioned by the Research and Policy team in Rotherham M.B.C. to examine the Irish population in Rotherham.

The report represented a wider approach adopted by the Research and Policy Team to help develop a greater understanding of the needs and priorities of the many communities in Rotherham. The findings would have implications for policy and service delivery.

The main findings of the research were highlighted and included the following characteristics:-

- Demographics.
- Ethnicity and Religion.
- Family and Livings.
- Health.
- Economics.

It was envisaged that this report, along with future reports that were produced, were disseminated across Programme Areas and key partner agencies. It was also envisaged that these reports would be made available to the voluntary, community and not for profit sectors and the public via the Council's website to support and maximise funding opportunities for specific Communities of Interest in the Borough.

It was hoped that the findings of this report would enable the Council to establish and maintain effective ways to consult with Communities of Interest and would drive forward community involvement and consultation in relation to policy and service delivery across the Borough and used as a tool to support and inform key strategies. The report had received a great deal of interest and requests have already been made for dissemination.

Resolved:- (1) That the main findings from the report as outlined at Section 7 of this report be noted.

(2) That the findings of the report be taken into account by Programme Areas in developing policies and services.

(3) That dissemination of the key findings to Programme Areas and interested partner agencies be undertaken.

(4) That this report be a first in a series of reports to be developed by the Policy and Research Team looking at the needs and priorities of the various communities of Interest in the Borough.

59. R.M.B.C./V.A.R. LIAISON GROUP

Members welcomed to the meeting four representatives of Voluntary

Action Rotherham (VAR): Janet Wheatley (Chief Executive), Peter Broxholme (Chair), Keith Dodson and Debbie Heath.

Waheed Akhtar (Partnership Officer) gave an overview of key issues in relation to the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Voluntary Action Rotherham. The overview included: -

- The review of grant aid funding towards a commissioning approach.
- The role of Voluntary Action Rotherham as a key infrastructure organisation for the voluntary and community groups in the borough.
- Progress on key objectives within the S.L.A.

It was noted that progress had been made towards achieving all the objectives and that there were no major under-performance issues to report.

Janet Wheatley gave a presentation to the meeting about the aims and objectives of VAR and the wider role of the community and voluntary sector. The presentation and subsequent discussion included the following issues:-

- Voluntary Action Rotherham's progress – recognition and sub-regional lead infrastructure of the voluntary/community sector, clear focus underpinned by clear systems and procedures and robust governance.
- Evidence of Voluntary Action Rotherham's progress – regularly audited targets, Investors in People Assessment, clear business plan, a growing membership base and Voluntary Action Rotherham's representation.
- Future Priority Areas – delivery against the Service Level Agreement, progress on procurement, volunteering, full cost recovery, technical services, Compact development, work with C.E.N., V.O.I.C.E. and N.O.P., development of a voluntary sector strategy and closer working with the Council.
- Immediate Challenges – progress of the S.Y.I.P. proposal, continued involvement with Local Area Agreements and modernisation and development of the sector.

Members welcomed the good work and the achievements made by its Senior Management Team and welcomed the role now being undertaken by Voluntary Action Rotherham and emphasised the need for this progress to be sustained.

Particular reference was made to the future role for Community Development Workers and Members were informed that funding by N.R.F. would end in March, 2006. Further discussions would take place with other agencies to explore whether there were opportunities for these

to be posts to be funded from elsewhere.

Voluntary Action Rotherham was committed to the concept of partnership working with the L.S.P. and the Council. Further discussions would also take place on the support provided by Yorkshire Forward.

Further information was provided on the Community Development Strategy and the Rotherham Compact and the role Voluntary Action Rotherham had alongside the Council. Membership charges, it was noted, would be graded appropriately to prevent any community sector groups being socially excluded.

Resolved:- (1) That representatives of Voluntary Action Rotherham be thanked for their attendance.

(2) That the continuing importance of a close working relationship between the Council and Voluntary Action Rotherham be acknowledged.

(3) That the appropriate officers report further on ways in which the Borough Council might continue to support the role and work of Voluntary Action Rotherham.

(4) That a further Liaison Meeting take place on Monday, 27th February, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

60. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion take place on Monday, 19th December, 2005 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Delegated Powers – Community Cohesion
2.	Date:	19th December, 2005
3.	Title:	Rotherham Compact
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Department

5. Summary

The purpose of the report is to outline the completed internal consultation process that was under taken on the Rotherham Compact Codes of Practice.

6. Recommendations

- 1. Agree the completed Council's Impact Assessment Document on the 5 Codes of Practice.**
- 2. Agree to present the Impact Assessment Document to the Rotherham Partnership Board and the Compact Implementation Group through the LSP**

7. Proposals and Details

Nationally, a Compact on relations between Government and the Voluntary Sector was launched in 1998, followed by five Codes of Good Practice. Development of a local Compact is part of the accreditation criteria for Local Strategic Partnerships and all local partners are encouraged to participate in its development and implementation.

The Rotherham Compact is a statement of partnership between the Voluntary, Community, Statutory and Private sector partners represented in the Rotherham Partnership. It is a commitment to work together more closely and to respect each other's rights and responsibilities. It offers a new approach to partnership and a framework to develop more detailed agreements in future work.

The Compact consists of 5 Codes of Practice, each of which has an impact assessment stage within the Council. The Codes are:

- Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Organisations.
- Community Groups.
- Community Involvement/Consultation and Policy Appraisal.
- Funding and Procurement.
- Volunteering.

Over the time that this work has been progressing locally, there have been some changes to the Home Office expectations of local Compact development and implementation. In brief these are:

- The proposal to introduce Compact Plus which would be a kite mark which would be awarded on the back of local areas undertaking a self-evaluation within a framework to assess the relevance, workability and robustness of their local Codes of Practice. It is not yet clear how this will be implemented. The national consultation on Compact Plus was concluded on 12th July this year, where the Council did send an official response.
- The replacement of the 'Funding' Code of Practice with a 'Funding and Procurement' Code of Practice to reflect the relationship on procurement between local authorities and the voluntary and community sector for example.
- The Consultation/Policy Appraisal Code of Practice has now been changed to Community Involvement/Consultation and Policy Appraisal Code of Practice to reflect the growing national agenda around Community Involvement through national policies such as Sustainable Communities, Civic Renewal and ODPM proposed Performance Management Framework.

The Compact Implementation Group has endeavoured to reflect these changes in the process and the developing Codes of Practice.

At the Rotherham Partnership Board meeting held on the 27th July 2005, it was agreed that compliance with Codes from all partners will take place with effect from

the 1st April 2006. This decision was taken in order to allow the Council sufficient time to take the Codes through the internal consultation processes. The consultation process has been completed and it has involved an officer from each programme area to review and agree which commitments they can and cannot adhere to. This has enabled the completion of the Council's Impact Assessment Document (please see Appendix 1). All these actions have all been put into a timetable (please see Appendix 2).

8. Finance

The Funding and Procurement Code has identified finance implications which are demonstrated in the Impact Assessment Document.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Rotherham Compact is a vital component in developing the relationship between RMBC and the voluntary and community sector. This will impact on the Civic Renewal agenda and the sustainability of the voluntary and community sector through funding and procurement. . It is expected that the proposed Local Area Agreements for Rotherham will make reference to funding and the voluntary sector.

The voluntary and Community Sector is important to both RMBC and the borough in terms of meeting the needs of the community. Failure to support its continued development could result in serious consequences in sustaining the sector to be able to deliver and perform and in terms of partnership and community involvement elements of CPA

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

There is a strong commitment to working with and engaging the voluntary and community sector in the Council and amongst its partners. The Corporate Plan and Community Strategy provide a framework to work the voluntary and community sector in the further development and delivery of the vision and strategy.

It is evident that the Proud theme is addressing the Government's agenda around Civic Renewal and Sustainable Communities which require local authorities to involve the voluntary and community sector in decision making.

A Corporate Community Involvement/Consultation Framework is being developed which supports the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.

An External Funding Strategy is currently completing its consultation process. A Procurement Strategy is being refreshed. All these Council policies will include robust action plans and measures to ensure that the good practice and commitments in the local Compact and Codes can be delivered.

CPA will measure Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's proven ability to engage with and lead their communities, deliver community priorities in partnership with others and ensure continuous improvement across a range of council services. The CPA want to see that local authorities are user and citizen focussed and that

reflect the needs and diversity of the communities that they serve. The council should take into consideration the needs of all sections of the community in setting priorities and consulting with communities and partners when making changes to priorities.

The CPA has developed an analysis of the criteria for assessing community engagement as part of the new CPA 2005, for the purposes of this analysis; community engagement is separated into 3 aspects:

- User focus/citizen involvement.
- Engagement with 'vulnerable, minority and hard to reach groups'.
- The role of the voluntary and community sector.

All these three aspects are relevant to the Compact.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Completed Impact Assessment Document (Appendix 1)

Timetable (Appendix 2)

5 Codes of Practice (Appendix 3)

Contact Names:

Zafar Saleem, Manager, Equalities, Community Cohesion and Inclusion, Ext. 2757 and email: zafar.saleem@rotherham.gov.uk

Asim Munir, Principal Community Involvement Officer, Chief Executive Dept, Ext: 2786 and email asim.munir@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham Partnership Compact Position Statement and Action Planning and Impact Assessment Template

Introduction and Guidelines for Completion

The Impact Assessment and Code of Practice Templates below are action planning check lists to help public sector agencies and voluntary and community organisations implement and embed the principles of the Rotherham Compact in their policies and procedures.

There are five Codes of Practice (CoP):

- *Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)*
- *Community Groups*
- *Community Involvement/Consultation and Policy Appraisal*
- *Funding*
- *Volunteering*

For each CoP, with the exception of Volunteering, there is a template for agencies to complete and one for voluntary and community organisations to complete.

There is only one template for the Voluntary Code of Practice which is to be completed by all agencies and organisations helped by volunteers.

You are asked to complete the template for every CoP which applies to your agency or organisation. Not every CoP will necessarily apply. For example, you may not provide funding, through grants or contracts, to voluntary and community organisations, in which case there is no need to complete the Funding CoP template. Similarly you may not have volunteers working with you.

For each CoP you are completing, first state whether you are implementing or complying with each agreement item (in the first column of each row), providing a reference to any relevant policy document which is evidence that you are doing so. If you are implementing or complying with an agreement item at what you believe to be an appropriate quality level then there is no need to complete the rest of the row as no further action needs to be taken.

If you are not implementing or complying with an agreement item in the CoP, or not implementing it to a desired quality level, then either:

- (a) state why you will not be implementing this item, or*
- (b) state what action you will take to implement this item, when by and who will be leading on the action.*

The Impact Assessment is a summary of the actions which need to be taken by an agency or voluntary/community organisations to implement the principles listed in the Codes of Practice. It is also a summary of the challenges faced in order to take these actions. As such it will need to be completed after the Code of Practice templates have been completed.

These Codes of Practice have been refined following a pilot period with a number of agencies and voluntary and community organisations. They have also taken into account the revised national Funding and Procurement Code of Good Practice and the Compact Plus Consultation Paper¹ which were published during the pilot phase. As a result, some agreement items have an overarching character with others providing greater detail. For example, under the Volunteering CoP, the overarching principle/agreement item is "Follow Best Practice in the management of volunteers" while the other agreement items provide further detail of what this "Best Practice" means. Overarching items are shown in bold.

¹ "Strengthening Partnerships:Next Steps for Compact" Home Office, March 2005

Impact Assessment Summary Template

Key Challenges for our organisation to effectively implement the Rotherham Compact and its Codes of Practice
Implementation of the Codes of practice and effective performance management of the Codes across the Council. There is a need to raise the profile of this work to ensure that it is incorporated into the programme areas service planning and delivery.

What needs to be done differently within our organisation or in partnership with others to mainstream the Rotherham Compact and its Codes of Practice across our organisation
We are to recruit a post shortly that will oversee responsibility for the Compact and Codes. The LSP has overall responsibility for the Compact and not this officer as the officer's role will be to ensure that Council delivers its commitments. Other agencies need to establish their own internal mechanisms as our officer has no influence over partner management teams. Some of the terminology in the Agency agreements is vague and open to interpretation.

Code of Practice	Action to Take	By When
BME Code of Practice	Performance Management by Corporate Equalities & Diversity Strategy Group – The Group has not agreed to do this. Should it not be the officer working party or the LSP?	Every 6 weeks
BME Code of Practice	Recruitment of Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer	Between November 2005 to January 2006
Funding and Procurement	We will incorporate appropriate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.	February 2006
Funding and Procurement	Procurement Strategy and action plan to be completed. Approval to be gained from CMT and Cabinet.	March 2006

Funding and Procurement	Full cost recovery – we will work with our partners in the LSP to consider a model for calculating overhead costs that is appropriate to our needs. Our discussions will feed into a subsequent review of this Code – the date of this to be agreed via the Compact Implementation Group.	Sep 06
Community Involvement/Consultation and Policy Appraisal	Develop a Corporate Community Involvement and Consultation Framework which will seek to address Community involvement and Consultation on a corporate level by identifying key objectives to deliver the improvements, identifying good practice, managing performance and making strategic improvements on Community Involvement and Consultation across the council. It will focus on the importance of robust structures and methods	April 2006
	All the policies should meet the criteria set out in the Policy Development Guidance and ensuring quality assurance.	On-going

Code of Practice	Principles which cannot be Implemented	Reason
BME Code of Practice	To recognise and promote the importance of Communities of Interest and their voluntary and community organisations when planning the use of resources that come to Rotherham.	Requires agreement from the LSP as current and future external funding likely to go through Board. An agreement is required for Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out on schemes and programmes that use external funding and explicit tracking and monitoring of beneficiaries.
Funding and Procurement	Principle 6: To not change any SLAs/contract requirements without full negotiation and give 'enough' notice of the end of grants or contracts (in relation to multi-annual funding contracts this should not be a period of less than 1 year unless there are good reasons otherwise. Where agencies suspect that there is a chance that this might happen, they	A year's notice of the end of funding is not possible. Funding will normally be for a set period and for to work towards specific outcomes. A corporate process for negotiation of changes will be agreed and shown in each SLA/contract.

	<p>undertake to inform Voluntary and Community Sector organisations of this likelihood by 31 March of the financial year preceding the one in which a contract might end).</p>	<p>There will be a need for flexibility due to funding source requirements and also certain situations such as malpractice, mismanagement or other factors which may place the council's resources at risk.</p>
<p>Funding and Procurement</p>	<p>Principle 8. To recognise that it is legitimate for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to include the relevant element of overhead costs in their estimates for providing a particular service (full cost recovery) and to encourage these organisations to build these into tenders. Longer term, this will help Voluntary and Community sector organisations to become more financially stable which will positively impact on their ability to deliver quality services in a sustainable way by focusing on outcomes rather than short-term funding constraints</p>	<p>We agree with the principle of ensuring that project finances accurately represent the costs of delivering the project.</p> <p>However, we feel the full cost recovery template also raises a number of issues which require further investigation such as double funding and other issues which would be raised in an audit. Therefore we can not agree to this model at this time.</p> <p>There may also be restrictions according to the original funding source which may state that the funding is to carry out a specific project and no contribution to core codes may be made.</p>
<p>Funding and Procurement</p>	<p>Principle 14: To set out payment deadlines where appropriate and set penalties for non-payment. Ensure that efficient payment processes are in place before letting contracts</p>	<p>We will be compliant in setting out clear guidelines for payment.</p> <p>We do not think that penalties for non-payment are appropriate as this should be a two way process and therefore we may wish to see reciprocal penalties for non-delivery of the service as agreed. The penalties element places a negative emphasis on the process which should be adequately dealt with through an agreed dispute resolution process.</p> <p>Payment processes are already in place.</p> <p>Payments are made within three weeks of an invoice being presented, provided that there is an SLA/contract in place, that the invoice is presented as required to the agreed timetable, and that any</p>

			conditions, milestones, outputs or other requirements are met and evidenced as agreed.
Funding and Procurement	Principle 17: To provide whenever possible an opportunity for the Voluntary and Community Sectors to contribute to programme design.		This commitment is a duplication of commitment 4 above and should be removed.
Funding and Procurement	Principle 18: To discuss risks up-front and place the responsibility with the public sector body or voluntary and Community Sector body best able to manage them		<p>We will be compliant on discussing risks up front.</p> <p>We feel the risk should be assessed early on and managed effectively and mitigated. The responsibilities of managing risks should be shared between all the partners in the agreement. The public sector is becoming more experienced with risk management issues through national audit requirements and local good practice.</p> <p>Rotherham MBC has borne risks by e.g. bankrolling of voluntary or community projects but with adequate checks to ensure accountability of public funds. It is important that no agency in the public sector is placed at risk through a blanket commitment; whilst some of this can be addressed by the procurement strategy and internal risk management procedures - the emphasis of this should be on working together to identify risks and providing an opportunity for sharing risk management experience.</p>
Funding and Procurement	Principle 20: To make payments in advance of expenditure (where appropriate and necessary) in order that better value for money may be achieved		This commitment is a duplication of a previous commitment above and should be removed.
Funding and Procurement	Principle 21: To consider joining-up or standardising monitoring requirements		This commitment is a duplication of a previous commitment above and should be removed.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Code of Practice

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON/ GROUP	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
All agencies agree:					
To work with the breadth of BME voluntary and community organisations in order that racism, discrimination, inequality and exclusion in all their forms are addressed as a priority. This is not just about meeting legislation requirements, but it is a commitment to driving genuine culture changes within their organisation above and beyond what the law requires.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BME Voluntary & Community Organisations are now attending a BME Strategy Group coordinated by the CXD. 2. Presentation on the Council's Race Equality Scheme 2 (RES2) delivered to the BME Strategy Group. The RES2 sets out how the Council will eliminate discrimination. 3. The BME Strategy Group has agreed to receive regular reports on progress against the RES2. 	1. 6 monthly reports to BME Strategy Group.	Zafar Saleem	31 March 2006	Effective challenge to the Council's compliance with the RES2 and RRAA 2000.
To recognise and promote the importance of Communities of Interest and their voluntary and community organisations when planning the use of resources that come to Rotherham. This will ensure that BME communities are not excluded due to resources being targeted too heavily around geographical communities (e.g. in relation to Neighbourhood Renewal).	Cannot be implemented by RMBC alone as requires commitment from Partners and LSP.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Report to LSP Board recommending the adoption of the agency agreement as a condition of applications/successful bids for external funding. 	Director, Rotherham Partnership	asap	Sign up to agency agreement by LSP with clear commitment to conducting Equality Impact Assessments and explicit tracking and monitoring of beneficiaries.
To recognise and support -(by financial and other means)- the particular development needs of BME Communities. This includes the support and training needed to develop the infrastructure of BME organisations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development needs of BME sector to be identified through the BME Strategy described above. 2. Mapping exercise conducted 	1. BME Strategy to be completed.	Zafar Saleem	January 2006	Completion of the BME Strategy is dependent on completion of the mapping exercise and return of the questionnaires by BME

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON/ GROUP	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	with questionnaires sent out to BME organisations.				voluntary groups
To make sure that information is presented and disseminated in a way that meets the needs of BME Communities (e.g. language, format etc) and their organisations	<p>1. A draft Translation and Interpretation Policy has been produced.</p> <p>2. Borough wide interpretation and translation service agreed in principle and action plan to deliver new service agreed.</p>	<p>1. Policy to be approved by CMT.</p> <p>2. Report to LSP Board recommending support for the establishment Borough wide Translation and Interpretation Service</p>	<p>Zafar Saleem</p> <p>Director, Rotherham Partnership</p>	<p>December 2005</p> <p>December 2005</p>	<p>1. Accessible information and services.</p> <p>2. Borough wide translation and interpretation service established.</p>
To ensure BME Communities in Rotherham are supported in being able to influence the development of strategy and policy in Rotherham by developing their capacity to do this. This involves consulting with BME voluntary and community organisations in compliance with the consultation CoP by making sure that sufficient time is made available for consultation	<p>1. A needs and gap analysis is being conducted as part of the mapping exercise highlighted above.</p>	<p>1. BME Strategy to be completed.</p>	<p>Zafar Saleem</p>	<p>January 2006</p>	<p>1. Capacity of BME organisations addressed through BME Strategy completed</p> <p>2. Completion of the BME Strategy is dependent on completion of the mapping exercise and return of the questionnaires by BME voluntary groups</p>
To provide clear feedback on the results of any consultation that takes place in Rotherham including feedback to and with BME voluntary and community organisations. The purpose of this is to communicate clearly the reasons behind any decisions that are made. This will further encourage BMECommunity participation in such activity.	<p>1. Draft consultation and community involvement framework produced.</p>	<p>1. Framework to be approved by CMT and Cabinet.</p>	<p>Asim Munir/Dawn Price</p>	<p>December 2005</p>	<p>BME community actively consulted and involved in key decisions affecting them</p>
To recognise and value the unique skills, expertise and experience that there is within	<p>Draft procurement Strategy</p>	<p>1. Procurement Strategy to be</p>	<p>Helen Leadley</p>	<p>December</p>	<p>Positive action</p>

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON/ GROUP	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
the BME Voluntary and Community sectors. Partner Agencies will develop clear and inclusive frameworks (e.g. relating to service level agreements) to make sure this recognition is demonstrated	produced which includes a commitment to developing partnership arrangements with the BME sector to deliver services.	completed.		2005	programmes to engage BME businesses and voluntary/community sector in developed.
To recognise and support the independence of the BME Community sector and its right within law to challenge institutions, policy and practice. Without exception, the LSP will recognise the right of Rotherham's BME Communities to determine and manage their own affairs	For completion by LSP	For completion by LSP	For completion by LSP	For completion by LSP	For completion by LSP
To ensure that all structures in the LSP and its constituent partner organisations are accessible and appropriate to BME Community needs. This involves creating clear means by which these communities can influence the LSP.	1. Representation on LSP Board by BME voluntary and community sector to be considered by BME strategy Group and Chair and Director of LSP.	1. Meeting arranged for 28 November 2005 to discuss representation of BME community on LSP Board and how the community strategy benefits the BME community in Rotherham.	BME Strategy Group/LSP/RM BC	Tbc following meeting on 28/11/2005	Appropriate representation of BME community on LSP Board to be addressed.
To promote equalities through best practice eg via provision of training .	1. Equalities and Diversity Training Strategy agreed produced. 2. Programme of training planned including involving BME voluntary and community sector in delivery. 3. Training for Trainers course to be organised and BME voluntary and community sector to invited to training.	1. Equalities and Diversity Strategy to be implemented.	Zafar Saleem/Simon Cooper	Ongoing programme over three years.	RMBC seen as exemplar of best practice.

COMMUNITY SECTOR AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
All BME voluntary and community organisations agree :					
<p>To play a full and active part within the wider voluntary and community sectors in Rotherham. This will help the effective implementation of the Compact as a whole and other initiatives such as the Rotherham Community Strategy. In particular Rotherham's BME Communities agree to become an active and influential part of the Network of Community Partnerships and VOICE (Network of Networks).</p>					
<p>To work with all agencies within the LSP to embrace diversity, promote race equality enhance Community Cohesion and to create inclusiveness across Rotherham</p>					
<p>To build closer links with BME Networks at Sub-regional, Regional and National levels. This will help Rotherham's BME Communities to provide the LSP with perspectives on key regional and national issues affecting the sector.</p>					
<p>To actively promote joint approaches and partnership working among Rotherham's BME Communities through sharing expertise and other practical skills.</p>					
<p>To present BME Communities concerns to the LSP in a coordinated, responsible and accountable way</p>					

COMMUNITY SECTOR AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>To observe good governance. This involves BME Community organisations placing clear responsibility on Trustees, Officers and Representatives to use all resources appropriately. This also involves informing agencies when these organisations face significant management and resource challenges, including financial difficulties</p>					
<p>To work towards and adopt appropriate quality standards.</p>					
<p>To apply Best Practice in management and delivery within BME Community organisations.</p>					
<p>To continuously improve the infrastructure and capacity of BME Community Voluntary and Community organisations.</p>					
<p>To fully utilise all training opportunities (including those supported by Partner Agencies).</p>					

Community Groups Code of Practice

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON /GROUP	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
All Agencies agree:					
To work with the breadth of the community and voluntary sectors. (NEW AGREEMENT/UNDERTAKING)	The Community Involvement Unit, Neighbourhoods RMBC are focused on supporting all geographical communities and communities of interest to become engaged in local decision making.	Support communities to develop Community Plans that indicate their priorities and needs and identify action to address them.	Martin Hughes, RMBC	Dec 2007 Ongoing	All communities to have a Plan in place Plans will be regularly updated
To assist Community groups with compact working by helping them to honour their agreements within the Compact and its Codes of Practice.	CIU staff promote diversity and equalities on a daily basis. CIU staff emphasise the need for groups to be accountable on a daily basis	To build on current practice by sharing and promoting the Compact with all representative Groups we work with.	Martin Hughes, RMBC	Dec 2007	All lead Community Organisations to have signed up to the Compact.
To provide development support by: 1. Working together to provide support and advice to help groups develop 2. Recognising that community groups have funding, information and support needs that are different from large voluntary organisations 3. Providing training and help to support development of community groups 4. Providing support in developing quality organisations and systems	CIU staff support the development and establishment of representative community organisations who will lead on the delivery of their Community Plan, This includes a plethora of advice, guidance and training.	Support communities to develop and establishment of representative community organisations who will lead on the delivery of their Community Plan in partnership with others.	Martin Hughes, RMBC	Dec 2007 Ongoing	All communities to have a representative community organisation in place Will always attempt to strengthen Group
To recognise and value community groups: 1. By recognising and valuing the structures and contributions of community groups 2. By recognising and valuing the contribution of	The essence of Community Planning is to promote the value and strength of all local community groups and individuals	Support communities to develop and establishment of representative community	Martin Hughes RMBC	Dec 07	Priorities identified through Community Planning influence future Plans, Strategies and

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON /GROUP	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>volunteers</p> <p>3. By recognising and valuing the contribution of faith groups</p>		<p>organisations who will lead on the delivery of their Community Plan in partnership with others.</p>			<p>Budgets of key agencies and Service Providers (at Area Assembly and Borough wide level)</p> <p>Plans will be regularly updated</p>
<p>To work from an up-to-date and common database of contacts and, as far as possible, to work from a common list of designated community contacts.</p>	<p>CIU staff are working with 2010 Rotherham staff to develop a common database of contacts from organisations that are best placed to become involved in Community Planning and Neighbourhood Management</p>	<p>To agree and update the Contact list</p>	<p>Lynne Rowan, 2010 Roth</p> <p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Nov 05</p>	<p>Agreed and updated list which complements Helping Hands directory</p>
<p>To be open and truthful by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Being open and transparent in all dealings while respecting confidentiality Making sure that relevant information reaches all sections of the community As far as possible, keeping community members and partners informed of activities Being clear and open as to the group/community/ organisation one represents 	<p>CIU staff promote openness and transparency on a daily basis.</p>	<p>To continue encourage all partner agencies to be open and transparent with community groups</p>	<p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>For officers of partner agencies to be comfortable when being open and transparent with community groups</p>
<p>To report changes in circumstances or project delivery when allocating funding and accept that records for monitoring and evaluating spending should be in proportion to the size of the grant</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>To use plain language so as to communicate clearly and in plain and appropriate language with</p>	<p>CIU staff are aware of the need to communicate clearly and in the</p>	<p>CIU staff to continue this work whilst increasing</p>	<p>Martin Hughes</p>	<p>Dec 2006</p>	<p>CIU staff to have accessed appropriate</p>

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON /GROUP	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
community organisations	appropriate language	their awareness of language barriers	RMBC		learning opportunities
To provide physical access by ensuring venues and activities are physically accessible to those with a disability and that the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act are complied with.	CIU staff are aware of the need to provide appropriate access for people with disabilities	CIU staff to continue this work whilst increasing their awareness of barriers to disability	Martin Hughes RMBC	Dec 2006	CIU staff to have accessed appropriate learning opportunities
To address other, less or non-visible barriers to access for those with a disability.	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above
To encourage community group representation and participation on new and existing partnerships. Where possible, community group representation should be included on management committees and proper financial and administrative support for involvement ensured.	Through Community Planning agencies are encouraged to develop joint action plans with communities and have appropriate community representation on decision making bodies.	Support agencies to recognise the benefits of community involvement in service delivery, etc.	Martin Hughes RMBC	Dec 07 Ongoing	All communities to have a Plan in place which includes how communities are represented on decision making bodies in their area. Plans will be regularly updated

COMMUNITY SECTOR AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
All Community Groups agree:					
To embrace diversity and work to improve community cohesion and reduce inequalities.					
When funded 1. To report changes in circumstances or project delivery 2. To accept the need for monitoring and evaluating spending in proportion to the size of the grant					
To ensure physical access so as to make certain, where possible, that activities are open to all members of society					
To address other, less or non-visible barriers to access for those with a disability, e.g. hearing loops, large type in publications for the visually impaired.					
To be open and truthful and, as far as possible, keep community members and partners informed of activities, whether attending or not. Also to be clear and open as to the group/community/ organisation one represents.					

Consultation, Involvement and Policy Appraisal Code of Practice

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>All Agencies agree</p> <p>To work with voluntary and community organisations to understand the views of citizens and communities and create opportunities for them to influence policies.</p>	<p>Use current structures such as VAR (CEN) and REIMA to consult with communities to enable them to influence policies such as the Community Strategy, Older People's Strategy.</p> <p>Community Planning is one of the main vehicles to identify a community's needs and priorities. This evidence influences future Plans, Strategies and Budgets of key agencies and Service Providers</p> <p>The Corporate Equality Strategy and Action Plan (CESAP) and the Race Equality Scheme 2 makes a commitment to community involvement and makes links to the Community Involvement Strategy. These policies also include a commitment in the action plans to build capacity within voluntary and community sector</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>To continue improving Community Plans and ensuring the needs and priorities identified are fed up through Rotherham Partnership in order to influence future policies, etc.</p> <p>Ensure the communities of interest identified by the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy have a network and capacity to be involved in decision making.</p>	<p>Asim Munir/ Dawn Price</p> <p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p> <p>Policy Team Equalities and Diversity Manager</p>	<p>March 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>By March 2007 and ongoing</p>	<p>That all Community Plans and the lead Community Organisations are recognised by Rotherham Partnership who then promote the change of policies, etc. through their network of Partners.</p> <p>Sustainable networks are formed and are involved in decision making</p>

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	organisations/groups that represent communities of interest.				
To consult and involve voluntary and community sector on issues that are likely to affect it and build consultation with the voluntary and community sectors into plans for policy and service development. In particular this is relevant where new roles or responsibilities are proposed for the voluntary and community sectors in Rotherham.	Currently developing a Community Involvement/Consultation Framework which will identify appropriate ways of building consultation with the voluntary and community sectors into plans for policy and service development. Community Planning is one of the main processes of involving local communities on issues effect an area / community.	Develop a Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit for officers and members to carry out effective community involvement and consultation. To continue promoting process	Asim Munir/ Dawn Price Martin Hughes RMBC	March 2007 Ongoing	Contribution of CIU team will ensure that all appropriate policies and procedures acknowledge the need to involve communities.
To appraise new policies and procedures, particularly at the developmental stage identifying as far as possible any implications for the sector.	CIU team regular contribute to the development of policies and procedures of Programme Area and Corporate documents. Equality impact assessment forms part of the implementation of the CESAP and Race Equality Scheme 2. All new policies, changing polices and exiting	To continue to support the development of new and existing policies and procedures. A 3-year schedule of equality impact assessment has been drawn up by all Programme Areas and year 1 is underway.	Martin Hughes RMBC Equalities and Diversity Officer and Programme Area	Ongoing 3-year schedule to March 2008	As above Improvements to policies are made to address negative impacts and promote equality for communities of interest

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>policies are required to undergo equality impact assessment using the Council Equality Impact Assessment toolkit. Consultation is an important part of equality impact assessment to identify the impact of the Council functions and policies on communities of interest.</p>	<p>The equality impact assessment toolkit is being used alongside policy development guidance in the refresh of policies under the Policy Review.</p>	<p>Equality Officers</p>	<p>Policy Review 3 due to be completed by Dec 05</p>	<p>that are identified through the consultation process.</p>
<p>To consult early and involve the sector at a sufficiently early stage of policy development to allow the sectors to make a difference (subject to considerations of sensitivity or confidentiality). A minimum of 12 weeks consultation period is recommended to ensure the sectors are sufficiently involved in shaping such policy.</p>	<p>This will be addressed through the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit for officers and members to carry out effective community involvement and consultation</p> <p>CIU team regular contribute to the development of policies and procedures of Programme Area and Corporate documents.</p>	<p>The proposed policy appraisal toolkit for new policies will encompass equality impact assessment requirements</p> <p>A guiding principle in the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit</p> <p>To continue to support the development of new and existing policies and procedures.</p>	<p>Policy Team</p> <p>Policy Team</p> <p>Asim Munir/ Dawn Price</p> <p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>Due to be published 2006</p> <p>March 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As above</p>

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>To prepare consultation documents that are concise, clearly laid out and written in plain language that will be understood by the intended audience.</p>	<p>This will be addressed through the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit for officers and members to carry out effective community involvement and consultation</p> <p>CIU team regular contribute to the development of policies and procedures of Programme Area and Corporate documents.</p> <p>The CESAP and Race Equality Scheme 2 makes a commitment to providing information in accessible formats.</p>	<p>A guiding principle in the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit</p> <p>To continue to support the development of new and existing policies and procedures.</p> <p>All Programme Areas have carried out equality baseline assessments which included a self-assessment of accessible information. Action to improve this is addressed by Programme Area Equality Action Plans</p>	<p>Asim Munir/ Dawn Price</p> <p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p> <p>Programme Area Equality and Diversity Officers</p>	<p>March 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>To be clear and open about the purpose and aim of the involvement and consultation and to give clear details of the background and reasons for the involvement and consultation.</p>	<p>This is addressed through the Council's Consultation Protocol stage with Form 1's which officers have to complete when carrying out consultation which outlines the purpose of the consultation and the timescale for doing it. Form 2's, explain the outcomes from the consultation.</p>	<p>On-going Introduce a new process for the Consultation Database in three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Database can be accessed on the Intranet for officers from all programme areas to input their information. 2. There will be inputting facilities made available for 	<p>Dawn Price</p>	<p>March 2007</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>CIU team are leading on the establishment of 7 community involvement forums / meetings (one per Area Assembly) possibly under the PROUD banner.</p>	<p>the nominated officers. 3. Results from Database will be available for public domain on the Council website.</p> <p>To proceed with this work. Forums will be made up of local workers tasked with community involvement / development and representatives of key community organisations. They will aim to support each others work and advise on appropriate community involvement methods / techniques within their area. This will be a valuable resource to those wishing to consult / involve communities in a particular area.</p>	<p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>Dec 2005</p>	<p>7 Community Involvement Forums established and linked to Area Assembly and Rotherham Partnership. Providing a pool of knowledge and support around community involvement issues in a particular area.</p>
<p>To define who it wishes to consult or involve and the timescale for doing this. This involves the identification of, what resources and support are available for organisations to be involved and use the most appropriate methods to encourage responses from the sector.</p>	<p>This is addressed through the Council's Consultation Protocol stage with Form 1's which officers have to complete when carrying out consultation which outlines the purpose of the consultation and the timescale for doing it. Form 2's, explain the outcomes from the consultation.</p>	<p>On-going Introduce a new process for the Consultation Database in three stages: 4. Database can be accessed on the Intranet for officers from all programme areas to input their information.</p>	<p>Dawn Price</p>	<p>March 2007</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>CIU team are leading on the establishment of 7 community involvement forums / meetings (one per Area Assembly) possibly under the PROUD banner.</p>	<p>5. There will be inputting facilities made available for the nominated officers. 6. Results from Database will be available for public domain on the Council website.</p> <p>To proceed with this work. Forums will be made up of local workers tasked with community involvement / development and representatives of key community organisations. They will aim to support each others work and advise on appropriate community involvement methods / techniques within their area. This will be a valuable resource to those wishing to consult / involve communities in a particular area.</p>	<p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>Dec 2005</p>	<p>7 Community Involvement Forums established and linked to Area Assembly and Rotherham Partnership. Providing a pool of knowledge and support around community involvement issues in a particular area.</p>
<p>To be clear about how decisions will be made, who will make them and on what grounds they have been made. Subsequently agencies will give feedback to all those involved in the consultation and make responses received available.</p>	<p>This will be addressed through the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit for officers and members to carry out effective community involvement and consultation</p>	<p>A guiding principle in the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit</p>	<p>Asim Munitr/ Dawn Price</p>	<p>March 2007</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>CIU team regular contribute to the development of policies and procedures of Programme Area and Corporate documents, including being open and transparent and the importance of feedback.</p>	<p>To continue to support the development of new and existing policies and procedures.</p>	<p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Contribution of CIU team will ensure that all appropriate policies and procedures acknowledge the need to involve communities.</p>
<p>To analyse carefully the results of consultation and involvement exercises and evaluate their effectiveness with a view to developing and sharing good practice</p>	<p>This will be addressed through the Community Involvement and Consultation Framework.</p> <p>CIU team assist communities in pulling together the raw and existing data they have collected and analysing that. The aim is to ensure the agreed priorities are representative and can be confidently put forward to other statutory partners.</p>	<p>Developed a more robust and SMART system to capture the information of how services have been improved as a result of consultation and ensure the good practice is shared with the Corporate Community Involvement Group and the Corporate Consultation group</p> <p>To continue to improve the mechanisms for involvement in Community Planning and local decision making. To be more innovative and to ensure all communities have the opportunity to become involved.</p>	<p>Asim Munir/ Dawn Price</p> <p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>March 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>That all completed Community Plans and the lead community organisations can be scrutinised and show evidence that their Priorities, Plans and Organisation are truly representational. Therefore models of good practice.</p>
<p>To work towards co-ordinating consultations to avoid duplication of effort and consultation fatigue</p>	<p>This will be addressed through the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit for officers and members to carry out</p>	<p>A guiding principle in the Community Involvement and Consultation Toolkit</p>	<p>Asim Munir/ Dawn Price</p>	<p>March 2007</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>effective community involvement and consultation</p> <p>CIU team are leading on the establishment of 7 community involvement forums / meetings (one per Area Assembly) possibly under the PROUD banner.</p>	<p>To proceed with this work. Forums will be made up of local workers tasked with community involvement / development and representatives of key community organisations. They will aim to support each others work and advise on appropriate community involvement methods / techniques within their area. This will be a valuable resource to those wishing to consult / involve communities in a particular area. It will also reduce risk of duplication and increase co-ordination.</p>	<p>Martin Hughes RMBC</p>	<p>Dec 2005</p>	<p>7 Community Involvement Forums established and linked to Area Assembly and Rotherham Partnership. Providing a pool of knowledge and support around community involvement issues in a particular area.</p>

VOL/COM SECTOR AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>The Voluntary and Community Sectors agree :</p>					
<p>To use their contacts, networks and organisations to encourage participation in consultations/involvement (commensurate with their available resources to do this). This agreement includes a commitment to co-operating with each other (through intermediary bodies if appropriate), at a national, regional and local level to ensure the process of consultation and involvement is as effective and inclusive as possible..</p>					
<p>To be clear about who they are, what groups or causes they represent and how they involved those interested in their views and responses.</p>					
<p>To consult and involve their members/volunteers/supporters/ users directly so that policy positions truly reflect the views of stakeholders and constituents. Where this is not practical or appropriate to indicate that they are responding on the basis of their accumulated knowledge and experience of working with the groups concerned.</p>					
<p>To give their members / volunteers / supporters / users feedback on the outcomes of the consultation and involvement, where feed back and responses are received by agencies.</p>					
<p>To operate through open and accountable organisations, having regard to Charity commission guidelines (where applicable) on what they should and should not do in relation to their representational and campaigning work.</p>					
<p>To promote good practice by sharing learning and adopting guidance on effective representation.</p>					

Volunteering Code of Practice

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
All organisations assisted by volunteers agree:					
To follow Best Practice in the management of volunteers. (Note the agreement items which follow are components of Best Practice.)	Compact Volunteering Code of Practice distributed to all Services.	Comments for future improvement of Code collected and to be reviewed.	Simon Cooper	Sept 06	
To develop a volunteer policy and set of procedures for working with volunteers	Guidance on use of volunteers currently exists and available on intranet. No corporate policy statement on volunteering exists.	Develop Corporate Policy Statement on Volunteering.	Simon Cooper	Sept 06	
To be clear from the outset why the organisation is looking to work with volunteers and how those volunteers can contribute to the organisation	Use of volunteers and contribution they make determined at Service Area level in response to specific needs.	Corporate Policy Statement to incorporate Council wide rationale for use of volunteers the contribution they can make.	Simon Cooper	Sept 06	
To properly and appropriately recruit, support, supervise and protect their volunteers	Guidance on use of volunteers already includes advice on recruitment and selection.	Maintain existing advice and guidance.	Simon Cooper	Ongoing	
To encourage and develop volunteers by providing them with the necessary training to enable them to fulfil their roles as well as making clear statements of the volunteers' rights and responsibilities	Guidance on use of volunteers already includes advice on training and induction..	Maintain existing advice and guidance.	Simon Cooper	Ongoing	
To ensure that everyone in the organisation is aware of the role and contribution of the volunteers and of the relationship between the organisation and the volunteers	Service Areas promote awareness of volunteers within their work areas and the relationship with the Service.	Promote awareness of volunteer schemes within the Council via newsletters	Simon Cooper PA Communication Champions	Sept 06	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
To not use volunteers as a substitute for paid staff and only use volunteers in roles which are appropriate to volunteering	Guidance on use of volunteers states that volunteering is not a replacement for paid employment.	Continue to promote awareness of guidance.	Simon Cooper	Ongoing	
To maintain up to date records of volunteers and to monitor the tasks carried out by volunteers.	Services using volunteers responsible for maintenance of records. Guidance on use of volunteers refers.	Continue to promote awareness of guidance.	Simon Cooper	Ongoing	
To recognise and appreciate the work of volunteers including, where possible, the use of certification and/or accreditation	Individual Services responsible for appropriate recognition mechanisms.	Review guidance on use of volunteers to examine potential recommendations on recognition arrangements	Simon Cooper	Sept 06	
To provide a safe working environment for volunteers and be aware of the requirements of the Health and Safety Act 1974 if appropriate	Guidance on use of volunteers refers to need for training on health and Safety issues.	Continue to promote awareness of guidance.	Simon Cooper	Ongoing	
<p>To encourage volunteers to sign up to the following Code of Good Practice in which they commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Being reliable and punctual. ● Working to health and safety standards and within the law ● Behaving in a professional manner and maintain confidentiality at all times. ● Being willing to participate in supervision and appraisal and to undergo any appropriate training required of them 	Standard minimum template exists in respect of the agreements under which a person acts as a volunteer for the Council	Review template volunteering agreement.	Simon Cooper	April 06	

Funding and Procurement Code of Practice

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>All agencies agree:</p> <p>To provide clear, precise and timely information about funding opportunities that clearly set out timetables, process, eligibility and required outcomes; and ensure that it is appropriate to the level of grant or value of the contract. Where applicable, produce annual guidelines.</p>	<p>Compliant.</p> <p>Information is provided to relevant organisations and networks on individual sources of funding.</p> <p>Guidelines are produced in line with funding source timetables.</p> <p>Will be compliant.</p>	<p>We will incorporate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 2006</p>	
<p>To investigate as early as possible the possible barriers for the voluntary and community sectors in accessing new funding opportunities</p>	<p>A range of information on barriers to funding for VC groups already exists.</p>	<p>We will incorporate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 2006</p>	
<p>To openly set out scoring and/or selection procedures, and provide feedback on the results of that process</p>	<p>Will be compliant.</p> <p>Scoring processes are prepared before assessment of funding applications and will be informed by local and national audit guidelines as well as the requirements of particular funding sources.</p> <p>General feedback will be given to applicants where requested – this is seen as a learning process for applicants and RMBC. However, due to staff resources it may not be possible to detail every element of the assessment in</p>	<p>We will incorporate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 2006</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>To engage the voluntary and community sectors in developing new strategic funding programmes early in the development stages (see the Consultation and Policy Appraisal Code of Practice).</p>	<p>feedback to every organisation. Compliant. The majority of strategic funding programmes within Rotherham are developed under the remit of the LSP. Processes for engagement of VCS already exist and these will continue. Where appropriate we will consult with VCS groups on new funding opportunities generated through RMBC. We will consider the impact of any barriers identified and seek ways to reduce these barriers where this is possible within audit guidance, funding source requirements and available resources. Will be compliant.</p>	<p>We will incorporate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 2006</p>	
<p>To Use easy to understand Service Level Agreements (SLAs)/contracts that are appropriate to the size of the grant or contract value, and that set out the requirements of the funding relationship (i.e. be proportionate in monitoring requirements and with jointly agreed outputs and outcomes).</p>	<p>Service level agreements and contracts are currently prepared at Programme Area level. They set out the key issues and conditions for the funding relationship and are in line with the size of the grant, subject to appropriate audit requirements. Specific Programme Areas also have a 'service specification' element within their SLA which sets out the details of the service to be provided by the contractor.</p>	<p>The development of corporately standardised SLAs / contracts will be explored. The need to allow flexibility for individual programme areas and funding sources will inform this process. As part of this process, a corporate review of all funding provided to VCS organisations has been started. Some VCS groups have multiple SLAs / contracts with the council – bringing these into a single agreement with</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>There may be additional requirements due to the original funding source and these are also incorporated into SLAs / contracts – either directly or by reference to other relevant documentation which will then form part of the agreement.</p>	<p>auditable 'service specifications' for individual elements may help provide a more co-ordinated approach to the funding relationship that organisation. A system which allows the assignment of a 'lead programme area' will be explored for groups funded by two or more programme areas. This may not be appropriate if the funding provided to the group has been generated from a source external to the council.</p>			
<p>To negotiate longer term funding arrangements where these represent good value for money and improve sustainability by moving towards multi-annual funding contracts (where possible and where they don't already exist) with joint annual reviews built into such arrangements</p>	<p>Compliant where appropriate. A review of CERB and mainstream funded organisations is ongoing within the Chief Executive's Department. This will help to identify organisations which will be supported with multi-annual funding agreements (up to three years). Funding will be for specific outcomes and a specified period, where necessary the SLA may be over a number of years, subject to annual joint reviews and any other requirements of the council's financial regulations.</p>	<p>We will incorporate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 2006</p>	
<p>To not change any SLAs/contract requirements without full negotiation and give 'enough' notice of the end of grants or</p>	<p>Not compliant with one year notice period.</p>	<p>A corporate process for negotiation of changes will be agreed and shown in each</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>contracts (In relation to multi-annual funding contracts this should not be a period of less than 1 year unless there are good reasons otherwise. Where agencies suspect that there is a chance that this might happen, they undertake to inform Voluntary and Community Sector organisations of this likelihood by 31 March of the financial year preceding the one in which a contract might end).</p>	<p>A process for negotiation of SLAs/contracts is outlined within those documents – this is currently done at Programme Area level.</p>	<p>SLA/contract. There will be a need for flexibility due to funding source requirements and also certain situations such as malpractice, mismanagement or other factors which may place the council's resources at risk. A year's notice of the end of funding is not possible. Funding will normally be for a set period and for to work towards specific outcomes.</p>			
<p>To recognise that it is legitimate for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to include the relevant element of overhead costs in their estimates for providing a particular service (full cost recovery) and to encourage these organisations to build these into tenders. Longer term, this will help Voluntary and Community sector organisations to become more financially stable which will positively impact on their ability to deliver quality services in a sustainable way by focusing on outcomes rather than short-term funding constraints</p>	<p>Not compliant – needs further investigation. We have had two presentations to RMBC by VAR on the full cost recovery template. The first was to a group of Finance officers and Funding officers from different programme areas. The second was to the Corporate Procurement Panel. We agree with the principle of ensuring that project finances accurately represent the costs of delivering the project. However, we feel the full cost recovery template also raises a number of issues which require further investigation such as double funding and other issues which would be raised in an audit.</p>	<p>We will work with our partners in the LSP to consider a model for calculating overhead costs that is appropriate to our needs. Our discussions will feed into a subsequent review of this Code – the date of this to be agreed via the Compact Implementation Group.</p>	<p>Lead officers for the Compact from each partner.</p>	<p>Sep 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>Therefore we can not agree to this model at this time.</p> <p>There may also be restrictions according to the original funding source which may state that the funding is to carry out a specific project and no contribution to core codes may be made.</p>				
<p>To allow Voluntary and Community sector organisations to identify the appropriate level of Management fees and overheads in relation to public procurement.</p>	<p>Will be compliant.</p> <p>The council's procurement strategy is being reviewed.</p> <p>Amongst the aims of the new draft strategy are: 'to foster sustainable procurement' and 'to stimulate local markets'. We will encourage VCS organisations to participate and benefit from procurement opportunities with the council.</p> <p>VCS organisations will also need to ensure that costs are included appropriately and still being commercially viable and competitive.</p>	<p>Procurement Strategy and action plan to be completed.</p> <p>Approval to be gained from CMT and Cabinet.</p>	<p>Helen Leadley / Procurement Panel</p>	<p>Mar 06</p>	
<p>To recognise the need for organisations to have a reasonable level of reserves and not to discriminate against organisations that have this level of reserve</p>	<p>Compliance to be investigated.</p> <p>We recognise that VCS organisations need reserves to observe legal obligations, for effective operation (e.g. cash flow enhancement) and as good practice for enabling the proper planning and development of the organisation.</p>	<p>Provide corporate guidance on financial reserves for VCS groups based on advice from the National Council for Voluntary organisations.</p> <p>As part of this guidance we will encourage every VCS organisation that contracts with the council to develop their</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>We would suggest that this reserve is based on a three month basic operation of the organisation.</p> <p>We will not pay grants to VCS groups to build up reserves. However, when assessing the organisations financial position and need for a grant, we will ensure that the level of reserves (up to three months basic running costs) are not prejudicial to an organisation's application.</p>	<p>reserves policy.</p>			
<p>To recognise the value of match funding 'in-kind' where match funding is required, and set out clear guidance on the definitions and values of 'in kind' support</p>	<p>To be compliant.</p> <p>We recognise the value of volunteering and other match funding in kind that can be brought in by VCS groups.</p> <p>We will encourage VCS groups to monitor and evaluate their in kind contributions as part of funding applications.</p> <p>This use of in-kind funding is subject to the requirements of the original funding sources.</p> <p>Whilst it may be possible to set out general guidance on in-kind funding (and guidelines exist within e.g. SRB programmes), we would want to allow some flexibility in how VCS groups</p>	<p>We will review the issue of in-kind match funding and agree a corporate position of council funded sources.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar / Compact Imp. Group</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>To help organisations to meet tender/contract requirements by providing training if appropriate, or by sign posting to training and support agencies e.g. equal opportunities policy, health and safety requirements etc.</p>	<p>place a value on the in-kind contribution. To be compliant. The council is clarifying its strategic relationship with the voluntary sector. We believe that general training and capacity building should be supported through the voluntary sector infrastructure organisations – some of whom we are providing funding to. Where specific schemes require additional training, we will provide this either with the infrastructure agency or directly.</p>	<p>We will incorporate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	
<p>To recognise that organisations may require 'development' funding or support, in order to meet increased contract requirements, policy changes, new delivery requirements etc.</p>	<p>To be compliant. We will provide information on contract requirements and liaise with infrastructure organisations on policy changes in appropriate networks and fora. More funding is not always the only answer, there may be other issues of organisational capacity, and we will look at options to support that development either with the infrastructure organisations or directly.</p>	<p>We will incorporate guidance into a document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	
<p>To set out payment deadlines where appropriate and set penalties for non-payment. Ensure that efficient payment processes are in place before letting contracts</p>	<p>To be compliant where appropriate. Payment processes are already in place.</p>	<p>A guideline timescale for payment will be set.</p>	<p>Corporate Finance</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>Payments are made within three weeks of an invoice being presented, provided that there is an SLA/contract in place, that the invoice is presented as required to the agreed timetable, and that any conditions, milestones, outputs or other requirements are met and evidenced as agreed.</p> <p>We do not think that penalties for non-payment are appropriate as this should be a two way process and therefore we may wish to see reciprocal penalties for non-delivery of the service as agreed. The penalties element places a negative emphasis on the process which should be adequately dealt with through an agreed dispute resolution process.</p>				
<p>To provide support to organisations that cannot manage payments in arrears by either providing up-front payments, or by directly sponsoring banking relationships that enable up-front access to funds</p>	<p>Compliant.</p> <p>RMBC has a process for dealing with requests for bank-rolling or under-writing of projects. Each project is dealt with on an individual basis and is considered by the appropriate Cabinet Member.</p> <p>However, this is not a service we can automatically offer to each group as there is an additional cost to RMBC both through</p>	<p>Information will be included in a guidance document on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
<p>To develop a consistent approach to contracting with the voluntary and community sectors within and across local statutory agencies.</p>	<p>additional banking costs and through officer time. To be compliant within RMBC where appropriate. This is a significant statement and could benefit from further clarity. The implementation of this Code of Good Practice will in itself help to develop a more consistent approach. However the development of common application processes is not something that can be achieved easily or quickly.</p>	<p>We will review funding to VCS organisations across the council and identify where common processes e.g. for application, monitoring etc. will add value</p>	<p>Michael Holmes</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	
<p>To provide whenever possible an opportunity for the Voluntary and Community Sectors to contribute to programme design. To discuss risks up-front and place the responsibility with the public sector body or voluntary and Community Sector body best able to manage them</p>	<p>This commitment is a duplication of commitment 4 above and should be removed. To be compliant on discussing risks up front. We feel the risk should be assessed early on and managed effectively and mitigated. The responsibilities of managing risks should be shared between all the partners in the agreement. The public sector is becoming more experienced with risk management issues through national audit requirements and local good practice. Rotherham MBC has borne risks</p>	<p>A document on risks associated with funding will be incorporated into guidance on working with VCS organisations.</p>	<p>Waheed Akhtar</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	

AGENCY AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
	<p>by e.g. bankrolling of voluntary or community projects but with adequate checks to ensure accountability of public funds. It is important that no agency in the public sector is placed at risk through a blanket commitment; whilst some of this can be addressed by the procurement strategy and internal risk management procedures - the emphasis of this should be on working together to identify risks and providing an opportunity for sharing risk management experience.</p>				
To respect the independence of the Sector	Compliant.	To ensure that this position is reflected corporately, a position statement to be incorporated into a document on working with VCS organisations.	Waheed Akhtar	Feb 06	
To make payments in advance of expenditure (where appropriate and necessary) in order that better value for money may be achieved	This commitment is a duplication of a previous commitment above and should be removed.				
To consider joining-up or standardising monitoring requirements	This commitment is a duplication of a previous commitment above and should be removed.				

VOL/COM SECTOR AGREEMENTS	POSITION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD PERSON	BY WHEN	OUTCOME/ COMMENT
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The Voluntary and Community Sectors agree :									
To develop and share good practice in the use of public funds within the sectors.									
To ensure that appropriate systems are in place to monitor finance, objectives and outcomes that meet the requirements of funding agreements. This covers having good systems in place to manage organisational finances (and funded projects) and account for them									
To report any changes to the organisation's circumstances that may impact on ability to deliver or meet the requirements of the funding agreement and to make sure that they are eligible when applying for grants.									
To implement clear and effective employment policies, promote equality of opportunity, ensure that complaints procedures are in place and, as far as possible involve users in the development and ongoing evaluation of their activity.									
To comply with the accounting guidelines from the Charity Commission where organisations have Charitable status									
To work in partnership with other organisations in order to achieve good value for money, reduce duplication and gain added value. In such arrangements agree to have clear lines of accountability (e.g. where they relate to joint bids). Wherever possible umbrella organisations should take a proactive approach to supporting such processes and partnership approaches									
To Develop, inform and support voluntary and community sector networks that help funding information to be widely shared within the sectors									
To respect confidentiality and be clear about whom they represent and how they came to their views when consulted on programme design.									
To be honest and transparent in their reporting									

<p>To clearly rationalise approaches to full cost recovery. This is not for the purpose of being monitored by agencies but is designed to give Public Sector agencies an assurance that there is a consistent and valid approach to working out appropriate costs</p>					
<p>To plan in good time for different situations to reduce any potential negative impact on both beneficiaries and the organisation in the event that funding ends</p>					



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ROTHERHAM COMPACT (Community Involvement, Consultation
and Policy Appraisal)

(6th July 2005)

1. Introduction

This Code of Practice is one of five which accompany and underpin the Rotherham Compact. The Compact is a statement of partnership between the Voluntary, Community, and Statutory and Private Sector partners represented in the Rotherham Partnership which is the accredited LSP for the Borough. It is a commitment to working more closely together and to respect each other's rights and responsibilities.

This Code of Practice was produced with the importance of Community Groups in mind. It is not just about agreements; it is designed to support both Community Groups and the partners involved in the partnership. It recognises the significant contribution community groups make to the social, economic and cultural well being of the borough of Rotherham.

2. Definitions

Consultation

Consultation is a two way process, which enables different parties to exchange information and views on how policies and services are developed. Effective consultation takes place when views are actively sought and considered before final decisions and plans are made (the extent to which the views of those consulted influences the final decision or outcome of a proposition varies). Stakeholder involvement can range from:

Information Giving which is mainly a one-way process where there is little or no community involvement. Decisions may have already been made and communities are generally recipients of information.

Participation is about the active involvement of communities and partners. Decisions become shared and actions are taken together

Full Participation which is when communities identify their own issues, form solutions and have the responsibility for making all the key decisions in relation to actions taken and resources used, Partners, organisations and communities will vary as to which of the above is most appropriate.,Although there is no right or wrong approach, it is important that the process of consultation seeks to secure involvement from communities.

Involvement is about identifying ways in which people are made part of a decision making process in order that they can make a real difference to what is decided.

2.2 Policy Appraisal

This means carrying out a check or audit of a policy to see that it achieves, is still achieving or can achieve what it aims to do and what the effects of the policy could be on different aspects such as the community, other organisations, other policies and Rotherham as a whole.

A policy should be checked to determine its impact on:

- the economy
- the voluntary and community sector
- disadvantaged or socially excluded groups e.g. homeless or unemployed equalities issues
- sustainability
- the environment
- health
- community safety
- children and young people
- how groups/individuals/organisations have been consulted

There are various tools available to help with this process:

- health impact assessment
- regional sustainability development framework
- individual organisations equalities policies
- government legislation
- RMBC is currently developing a policy resource pack which includes some of these tools and checklists.

When should a policy appraisal take place?

- at the initial stage of developing the policy
- at the completion of the policy
- at agreed regular stages once the policy has been agreed to check it is still achieving what it set out to achieve e.g. every 6 months, annually or that new national or local circumstances have not changed the aims of the purpose or impact of the policy.

The benefit of appraising policies can be that it:

- enables all partners to be involved in the development, review and monitoring of strategies and policies.
- takes into account the views of voluntary and community sector organisations at the start of the process
- policies are less likely to be put on a shelf and ignored once they are agreed consultation and policy appraisal will mean a wider ownership of the policy

3. Aims

The aims of this Code of Good Practice are:

- To provide a framework of good practice for all organisations to enable them to consult with and undertake policy appraisals with voluntary organisations and the community sector so that there is a positive impact on the way policies and services are developed.
- To promote the value of consultation and policy appraisal as a means of ensuring voluntary and community organisations are able to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise in development and decision making.
- To contribute to a shared vision of how the public, private, voluntary and community sectors can value each other and work together in the most effective and efficient manner. This will make the best use of the resources, skills and experience available, avoid duplication of effort and consultation fatigue and result in better informed and inclusive decision making.
- To increase and support the capacity of people and representatives to be involved in consultations and policy appraisals on an ongoing basis.

4 Shared Values

There are a number of values that should underpin any consultation and policy appraisal to ensure it is credible and effective. These are:

4.1 Open and Meaningful

Consultation has to be an open and meaningful process if it is to command credibility and make the best use of time and resources of all those involved. It has to be appropriately targeted.

4.2 Honesty, Integrity and Realism

There needs to be clear boundaries on which issues are open to change and those where a firm decision has already been made. There needs to be realism about what can be achieved and by when so that expectations aren't falsely raised. This will make it clear to voluntary and community organisations where they need to concentrate their efforts.

4.3 Effective Communication and Ongoing Dialogue

There needs to be clear and effective communication, which involves both talking and listening. Ongoing dialogue can help keep both sides informed about developments and avoid unnecessary surprises, it helps improve the development and delivery of programmes based on partnership and results in mutual understanding. It is important to ensure that those involved in the initial consultation are given feedback on results and outcomes

Consultation documents need to be concise, clearly laid out and written in plain language that is understood by their intended audience. Jargon should be avoided. Where necessary, consultations materials should be provided in accessible formats e.g. Braille, large print or audio formats and in different languages

4.4 Respect and Confidentiality

Different partners' views and opinions should be respected and confidentiality given to individual views if this is requested. Respect also needs to be paid to the confidentiality of the information provided by the different partners and sectors, within the constraints of the law and the proper performance of public duties.

4.5 Choice and Commitment

Having made the choice to undertake or be involved in a consultation or policy appraisal process all parties should be committed to ensuring the process occurs as effectively and efficiently as possible.

4.6 Planning and Timing

Consultation and policy appraisal needs careful planning. It needs to take place at a sufficiently early stage to maximise involvement and avoid incorrect assumptions and misunderstandings at later stages. It is important to choose the right methods, which are appropriate to the aim of the consultation, the nature of those being consulted and timetable for action. It may be appropriate to use a variety of methods so that the best spread of views is gained from those most likely to be affected and those with most to contribute. Using more than one method increases the chances of a better response in both quantity and quality. Different methods can also produce different results. Time, support and resources needs to be allowed for responses, especially with written consultations and to ensure consultations are appropriate and accessible for specific groups.

4.7 Diversity

Consultation and policy appraisal should be appropriate to all. It needs to take account positively of the specific needs, interests and contributions of those parts of the sector which represent, women, minority groups and the socially excluded. Equal opportunities principles are fundamental to supporting diversity.

5 Partner Agencies agree:

5.1 To work with voluntary and community organisations to understand the views of citizens and communities and create opportunities for them to influence policies.

5.2 To consult and involve voluntary and community sector on issues that are likely to affect it and build consultation with the voluntary and community sectors into plans for policy and service development. In particular this is relevant where new roles or responsibilities are proposed for the voluntary and community sectors in Rotherham.

5.3 To appraise new policies and procedures, particularly at the developmental stage identifying as far as possible any implications for the sector.

5.4 To consult early and involve the sector at a sufficiently early enough stage of policy development to allow the sector to make a difference(subject to considerations of sensitivity or confidentiality). A minimum of 12 weeks consultation period is recommended to ensure the sectors are sufficiently involved in shaping such policy.

5.5 To prepare consultation documents that are concise, clearly laid out and written in plain language that will be understood by the intended audience.

5.6 To be clear and open about the purpose and aim of the involvement and consultation and give clear details of the background and reasons for the involvement and consultation.

5.7 To define who it wishes to consult or involve with, the timescale for doing this. This involves the identification of, what resources and support are available for organisations to be involved and use the most appropriate methods to encourage responses received available

5.8 To be clear about how decisions will be made, who will make them and on what grounds they have been made. Subsequently agencies will give feedback to all those involved in the consultation and make responses received available.

5.9 To analyse carefully the results of consultation and involvement exercises and evaluate their effectiveness with a view to developing and sharing good practice.

5.10 To work towards co-ordinating consultations to avoid duplication of effort and consultation and involvement fatigue.

6 The Voluntary and Community Sectors agree:

6.1 To use their contacts, networks and organisations to encourage participation in consultation and involvement (commensurate with their available resources to do this). This agreement includes a commitment to co-operating with each other (through intermediary bodies if appropriate), at a national, regional and local level to ensure the process of consultation and involvement is as effective as possible.

6.2 To be clear about who they are what groups or causes they represent and how they involved those interests in their views and responses.

6.3 To consult and involve their members / volunteers/ supporters / users directly so that policy positions really reflect the views of stakeholders and constituents. Where this is not practical or appropriate to indicate that they are responding on the basis of their accumulated knowledge and experience of working with the groups concerned.

- 6.4 To give their members / volunteers / supporters / users feedback on the outcomes of the consultation and involvement, where feed back and responses are received by agencies.
- 6.5 Operate through open and accountable organisations, having regard to Charity Commission guidelines (where applicable) on what they should and should not do in relation to their representational and campaigning work.
- 6.6 Promote good practice amongst their members by sharing learning and adopting guidance on effective representation..

7. We all agree to:

- 7.1 To ensure that staff and representatives act responsibly in that actions and activity they undertake.
- 7.2 Treat groups individuals and partners with respect and acknowledge issues relating to confidentiality should this be requested.
- 7.3 Treat people equally, actively opposing prejudice and discrimination and be aware of and make efforts to overcome the barriers to participation
- 7.4 Take account positively of the specific needs, interests and contributions of those parts of the sector which represent, women, young people, minority groups and the socially excluded
- 7.5 Ensure that the information presented is accurate and respect confidentiality of information when given access to it on that basis.
- 7.6 Ensure that any research has been conducted in an unbiased and objective manner.
- 7.7 Be realistic and honest about the limits and boundaries of what can be changed and by when.



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ROTHERHAM COMPACT (BME CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE)

(6th July 2005)

1. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Practice is one of five, which accompany The Rotherham Compact. The Compact is a statement of partnership between the Voluntary, Community, and Statutory and Private Sector partners represented in the Rotherham Partnership. It is a commitment to working more closely together and to respect each other's rights and responsibilities.

The Code of Practice was produced with the importance of BME Communities in mind. It is not just about agreements; it is designed to support both BME Communities and the partners involved in the partnership. It is recognised that BME Communities make a significant contribution to the social, economic and cultural well being of the borough of Rotherham. However the potential contribution of BME Communities has not been fully appreciated due to institutional and individual barriers. This code will contribute to the breaking down of those barriers and the creation of positive and enhanced opportunities.

This document aims to make the reader consider their own practices and/or experiences and reflect on what, and how, improvements can be made and sustained.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Compact** - The Compact is a statement of partnership between those Voluntary, Community, Statutory and Private sector partners represented in the Rotherham Partnership. Some other boroughs in the country have developed a Compact just between the local authority and the voluntary sector. In Rotherham, we believe that to be really effective, the Compact needs agreement and commitment from all of the key partners.
- 2.2 **Black and Minority Ethnic Communities** - The term BME Communities' refers to all communities whose ethnic origin is not white British. This includes white minority ethnic communities, such as the Irish community. As a local preference, there is an agreement that this term be used in place of Minority Ethnic Communities.
- 2.3 **Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)**- This brings together public, private, voluntary and community organisations to work together to improve communities. In Rotherham, the LSP is simply called the Rotherham Partnership.

3. AIM

The aim of this Code of Practice is to make a positive difference to the relationships between Rotherham's BME Communities and all other sectors represented on the Rotherham Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Made up of those partners from the Voluntary, Community, Statutory and Private sectors, this Code of Practice seeks to strengthen, develop and build upon relationships between all of the above named. This code of practice seeks:

- 3.1 To enable Rotherham's BME Community organisations to contribute effectively to the development of strategy and policy in Rotherham (e.g. 'Priorities' and 'Driving Principles' in Rotherham's Community Strategy). This covers all themes and will help Rotherham's BME Communities to actively influence the ways in which local services are delivered.
- 3.2 To support Rotherham's BME Communities in engaging effectively within mainstream regeneration and development in Rotherham. A large part of this involves provision of support in developing the sector's capacity to do this. Specific measures include resources, training and other support to this end.
- 3.3 To ensure that the contribution that Rotherham's BME Communities make to a socially inclusive and cohesive Rotherham community is both valued and recognised.
- 3.4 To ensure that the appropriate levels of support, and resources, are available through the LSP and it's various Agencies to achieve all of the above.

4. SHARED VALUES

There are five main values that are shared and promoted by this Code of Practice. These apply to all those signing up to the Rotherham Compact. These are:

- Promoting choice
- Recognising, respecting and celebrating multi-culturalism and diversity
- Shared responsibility
- Mutual Respect
- Equity and fairness

5. JOINT AGREEMENTS

The LSP and Rotherham's BME Communities jointly agree:

- 5.1 To recognise and actively celebrate diversity.
- 5.2 To work closely together to carry forward and monitor the success of:
 - The 'Priorities' and 'Driving Principles' of Rotherham's Community Strategy and
 - All Race Equality legislation, Diversity Schemes and their Action Plans across the Borough.
- 5.3 Work together in partnership with other agencies (e.g. Learning and Skills Council, Yorkshire Forward etc). This is to promote initiatives and programmes which will directly benefit Rotherham's BME Communities.
- 5.4 Ensure that Community Cohesion is a key consideration in all areas.
- 5.5 Make appropriate reference to this Code of Practice in all relevant LSP documentation and Voluntary and Community sector publications.

6. PARTNER AGENCY'S AGREE:

- 6.1 To work with the breadth of BME voluntary and community organisations in order that racism, discrimination, inequality and exclusion in all their forms are addressed as a priority. This is not just about meeting legislation requirements, but it is a commitment to driving genuine culture changes within their organisation above and beyond what the law requires.
- 6.2 To recognise and promote the importance of Communities of Interest and their voluntary and community organisations when planning the use of resources that come to Rotherham. This will ensure that BME Communities are not excluded due to resources being targeted too heavily around geographical communities (e.g. in relation to Neighbourhood Renewal).
- 6.3 To recognise and support -(by financial and other means)- the particular development needs of Rotherham's BME Communities. This includes the support and training needed to develop the infrastructure of BME organisations.
- 6.4 To make sure that information is presented and disseminated in a way that meets the needs of BME Communities and their organisations (e.g. language, format etc).

- 6.5 To ensure that BME Communities in Rotherham are able to influence the development of strategy and policy in Rotherham by developing their capacity to do this. This involves consulting with BME voluntary and community organisations, in compliance with the consultation CoP by making sure that sufficient time is made available for consultation.
- 6.6 To provide clear feedback on the results of any consultation that takes place in Rotherham including feedback to and with BME voluntary and community organisations. The purpose of this is to communicate clearly the reasons behind any decisions that are made. This will further encourage BME participation in such activity.
- 6.7 To recognise and value the unique skills, expertise and experience that there is within the BME Community Voluntary and Community sectors. Partner agencies will develop clear and inclusive frameworks (e.g. relating to service level agreements) to make sure this recognition is demonstrated.
- 6.8 To recognise and support the independence of the BME sector and its right within law to challenge institutions, policy and practice. Without exception, the LSP will recognise the right of Rotherham's BME Communities to determine and manage their own affairs.
- 6.9 To ensure that all structures in the LSP and its constituent partner organisations are accessible and appropriate to BME Community needs. This involves creating clear means by which these communities can influence the LSP.
- 6.10 To promote equalities through best practice e.g. via provision of training

7. All BME voluntary and community organisations agree:

- 7.1 To play a full and active part within the wider voluntary and community sectors in Rotherham. This will help the effective implementation of the Compact as a whole and other initiatives such as the Rotherham's Community Strategy. In particular BME Communities agree to become an active and influential part of the Network of Community Partnerships and VOICE (Network of Networks).
- 7.2 To work with all agencies within the LSP to embrace diversity, promote race equality and enhance Community Cohesion and to create inclusiveness across Rotherham.

- 7.3 To build closer links with the BME Networks at Sub-regional, Regional and National levels. This will help Rotherham's BME Communities to provide the LSP with perspectives on key regional and national issues affecting the sector.
- 7.4 To actively promote joint approaches and partnership working among Rotherham's BME Communities through sharing expertise and other practical skills.
- 7.5 To present BME Communities concerns to the LSP in a coordinated, responsible and accountable way.
- 7.6 To observe good governance. This involves BME Community organisations placing clear responsibility on Trustees, Officers and Representatives to use all resources appropriately. This also involves informing agencies when these organisations face significant management and resource challenges, including financial difficulties.
- 7.7 To work towards and adopt appropriate quality standards.
- 7.8 To apply Best Practice in management and delivery within BME Community organisations.
- 7.9 To continuously improve the infrastructure and capacity of BME Community Voluntary and Community organisations.
- 7.10 To fully utilize all training opportunities (including those supported by the partner agencies).

8. Glossary of Terms

- 8.1 **Diversity-** Diversity takes many forms. It is usually thought of in terms of attributes such as age, ethnicity, gender, faith, physical abilities, race, and sexual orientation. Diversity, in the context of this code can also refer to variation in terms of background, professional experience, skills and specialisms, values and culture etc.
- 8.2 **Discrimination-** Discrimination is about actions. Discrimination can be either direct or indirect. It can be an individualised act or can be related to the development of policies, procedures and strategies and the way in which they are written. Discrimination can also affect service delivery and the way in which services are accessed. Discrimination can also relate to acts of victimisation and harassment of individuals due to their age, ethnicity, gender, faith, disability, race, and sexual orientation.

- 8.3 **Harassment**- 'actions and behaviour, either verbal or non-verbal, directed at people because of their race, colour, ethnic origin, cultural difference, faith, nationality, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- 8.4 **Equality** – This is the fair and equitable treatment of people from diverse backgrounds. Equality is not treating everyone the same. It is acknowledging and valuing people's differences and providing services and access to meet these needs.
- 8.5 **Communities of Interest**-This refers to people connected by a shared interest who consider themselves to be part of the same community even though they may not necessarily be located in the same geographical area.
- 8.6 **Community Strategy for Rotherham**- This document's purpose is to set out a long term vision for Rotherham up to the year 2020. Its overall aim is that by 2020 'Rotherham will be a Borough where everyone feels proud to live and work, and where every citizen and business can realise their potential'.
- 8.7 **Community Cohesion** - This is a theme vital to all of Rotherham. Cohesive communities are defined as those where:
1. There is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities in the locality.
 2. The diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances in a locality are appreciated and positively valued.
 3. Those from different backgrounds in that locality have similar life opportunities.
 4. Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools, and within neighbourhoods in that locality.



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ROTHERHAM COMPACT (Community Groups Code of Practice)
(6th July 2005)

1. Introduction

This Code of Practice is one of five, which accompany The Rotherham Compact. The Compact is a statement of partnership between the Voluntary, Community, and Statutory and Private Sector partners represented in the Rotherham Partnership. It is a commitment to working more closely together and to respect each other's rights and responsibilities.

The Code of Practice was produced with the importance of Community Groups in mind. It is not just about agreements; it is designed to support both Community Groups and the partners involved in the partnership. It recognises the significant contribution community groups make to the social, economic and cultural well being of the borough of Rotherham.

2. Definitions

2.1 Community groups- This code recognises the special, specific and diverse nature of community groups which makes them different from other partners. Many are small, independent of formal structures, quite often unfunded, focus usually on a particular community or interest, area or issue, operating at a distance from 'authority'

- *communities of interest share a common purpose, concern, interest, race, disability or belief*
- *neighbourhood groups aim to improve the quality of life of residents.*

2.2 Partners- Partners include Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, the colleges, the health community, South Yorkshire Police, Voluntary Action Rotherham and Rotherham Partnership Office.

3. Aims

Through partnership working, this Code of Practice aims:

1. To promote the social, economic, cultural and physical well-being of our town
2. To help communities participate in decisions affecting their lives
3. To improve the quality of life for all residents in Rotherham

4 Shared Values

This code recognises:

The Diversity of the Community Sector

Many community partnerships will act as advocates of the community sector and sometimes can be a single point of contact. Nevertheless, the code recognises the diversity of the sector and will ensure inclusion of small groups as well as the large ones. The code also recognises the distinctive nature and needs of faith groups within the community sector, the role of community arts

groups, community enterprises and groups organising around communities of interest, for instance young people and the elderly.

The Differences between the Community and Voluntary Sector

There are some differences between the voluntary and community sector and this code recognises that both sectors need to be included and sometimes have different needs.

The Contribution of the Community Sector

The community sector is an important local resource and partners recognise the significant and distinctive role community groups provide in Rotherham. This code recognises the importance of boosting access by community groups to the Rotherham local compact as a whole and to the other codes of practice.

People need to be treated equally

This code recognises that everyone must be treated equally and we must oppose prejudice and discrimination wherever it is found.

5. Community groups agree:

5.1 To embrace diversity and work to improve community cohesion and reduce inequalities

5.2 When funded:

1. To report changes in circumstances or project delivery
2. To accept the need for monitoring and evaluating spending in proportion to the size of the grant

5.3 To ensure physical access so as to make certain, where possible, that activities are open to all members of society

5.4 To be open and truthful and, as far as possible, keep community members and partners informed of activities, whether attending or not. Also to be clear and open as to the group/community/ organisation one represents

6. All Partner agencies agree:

6.1 To work with the breadth of the community and voluntary sector.

6.2 To assist Community groups with compact working by helping them to honour their agreements within the Compact and Codes of Practice.

6.3 To provide development support by:

- Working together to provide support and advice to help groups develop

- Recognise that community groups have funding, information and support needs that are different from large voluntary organisations
- To provide training and help to support development of community groups
- To provide support in developing quality organisations and systems

6.4 To recognise and value community groups

- To recognise and value the structures and contributions of community groups
- To recognise and value the contribution of volunteers
- To recognise and value the contribution of faith groups

6.5 To work from an up to date and common database of contacts and, as far as possible, to work from a common list of designated community contacts.

6.6 To be open and truthful by:

- Being open and transparent in all dealings while respecting confidentiality
- Making sure that relevant information reaches all sections of the community
- As far as possible, keep community members and partners informed of activities
- Be clear and open as to the group/community/ organisation one represents
- To report changes in circumstances or project delivery

6.7 To report changes in circumstances or project delivery when allocating funding and accept that records for monitoring and evaluating spending should be in proportion to the size of the grant

6.8 To use plain language so as to communicate clearly and in plain and appropriate language with community organisations

6.9 To provide physical access by ensuring venues and activities are physically accessible to those with a disability and that the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act are complied with.

6.10 .To address other, less or non-visible barriers to access for those with a disability.

6.11 To encourage community group representation and participation on new and existing partnerships. Where possible, community group representation should be included on management committees and proper financial and administrative support for involvement ensured.

7 We all agree:

7.1 To be responsible for actions and activities

To be responsible as far as possible for actions of staff and representatives

- 7.2 Treat groups, individuals and partners with respect
To listen and treat with respect all people including those with different perspectives and views
- 7.3 Treat people equally
- To actively oppose prejudice and discrimination within and outside the group/organisation
 - To be aware of barriers to participation and make efforts to overcome them
- 7.4 To encourage quality
To work towards developing quality in our work



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ROTHERHAM COMPACT (VOLOUNTEERING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE)

(6th July 2005)

1. Introduction

This Code of Practice is one of five which accompany The Rotherham Compact. The Compact, which has been developed as Rotherham's response to a government initiative, is a statement of partnership between the Voluntary, Community, Statutory and Private sector partners represented in the Rotherham Partnership. It is a commitment to work together more closely and to respect each other's rights and responsibilities.

Very many of the activities or services which are offered by the statutory, voluntary and community sectors in Rotherham exist because they are supported by volunteers - without volunteers, many simply would not happen.

A great deal of evidence exists showing the benefits which volunteering brings to both individuals and to organisations. It is not difficult to see how these benefits can have a wider impact on the regeneration of Rotherham: increased levels of confidence and self-worth amongst individuals living in the borough; better supported organisations in the voluntary and, especially, the community sector organisations; increased and improved relationships between sectors; and improved services to name but a few.

This Code of Practice was produced with the importance of volunteers and volunteering in mind. It is not just about agreements: it is designed to support and inform both volunteers and the organisations who use volunteers. Hopefully, the document will make the reader think about their practices and / or experiences and reflect on what, and how, improvements can be made.

As well as defining volunteering, the Code of Practice looks at values which should, ideally, underpin volunteering in Rotherham. There are statements about the values and importance of choice for volunteers; about the diversity of volunteers and opportunities and the benefits gained from this; about give and take and the relationship between the volunteer and the host organisation; and about the recognition which volunteers deserve. There is a section which covers the agreements which volunteers and organisations should be making to ensure that volunteering grows in strength and value. Finally, there is a set of guidelines for working with volunteers which, hopefully, will help organisations to make the volunteering experience both enjoyable and beneficial.

2. Definition

Volunteering is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community and can take many forms. It is an activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which aims to benefit individuals or groups or the environment.

3. Aims

The aim of this Code of Practice is to:

- provide a framework of good practice for all organisations working with volunteers in any capacity;

- promote the value of volunteering both as a means of service to others and of personal development for volunteers themselves; and
- contribute to a shared vision of how the statutory, voluntary and community sectors can work, collectively and singly, towards providing the necessary support to promote and sustain volunteering.

4. Shared values

There are five principle values promoted by this Code of Practice. The values cut across all three sectors and should apply whatever the organisation or whoever the volunteer.

The values are:

- choice
- diversity
- 'give and take'
- recognition
- standards

Choice

Volunteering must be a choice freely made by each individual. Freedom to volunteer also implies freedom not to become involved.

Diversity

Volunteering should be open to all. Inclusiveness can build bridges, enabling a diversity of people to feel usefully involved. Social exclusion barriers can be overcome by the skills, experience, confidence and contacts gained while helping others. Organisations in all sectors can learn much from working with volunteers from different ethnic communities, age groups and other demographic sectors who may bring considerable relevant experience from their cultural and other backgrounds. Equal opportunities principles are basic to supporting diversity.

Within Rotherham, there is a diverse range of organisations working with volunteers. These organisations vary considerably in their size, make up, structure and systems. There are, for example, groups with very small infrastructures working with very large numbers of volunteers. These groups may not have the capacity to monitor volunteers in the same way that an organisation with a more established infrastructure may have. Irrespective of size, it is important that respect and recognition be given to all organisations working with volunteers and to the importance of the value and benefits with all organisations and their volunteers bring to the Borough.

Not only are the organisations diverse, so are the volunteers themselves. Volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a range of experiences with them to the volunteering opportunity. Largely as a result of their backgrounds and experiences, some volunteers face greater barriers to volunteering participation than others. Some may, for example, be unable to participate because of low income, others may not have the

degree of confidence to come forward as a volunteer. Irrespective of the differences and difficulties which volunteers may have, all sectors and organisations need to work together to identify and dismantle the barriers to voluntary involvement.

'Give and take'

Volunteers offer their contributions unwaged. However, giving voluntary time and skills must be recognised as part of a relationship in which the volunteer also receives. Volunteers should expect to gain a sense of worthwhile achievement, useful skills, experience, contact, sociability and inclusion in the life of the organisation where they are volunteering.

In addition to these benefits, volunteers should also expect to experience good practice in volunteer management. This means that the management of volunteers should be as important as the management of paid staff.

Recognition

Volunteers have a significant role to play in contributing to an organisation, to communities, to the social economy and to Rotherham's wider social objectives. Recognition must, therefore, be given to the significance and value of this contribution.

Standards

Volunteers should have a clear understanding of what the volunteering experience will mean. Similarly, organisations should be clear about why they need volunteers. To this end, organisations should set clear minimum standards based around the following:

- recruitment
- how volunteers are managed
- roles and responsibilities
- expectations and commitment
- support
- expenses
- insurance

5 Joint Agreements

This section covers the agreements which are made by individuals, groups and organisations as part of their being party to the overall Compact. The section is divided into three sections and covers:

- 1 agreements which are mutual and which all involved can sign up to
- 2 agreements made by organisations
- 3 agreements made by volunteers

6 Mutual agreements

As part of their involvement with the Compact, volunteers and organisations working with volunteers agree to:

- apply the principles of this Code of Practice
- treat each other with respect and care and protect all concerned from exploitation
- maintain the principles of this Code of Practice in all agreements
- work within agreed standards of good practice
- work within the legislation and requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and the Special Educational Needs Discrimination Act (2001) if appropriate the Racial Discrimination Act 1976 and the Sex Discrimination Act (1975) plus any other legislation which may be or become relevant

7 Organisation agreements

All organisations assisted by volunteers agree:

7.1 To follow Best Practice in the management of volunteers. (Note the agreement items which follow are components of Best Practice.)

7.2 To develop a volunteer policy and set of procedures for working with volunteers

7.3 To be clear from the outset why the organisation is looking to work with volunteers and how those volunteers can contribute to the organisation

7.4 To properly and appropriately recruit, support, supervise and protect their volunteers

7.5 To encourage and develop volunteers by providing them with the necessary training to enable them to fulfil their roles as well as making clear statements of the volunteers' rights and responsibilities

7.6 To ensure that everyone in the organisation is aware of the role and contribution of the volunteers and of the relationship between the organisation and the volunteers

7.7 To not use volunteers as a substitute for paid staff and only use volunteers in roles which are appropriate to volunteering

7.8 To maintain up to date records of volunteers and to monitor the tasks carried out by volunteers

7.9 To recognise and appreciate the work of volunteers including, where possible, the use of certification and/or accreditation

7.10 To provide a safe working environment for volunteers and be aware of the requirements of the Health and Safety Act 1974 if appropriate

7.11 To encourage volunteers to sign up to the following Code of Good Practice in which they commit to:

- Being reliable and punctual
- Working to health and safety standards and within the law
- Behaving in a professional manner and maintain confidentiality at all time
- Being willing to participate in supervision and appraisal and to undergo any appropriate training required of them

Guidelines for working with volunteers

These guidelines are intended to contribute to the development of a more structured and focused approach to working with volunteers. The overall list represents a structure which all organisations who work with volunteers should be working towards. The structure applies equally to organisations which are run by paid staff and to those run by volunteers.

Recognition is given to the fact there will be differing levels of formality depending on the size and nature of groups. Similarly, there will be differing levels of ability to achieve the standards suggested by these guidelines due to the availability of funds. However, it is important that all organisations working with volunteers should aim to achieve these standards or be working towards achieving them within the limitations created by size, structure and funding.

Recruiting volunteers

When recruiting volunteers, or considering recruiting volunteers, it is important that an organisation considers the following issues and requirements:

Issue	Requirements
Why the organisation is looking to recruit a volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1039 1503 1106">□ a clear understanding of the organisation's requirements <li data-bbox="858 1128 1503 1218">□ clear understanding of how these requirements would be met by taking on a volunteer
Clear understanding of the role/task which the volunteer will be undertaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1263 1503 1375">□ a clear role/task description outlining the duties and responsibilities of the volunteer
Volunteer registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1397 1503 1532">□ a registration/application form (a minimum would be a record of the volunteer's contact details)
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1554 1503 1621">□ a means of requesting personal references for volunteers <li data-bbox="858 1644 1503 1733">□ access to Criminal Record Bureau checking system where necessary
Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1756 1503 1868">□ time with the volunteer to discuss the role/task and their suitability to undertake the role/task
Volunteer agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1912 1503 2007">□ a signed mutual agreement stating clearly what the organisation undertakes to provide for the volunteer and what the

volunteer agrees to do

Guidelines for management/support of volunteers

Once the volunteer is 'in post', it is good practice to provide both management and support. The following issues and requirements should be considered:

Issue	Requirements
Induction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ a programme which introduces the volunteer to the organisation, the building where they are based and the duties and responsibilities which they will be expected to perform
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ opportunities for the volunteer to acquire new skills or knowledge which will benefit both them and the organisation
Formal and informal support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ a key contact person which the volunteer can approach to ask questions or discuss problems □ someone who is responsible for managing the volunteer and taking day to day decisions about the volunteer's duties and responsibilities □ regular opportunities for the volunteer's progress, performance and feelings to be reviewed
Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ a system of paying actual expenses so that the volunteer is not out of pocket as a result of volunteering (expenses must only be for the actual costs incurred) □ at the very least, payment covering actual cost of travel to and from placement plus any other travel costs incurred whilst carrying out role/task □ other expenses payments to include cost of lunch, overnight accommodation and subsistence
Reviewing and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ a system for regularly reviewing how the volunteer is getting on and what is being achieved □ scope to change things if the reviewing shows that there is a need for change
Communication/information sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ systems for making sure that volunteers know what is going on within the

Recognition and acknowledgement	<p>organisation (and when)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ ways of making sure that the volunteer's contributions are recognised and valued □ access to qualifications and certificates where possible eg Open College Network, Millennium Volunteers, etc
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ have an understanding of the implications which volunteering may have on someone's Benefits □ give advice to volunteers regarding the implications on their Benefit payments where appropriate
Publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ system for getting a volunteer's written permission to use their photograph in publicity and marketing material
Exit procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ a system for when volunteers leave the organisation so that their reason for leaving, views on the placement, comments, etc can be recorded □ offer of writing references for the volunteer to take to their next voluntary placement or employment

Guidelines for structures in organisations working with volunteers

All organisations, whatever their size and nature, will have ways of doing things. These guidelines suggest basic issues and requirements which organisations should consider when looking to take on volunteers:

Issue	Requirements
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ policies which are in place (or being worked towards) should include: equal opportunities, health and safety and volunteering
Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ volunteers should be covered by the organisation's public liability insurance □ organisations might also consider contents insurance which would cover personal belongings and equipment
Complaints and grievances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ a system for enabling: i) the organisation to formally make a complaint about a

Volunteer register

volunteer; and ii) a volunteer being able to formally make a complaint about the way they are being treated

- a register of each volunteer giving details of when placement started/finished, personal contact details, etc
- any register should include references to data protection and confidentiality




Glossary of terms used in this Code of Practice

Capacity	Ability to perform or produce.
Demographic	Relates to the dynamic balance of a population especially with regard to density and capacity for expansion or decline
Ethos	The disposition, character, or fundamental values peculiar to a specific person, people, culture, or movement.
Infrastructure	The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community, organisation or agency.
Policies	A plan or course of action, as of a government, political party, or business, intended to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters
Procedures	A manner of proceeding; a way of performing or effecting something.

Contacts for advice and information

For information and advice regarding volunteers, volunteering, policy development and good practice contact:

Voluntary Action Rotherham

-  (01709) 829821
-  (01709) 829822
-  VARotherham@Tinyonline.co.uk
-  Durlston House
5 Moorgate Road
Rotherham S60 2EN



ROTHERHAM COMPACT

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR FUNDING & PROCUREMENT

- **DEFINITIONS**
- **AIMS AND SHARED VALUES**
- **AGREEMENTS**
 - ❖ **AGENCIES**
 - ❖ **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS**
 - ❖ **ALL PARTNERS**



DEFINITION OF 'FUNDING'

Funding can be:

- (a) **Regeneration Funds or 'External Funds'**. These tend to come from Government Departments and are often managed through statutory agencies (e.g. local Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Police Authorities etc).

There are, however, some external funding sources not open to Statutory agencies which voluntary and/or community sector organisations are able to access directly (e.g. Big Lottery Fund).

- (b) **Contracts or Service Level Agreements**. These are often associated with activities funded from statutory agencies budgets, where a voluntary or community sector organisation is contracted to deliver a service on behalf of that statutory agency. This is an integral part of the Local Government Modernisation Agenda which expects Public Sector agencies to take on more of an enabling role in the delivery of services as opposed to being exclusively a deliverer of these services. This is in part because the Voluntary and Community Sectors are often better placed to deliver certain services at a neighbourhood level reaching grass-roots in a way that Public Sector bodies are sometimes unable to. This approach supports the need for Public Sector agencies to take a best value approach to procurement.
- (c) **Procurement**. This broadly deals with the approach that needs to be taken in achieving best value and the greatest effectiveness and efficiency. It involves assessing who is best placed to deliver public services in the most cost efficient and effective way.

AIMS

The aim of the Code of Good Practice for Funding and Procurement is:

To have a positive impact on the funding relationship between statutory agencies, and voluntary and community organisations, to enable all deliverers to achieve the best possible outcomes possible for Rotherham people.

To achieve value for money by putting in place a framework for financial relationships which allows both Public Sector agencies and the Voluntary and Community Sectors in Rotherham to focus on delivering high impact outcomes and continuously improving performance.

SHARED VALUES

CONSISTENCY and TRANSPARENCY

All funding agreements will need to clearly set out the funding relationship from the beginning of any process, and if for any reason anything changes during that relationship, then that must be very clearly communicated.

Inconsistent approaches, and 'behind closed doors' decisions (perceived, or real), can lead to a lack of trust and confidence in any working relationship.

It is recognised that on some occasions, short external deadlines may severely impact on the ability of Rotherham partners to meet minimum standards. It is imperative that information is shared as soon as possible so that any such situations are understood by all.

ACCOUNTABILITY

All partners in a funding relationship will take full responsibility for their side of any agreement and respect the roles and responsibilities of all partners.

OBTAINING THE BEST OUTCOMES FOR ROTHERHAM PEOPLE (Best Value)

All partners should ensure that any funding relationship has the best interests of the recipient of that funding at its heart, and that the process and activity leads to the most positive outcomes.

FAIR ACCESS

It is important that information about new funding opportunities are shared widely across sectors, and that the process for application, and requirements of implementation do not exclude, or act as barriers to the voluntary or community sectors.

It also important that all delivery agents, statutory and voluntary and community sectors also take responsibility for ensuring equity of access to services delivered through the use of external or contracted funding.

AGREEMENTS

This section looks at what responsibilities organisations on both sides of the funding relationship commit to through this Code of Practice.

It should be noted that some elements of these agreements are commitments to the ongoing development, on both sides, of the funding and Procurement relationship. The Code of Practice should be seen as a document open to growth and change.

ROTHERHAM'S PARTNER AGENCIES AGREE TO:

- ❖ Provide clear, precise and timely information about funding opportunities that clearly set out timetables, process, eligibility and required outcomes; and ensure that it is appropriate to the level of grant or value of the contract. Where applicable, produce annual guidelines.
- ❖ Investigate as early as possible the possible barriers for the voluntary and community sectors in accessing new funding opportunities.
- ❖ Openly set out scoring and/or selection procedures, and provide feedback on the results of that process.
- ❖ Engage the voluntary and community sectors in developing new strategic funding programmes early in the development stages (see the Consultation and Policy Appraisal Code of Practice).
- ❖ Use easy to understand Service Level Agreements (SLAs)/contracts that are appropriate to the size of the grant or contract value, and that set out the requirements of the funding relationship (i.e. be proportionate in monitoring requirements and with jointly agreed outputs and outcomes).
- ❖ Negotiate longer term funding arrangements where these represent good value for money and improve sustainability by moving towards multi-annual funding contracts (where possible and where they don't already exist) with joint annual reviews built into such arrangements.
- ❖ Do not change any SLAs/contract requirements without full negotiation and give 'enough' notice of the end of grants or contracts (In relation to multi-annual funding contracts this should not be a period of less than 1 year unless there are good reasons otherwise. Where agencies suspect that there is a chance that this might happen, they undertake to inform Voluntary and Community Sector organisations of this likelihood by 31 March of the financial year preceding the one in which a contract might end).
- ❖ Recognise that it is legitimate for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to include the relevant element of overhead costs in their estimates for providing a particular service (full cost recovery) and to

encourage these organisations to build these into tenders. Longer term, this will help Voluntary and Community sector organisations to become more financially stable which will positively impact on their ability to deliver quality services in a sustainable way by focusing on outcomes rather than short-term funding constraints.

- ❖ Allow Voluntary and Community sector organisations to identify the appropriate level of Management fees and overheads in relation to public procurement.
- ❖ Recognise the need for organisations to have a reasonable level of reserves and not to discriminate against organisations that have this level of reserve.
- ❖ Recognise the value of match funding 'in-kind' where match funding is required, and set out clear guidance on the definitions and values of 'in kind' support.
- ❖ Help organisations to meet tender/contract requirements by providing training if appropriate, or by sign posting to training and support agencies e.g. equal opportunities policy, health and safety requirements etc.
- ❖ Recognise that organisations may require 'development' funding or support, in order to meet increased contract requirements, policy changes, new delivery requirements etc.
- ❖ Set out payment deadlines where appropriate and set penalties for non-payment. Ensure that efficient payment processes are in place before letting contracts.
- ❖ Provide support to organisations that cannot manage payments in arrears by either providing up-front payments, or by directly sponsoring banking relationships that enable up-front access to funds.
- ❖ Develop a consistent approach to contracting with the voluntary and community sectors within and across local statutory agencies.
- ❖ Provide whenever possible an opportunity for the Voluntary and Community Sectors to contribute to programme design.
- ❖ Discuss risks up-front and place the responsibility with the public sector body or voluntary and Community Sector body best able to manage them.
- ❖ Respect the independence of the Sector
- ❖ Make payments in advance of expenditure (where appropriate and necessary) in order that better value for money may be achieved.
- ❖ Consider joining-up or standardising monitoring requirements.

ROTHERHAM'S VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS AGREE TO:

- ❖ Develop and share good practice in the use of public funds within the sectors.
- ❖ Ensure that appropriate systems are in place to monitor finance, objectives and outcomes that meet the requirements of funding agreements. This covers having good systems in place to manage organisational finances (and funded projects) and account for them.
- ❖ To report any changes to the organisation's circumstances that may impact on ability to deliver or meet the requirements of the funding agreement and to make sure that they are eligible when applying for grants.
- ❖ Implement clear and effective employment policies, promote equality of opportunity, ensure that complaints procedures are in place and, as far as possible involve users in the development and ongoing evaluation of their activity.
- ❖ Comply with the accounting guidelines from the Charity Commission where organisations have Charitable status.
- ❖ Work in partnership with other organisations in order to achieve good value for money, reduce duplication and gain added value. In such arrangements agree to have clear lines of accountability (e.g. where they relate to joint bids). Wherever possible umbrella organisations should take a proactive approach to supporting such processes and partnership approaches.
- ❖ Develop, inform and support voluntary and community sector networks that help funding information to be widely shared within the sectors.
- ❖ Respect confidentiality and be clear about whom they represent and how they came to their views when consulted on programme design.
- ❖ To be honest and transparent in their reporting
- ❖ To clearly rationalise approaches to full cost recovery. This is not for the purpose of being monitored by agencies but is designed to give Public Sector agencies an assurance that there is a consistent and valid approach to working out appropriate costs.
- ❖ Plan in good time for different situations to reduce any potential negative impact on both beneficiaries and the organisation in the event that funding ends.

THE PARTNER AGENCIES AND VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS JOINTLY AGREE TO:

- ❖ Value each others role in the funding relationship
- ❖ Recognise the difficulties that can be caused by external organisation's funding requirements and work together to solve and address those difficulties openly and in partnership.
- ❖ To ensure good value for money and positive outcomes for Rotherham people.
- ❖ To promote equality of opportunity for those benefiting from externally funded activity.
- ❖ Recognise that there are training needs for all.

Minutes

Meeting Title	Women's Strategy Working Group
Date	Thursday 17 th November 2005
Time	2:00pm
Venue	Committee Room 2, Town Hall
Chair	Zafar Saleem
Minute Taker	Sheena Hobson

Attendees		
Janet Spurling	JS	Equalities and Diversity Officer
Sandra McNeill	SM	Domestic Violence Co-ordinator
Sue Barratt	SB	GROW Project
Graham Wright	GW	SY Police Rotherham PPU
Sandra Gabriel	SG	Women's Issues Network, RMBC
Rosemary Boyle	RB	GROW

Apologies		
Lee Adams	LA	Chief Executive's
Lesley Dabell	LD	VAR
Parveen Quereshi	PQ	UMCC
Carol Mills	CM	Executive Director Resources
Janet Mullins	JM	Disability Network
Tanya Stanley	TS	Eastwood and Springwell Gardens NMP

Ref	Item or Action	Action Owner
01/02	Introductions Zafar welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
02/02	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as a true record.	
03/02	Matters Arising Zafar informed the group that Carol Mills would be attending future meetings rather than Sonia Sharp.	
04/02	Draft Terms of Reference and Membership Zafar referred to the Draft Terms of Reference and asked if anyone	

	<p>else should be invited to attend the meetings.</p> <p>Zafar said that he would ask to nominate a Council Member to attend the meetings.</p> <p>Future meetings would be chaired by either Lee Adams or Carol Mills with a Vice Chair selected from the voluntary/community sector, or the other way round.</p> <p>Actions: Janet to go through the diary and schedule the times and dates of meetings every six weeks.</p> <p>Janet to invite other people to join the group as suggested at the initial meeting and arrange a briefing prior to the December meeting.</p> <p>Zafar to raise reporting for the group to Councillor Glyn Robinson (Community Cohesion portfolio) at his delegated powers meeting, probably linked to the fairness and proud themes.</p>	
05/02	<p>Update Re: VAR Investment Plan</p> <p>Due to Debbie Heath being unable to attend the meeting, Janet informed the group on the current position of the South Yorkshire Investment Plan.</p> <p>2004 /09 – Theme 4 aims to unlock the potential of all South Yorkshire communities and ensure the inclusion of all parties in regions economic growth.</p> <p>There are four areas to project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of infrastructure to support VCS engagement - volunteering - procurement (delivery public services) - Sustainability of VAR <p>Key - sustainability of VCS, Building capacity and effective influencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time scale still not clear – 06/09 ▪ Some further work has been done on proposals although it has still to go through the appraisal process so changes are still likely ▪ Proposals should go to Yorkshire Funding Board December / January. This includes the post for a co-ordinator to develop a women’s network who hopefully will be in post by September 2006 and funded until 2009. There is no real detail as the scope of the post is to be decided. ▪ Similar Co-ordinator posts to develop disabled people’s and BME networks 	

	<p>Action: Janet to request a progress report from VAR for December meeting.</p>	
06/02	<p>Update from Group Members</p> <p>Sandra M explained her role and work to develop a new Domestic Violence Strategy.</p> <p>Graham stated that key priorities for the police were safety and Domestic Violence.</p> <p>Janet informed the group that Change Up questionnaires had been sent to various organisations and individuals as discussed at the last meeting and reminded the group that deadlines were the end of November for groups and December for individuals.</p> <p>Sandra G commented that when WIN had been involved in consultation on the Corporate Plan one of their suggestions was for new enterprise incubator units to be established for women's businesses in the same way as for young people.</p> <p>Action: Janet to follow up with RIDO.</p> <p>Zafar commented to the recent deprivation study findings and although floor targets are being met there has been a fall in certain indicators for members of some communities and a widening gap between rich and poor people over the last three years.</p> <p>Action: Zafar to circulate copies of the deprivation study and a recent health report.</p> <p>Following further discussion about an event in March Sandra will raise this with the WIN steering group to discuss possible links with the WIN International Women's Day event on 8 March, for example publicising the women's strategy group event.</p>	
07/02	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st December 2005, 10.00am, Conference Room, Eric Manns Building.</p>	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member (Community Cohesion) and Advisors
2.	Date:	19th December 2005
3.	Title:	NRF Commissioning 2006/07 and 2007/08
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Department

5. Summary

This report puts forward proposals for commissioning within the new round of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) for 2006/07 and 2007/08 and seeks the support of the Cabinet Member for the draft NRF Commissioning Framework.

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is requested to:

- 1. Comment on and agree the draft NRF Commissioning Framework and the establishment of a Steering Group to oversee the process.**
- 2. Agree the inclusion of a local fund for Area Assemblies within the Framework and consider the level of funding suggested for each area.**
- 3. Agree the inclusion of a Community Chest fund within the Framework and consider the level of funding suggested for this.**

7. Proposals and Details

Background

The Cabinet Member will be familiar with the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the refresh process which has refined the targeting of activity. The targeting of communities of place and interest was agreed by the Partnership Board at its meeting on 22 November 2005. The target communities are:

- Geographical areas of deprivation (Aughton, Brinsworth, Central, Dinnington, Flanderwell, Kimberworth Park, Maltby, Masbrough, Rawmarsh, Swinton North, Wath, Wath East, West Melton)
- Communities of Interest (the four target communities of interest are: Minority Ethnic Communities; Disabled People and their Carers; Vulnerable Older People and their Carers; and Deprived Children and Young People).

The process of developing the NRF Commissioning Framework has been closely aligned with the process of refreshing and refining the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) and developing the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The priorities identified are based primarily on research and evidence of need that has come from the extensive consultation carried out as part of the refresh of the NRS and development of the LAA. All sectors have been involved in both of these initiatives.

In addition, it has been based on the research carried out by the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion to identify progress made and highlight any gaps in provision in respect of previous neighbourhood renewal activity. This research has been particularly helpful in highlighting areas where this final round of NRF can add most value.

To supplement this, lead members and officers across the NRS and LAA priorities have been consulted to identify potential interventions that through NRF funding could add value to existing activities and further progress the neighbourhood renewal agenda in the areas highlighted by OCSI. We know that there are areas where we are not making fast enough progress in narrowing the gap and where we need to accelerate activity or change what we are doing to have a greater impact. The information from these meetings has been used alongside the other research and consultation on the NRS and LAA to inform and shape the draft Commissioning Framework.

The report outlines a process to ensure that funding is used strategically and to commission specific projects/pieces of work. This is designed to minimise the risk of local partners building up a further dependency on NRF funding and creating a future sustainability problem. The approach outlined in the paper will ensure that projects being developed and funded through NRF are well aligned with the NRS and LAA. The activities will be focused on addressing the inequalities faced by the deprived communities of Rotherham.

Attached as Annex A is the draft NRF Commissioning Framework itself which identifies the proposed themes, priorities and activities and the various levels of intervention, both strategic and local. The proposal is for:

- Strategically identified activity across the six themed areas.
- Local identified activity across the six themed areas.
- Community identified activity across the six themed areas.

Encouragement will be given to organisations to consider a consortium approach to the delivery of activity identified in the programme, including drawing on expertise from a variety of sectors. This aim of the strategic approach is to deliver greater impact by concentrating activity through a smaller number of well-defined initiatives linked to the Floor Targets. The aim is for projects to demonstrate how new practice will be tested with clear plans for continuation of successful activity through income generation or mainstreaming i.e. not reliant on any further short term external funding. If the plan is to mainstream a successful service, this will require a clear commitment from at least one partner at the outset.

Steering Group

It is proposed that the existing management arrangements are refreshed through the establishment of a new Steering Group to oversee the commissioning and review of NRF activity for 2006-2008. The Steering Group would oversee the process and advise the Chief Executive Officer Group within the Rotherham Partnership, who will make recommendations to the LSP Board (and via the Chief Executive of RMBC to the council's Cabinet).

It is proposed that this is composed of:

- Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion (as Chair).
- Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods (as lead for Area Assembly Chairs).
- Senior representative from each local partner agency.
- Nominated representatives from private, voluntary and community sectors.
- Co-opted expertise for the NRS priority work areas as appropriate.

Area Assembly Fund

It is proposed that a 'Fund' is established that can be steered at Area Assembly level. The Fund would focus on local priorities within the criteria for NRF and would be overseen by the Steering Group. It is therefore proposed to incorporate this into the framework based on the following principles:

- A minimum allocation for each Area Assembly of £30,000 per annum.
- A top up allocation based on the population in NRF areas and communities of interest within the Area Assembly boundary.

This would result in the following allocations:

Area Assembly	Allocation
Rother Valley South	£48,114
Rother Valley West	£44,959
Rotherham North	£69,117
Rotherham South	£79,877
Wentworth North	£49,754

Wentworth South	£75,124
Wentworth Valley	£53,054
Total	£420,000

A breakdown of communities in target geographical areas and communities of interest within area assembly boundaries is given in Annex C.

To promote impact in meeting local area need, projects are expected to be a minimum of £10,000 each. The Area Assembly would need to show joint working with key local partners.

Locally identified projects will be considered by the Area Assembly and prioritised and then presented to the Steering Group. The Steering Group will have responsibility for agreeing the prioritised projects to ensure that funding allocations are in line with the overall priorities and add value to the strategic framework. A detailed process and timescale for prioritisation will be worked up in more detail following agreement of the principle.

Community Chest

Whilst there is a focus on targeting of funding through strategic programmes, it is recognised that community groups and organisations can have a significant impact on local quality of life through small-scale activities at the local level. It is therefore proposed that a Community Chest programme be established with £220K per annum for this purpose.

Individual grants will be up to a maximum of £5,000, although smaller applications would be preferred. The grants would support small groups working in the target communities of place or with target communities of interest. Typically, an application would need to demonstrate:

- Response to local need or the needs of the target communities.
- There has been consultation with potential beneficiaries of the project.
- It is value for money and realistic.

Locally identified projects will be prioritised by officers against a clear set of criteria agreed by the Steering Group at the outset. Relevant stakeholders and partnerships will be consulted on the recommendation, depending on the project and the communities affected. The Steering Group will have responsibility for agreeing the prioritised projects to ensure that funding allocations are in line with the overall priorities and add value to the strategic framework. A detailed process and timescale for prioritisation will be worked up in more detail following agreement of the principle.

Resources, Timescales and Next Steps

A small proportion of the NRF allocation in both years may be required to resource a small team to administer and oversee the NRF commissioning process, including the strategic, local and community elements, and advise and support the Steering Group and CEO Group. This level of resource (and location) would need to be agreed by the CEO Group. A total of £400,000 is currently unallocated within the strategic

element of the framework until the LAA has been firmed up and level of resources for administration agreed.

In terms of the key milestones for taking the process forward:

- Refinement of priorities and activities during December 2005.
- Final NRF Commissioning Framework agreed by LSP Board in January 2006.
- Steering Group established in January 2006.
- Strategic implementation plans agreed by mid February 2006.
- Prioritisation of Area Assembly activities agreed by end February 2006.
- Prioritisation of Community Chest activities agreed by mid March 2006.
- All contracts, with clear outcomes, signed by end March 2006.
- Projects start delivering from, at the earliest, 1 April 2006.

Existing Funding Projects - Reminder

Attached as Annex B is the up-dated table of currently funded NRF projects that has been circulated previously to the LSP CEOs Group. The traffic light ratings relate to whether a project has secured mainstream or continued funding. The table now has an additional column which identifies where current projects do or not 'fit' the proposed post-March 2006 NRF priorities. This assessment is for information only. It is not proposed that these existing projects should necessarily be funded in the future as no assessment has been made of their relative value for money or impact on outcomes and they would need to be assessed against other worthy initiatives being put forward through the commissioning process if they wished to bid for further resources as part of say the Area Assembly local pot or Community Chest.

8. Finance

The financial implications of this report relate to the effective and strategic use of NRF. NRF allocations are as follows:

2006/07 - £3,495,660

2007/08 - £3,511,557

Year	Available Budget	Strategic Commissioning	Area based Fund	Community Chest
2006/07	£3, 495, 660	£2,855,660	£420,000	£220,000
2007/08	£3, 511, 557	£2,871,557	£420,000	£220,000

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The report outlines a process to ensure that funding is used strategically and to commission specific projects/pieces of work. This is designed to minimise the risk of local partners building up a further dependency on NRF funding and creating a future sustainability problem.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The approach outlined in the paper will ensure that projects being developed and funded through NRF are done so in line with the Council's Corporate Plan, the Community Strategy, the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the Regeneration Plan. The activities will be focused on addressing the inequalities faced by the deprived communities of Rotherham.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation has been carried out via the LSP Structures and a specific working group for each of the Theme Boards.

12. Contact Names:

- Deborah Fellowes, External and Regional Affairs Manager, ext 2769, Deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk.
- Waheed Akhtar, Partnership Officer (Regeneration), ext 2795 waheed.akhtar@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP

NRF COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK APRIL 2006 - MARCH 2008

Introduction

It was announced in July this year that Rotherham is to receive additional NRF monies in 2006/07 and 2007/08. Rotherham has received NRF monies over the past 5 years, in two phases running from April 2001 – March 2004 and April 2004 – March 2006. The last phase of activity included a roll-forward of projects funded in the first phase and new projects focused on the priorities identified in Rotherham's Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, published in 2004. In the next two years, Rotherham will receive £3.495m in 2006/07 and £3.511m in 2007/08, slightly less than previously, but still of significance to our programme for neighbourhood renewal.

The Commissioning Framework includes:

1. **Background** - rationale for the framework and how it aligns with Rotherham's Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.
2. **Targeting Activity** - explanation of our approach which is based on targeting resources to help communities most in need and a clear programme of activity.
3. **Guiding Principles** - key principles that should guide the development and implementation of the programme of activity identified in the framework.
4. **Commissioning Process** - the process and timetable for developing and implementing the programme of activity through partner organisations and networks.

1. Background

The NRF programme is intended to strike a balance between the need to develop new and innovative projects which test new ways of working and also to enable an enhanced level of service within mainstream provision where the need is greatest. This approach enables a contribution to the mainstreaming of regeneration activity and the issues faced within deprived areas are given higher priority and mainstream services better targeted.

Rotherham's Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy provides the framework for prioritising resources and activity to promote neighbourhood renewal. The strategy has recently undergone a refresh and is due to be published in the New Year. This refresh has been informed by research undertaken by the respected Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion who were tasked with reviewing the strategy and commenting on the progress Rotherham had made against the Government's National Floor Targets.

Overall, there has been good progress against National Floor Targets. Rotherham is performing well on all targets and, in most cases, at a rate that is above the national average. This good progress is also supported by other evidence. Official figures, for example, show that Rotherham has moved from the 48th most deprived Local Authority in the country in 2000 to 63rd in 2004.

However, despite this good progress, there remains more work to be done. In Rotherham there continues to be an unacceptable gap between the quality of life within some of our most deprived communities and that of rest of the borough. The Government has recognised the good progress on the national picture, but is now keen to see much more focus on narrowing the gap within a Local Authority area.

The allocation of additional NRF monies to Rotherham for a further two years is a real opportunity to accelerate progress on the National Floor Targets, delivering significant improvements in quality of life for the borough's most deprived communities. As such, it is being treated as a 'new fund' to pump-prime and support complementary activities focused on the current priorities rather than an extension of historic activity.

The objective is to utilise this further allocation of NRF towards maximising impact on narrowing the gap in Rotherham, and therefore a commissioning approach is being taken to support a modest number of interventions which are tightly focused on the key findings identified by the latest statistical data (Deprivation in Rotherham Study, OCSI 2005) and the advice of practitioners/partner agencies on the ground.

Alignment with the refreshed Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement development process has been facilitated by consultation with appropriate working parties and it is intended that there is synergy between the planned actions to support all strategies. Identifying both gaps and overlap between funding provision, together with streamlining the commissioned NRF activity alongside LAA decision making processes will lead to added value being gained from these activities.

2. Targeting Activity

This Commissioning Framework is intended to deliver on our objective. To do this, we believe our approach needs to be much more targeted than before. This approach to targeting is based on need and is two-fold:

a. Focusing on communities in most need – our approach is to target the most deprived communities identified in our refreshed Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. These include target communities of place and interest.

b. Focusing on outcomes of highest priority – our approach is to focus our resources on making more and faster progress on key outcomes for our most deprived communities. The Floor Targets are both national and local priorities.

Further explanation of the targeting is outlined below.

Focusing on communities most in need

The refresh of the strategy has included a review of the targeting approach. The Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion commented positively on Rotherham's method for identifying target geographic areas through the Local Index of Multiple Deprivation. In refreshing the strategy, the approach remains the same but the targeting has been extended from the 20% most deprived to the 25% most deprived. The purpose of this has been to ensure pockets of deprivation are not being masked by a focus on larger areas – in Rotherham deprivation is less concentrated than in other borough's.

The target communities of place are: Aughton, Brinsworth, Central, Dinnington, Flanderwell, Kimberworth Park, Maltby, Masbrough, Rawmarsh, Swinton North, Wath, Wath East and West Melton.

In refreshing the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, we have sought to better understand the needs of communities of place through research, consultation and community engagement through the Community Planning process. Some issues are high priority in all areas. They include the relatively lower levels of

qualifications/attainment and lower incomes, higher levels of worklessness, poorer health, higher rates of crime and anti-social behaviour and poorer environmental quality (i.e. the 'liveability' agenda). Some of these areas also have other issues relating to the built environment (e.g. housing stock and town centre), which are being addressed through specific capital regeneration programmes such as the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder, Decent Homes and Urban Renaissance Masterplan.

In relation to the high priority issues, there is some evidence that while borough wide Rotherham is making good progress against the national average across all National Floor Targets, more progress is being made in the least deprived areas. If this continues, the quality of life gap between communities in the borough will widen not narrow. There is some evidence, for example, that worklessness is falling faster in the borough's least deprived areas, and, in terms of skills, there is little evidence that the most deprived areas are closing the gap. There are also still huge variations between life expectancy in the borough, with a person living in the borough's least deprived neighbourhoods living on average 8 years longer than a person living in a more deprived neighbourhood. In addition, while big falls have been recorded in crime rates in the most deprived areas and there is some evidence that this is leading to a narrowing of the gap, crime is still concentrated in these areas. Finally, there has been measurable improvement in 'liveability' in the most deprived areas but it remains an issue if we are to ensure that these areas become places to live out of choice.

In addition to extending the geographic targeting, the refresh has also strengthened the approach to targeting communities of interest. Many communities of interest also face multiple deprivation and while some of these groups are concentrated in the target neighbourhoods, none are exclusive to them. The groups identified by the Government as being high risk from deprivation and social exclusion were developed and refined based on local statistics, evidence and consultation, including the findings of the report of the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion.

The target communities of interest are: Minority Ethnic Communities, Disabled People and their Carers, Vulnerable Older People and their Carers and Deprived Children and Young People.

Some of the hardest to reach groups - such as Black and Ethnic Minority communities, lone parents, young children and older people - are often concentrated in the areas of high deprivation. As such, targeting the communities of place will also have a significant impact for the quality of life of all our target communities of interest. However, it is also important to remember that some communities of interest face double disadvantage. Although we generally know less about the needs of communities of interest than we do of the communities of place, we know that they experience particular deprivation as a result of low incomes and limited employment opportunities (minority ethnic communities and disabled people, children and young people in low income/workless households and teenage parents), low skills (minority ethnic communities) and poor health (minority ethnic communities, disabled people and vulnerable older people). In terms of neighbourhood renewal and the National Floor Targets:

- **Minority Ethnic Communities** - evidence suggests that the employment gap is not closing as fast between minority ethnic communities and the rest of the population. The Pakistani community makes up 61% of the 'non-white' population in the borough. The unemployment rate for Pakistanis in Rotherham is three times higher than the rate for the White population. There is also evidence that the 'non-white' population aged 25-49, in particular, are much less skilled and qualified than the white community of the same age.

- **Disabled People and their Carers** - disability is a major barrier to employment and a major driver of worklessness. Of the 19,000+ people who are workless in the borough, over 15,000 of those are on incapacity benefits, but many of them are not officially unemployed. Moreover, 7% of the population (18,000+) are claiming a Disability Living Allowance, almost twice the national average, and the numbers of disability related benefits have been rising.
- **Vulnerable Older People and their Carers** - Rotherham has higher rates of people aged over 60 who are permanently sick or disabled (7.7%) compared to the national average (5.0%) and almost two thirds class themselves as having a Limiting Long term illness. Reducing limiting long term illness from chronic diseases, such as Coronary Heart Disease, Stroke and Cancer, is a key priority in Rotherham. Lung Cancer, in particular, is a serious issue.
- **Deprived Children and Young People** – in the 2001 Census nearly one quarter of all children lived in workless households in the borough. The IMD 2004 showed that in the most deprived areas of Rotherham more than 50% of children were living in low-income households and one quarter of all dependent children live in Lone Parent households. In low-income households, skills are a key barrier and in Rotherham 37% of the adult population have no qualifications (29% England). In addition, teenage parents and Looked After Children also face particular disadvantage. Rotherham's under 18 conception rate in 2003 was 51.5 (equivalent to 255 pregnancies in 2003) compared to a national rate of 42.1. Just under half of all teenage parents in the borough have no qualifications and less than half of all Looked after Children achieve 1 GCSE or equivalent.

Focusing on outcomes of highest priority

Our approach is to focus our resources on making more and faster progress on key outcomes for our most deprived communities. We have highlighted the issues for these communities (above) and it is clear that the issues for local communities are not dissimilar from the national priorities for addressing neighbourhood renewal as set out in the Government's National Floor Targets. These Floor Targets aim to address the relatively higher levels of worklessness, lower skills/qualifications, poorer health, higher crime and poorer living environments in the most deprived areas of the country.

In assessing the issues and priorities, we have identified a clear programme of activity to be funded from further NRF monies available in the borough over the next two years. This activity is not about setting up new projects that will run for two years, having a positive impact over the short-term but possibly not having longer-term benefits. The activity is focused on preventative action or pump-pump priming activity that is closely aligned to mainstream priorities and funding.

Strategic Commissioning

The table in Annex A outlines the programme of activity that has been identified in consultation with partners. Activity has been grouped around the key Floor Targets relating to: Worklessness; Skills; Health; Crime; Liveability. Activity has not been identified specifically around housing since there is specific monies available to implement the Decent Homes programme through Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder and monies which will be released on securing 2 Star status for the ALMO.

The proposal is for around £400k to be allocated for the highest priorities identified in each of the themed areas across the key Floor Targets. In total this amounts to £2.4 million across all six themed areas, with a further £400k yet to be allocated (see covering

report). The proposals aim to improve outcomes for the **most deprived communities** identified in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (the target communities of place and interest) and are well aligned to the priorities identified in the emerging Local Area Agreement (LAA). All proposals, as they are worked up in more detail, will be required to meet the guiding principles set out in Section 3. The table in Annex A includes proposals relating to improving:

1. Employability
2. Skills for Life
3. Life Expectancy
4. Life Chances (Young People)
5. Community Safety
6. Liveability

In addition to the £2.8 million funding for strategically identified activities across the themed areas in Annex A, it is proposed that a further £420,000 would be allocated to each Area Assembly (at least £30,000 each) and a further £220,000 would be allocated as a 'Community Chest' in which voluntary and community groups could bid for grants.

Area Assembly Fund

It is proposed that a 'Fund' is established that can be steered at Area Assembly level. The Fund would focus on local priorities within the criteria for NRF and would be overseen by the Steering Group.

The target communities of place are spread throughout the borough. Every Area Assembly has at least one pocket, but some have up to three pockets. The 13 target communities of place identified in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy are distributed across the following Area Assembly areas:

Area Assembly	Target Communities
1. Rother Valley South	Dinnington
2. Rother Valley West	Aughton Brinsworth
3. Rotherham North	Kimberworth Park Masbrough
4. Rotherham South	Central
5. Wentworth North	Swinton North Wath Wath East West Melton
6. Wentworth South	Central Rawmarsh
7. Wentworth Valley	Flanderwell Maltby

It is proposed to incorporate the Fund into the framework based on the following principles: A minimum allocation for each Area Assembly of £30,000 per annum; A top

up allocation based on the population in NRF areas and communities of interest within the Area Assembly boundary. This would result in the following allocations:

Area Assembly	Allocation
Rother Valley South	£48,114
Rother Valley West	£44,959
Rotherham North	£69,117
Rotherham South	£79,877
Wentworth North	£49,754
Wentworth South	£75,124
Wentworth Valley	£53,054
Total	£420,000

To promote impact in meeting local area need, projects put forward for consideration are expected to be a minimum of £10,000 each. The Area Assembly will need to show joint working with key local partners. It will also be required to prepare a prioritised plan of phased activity for each year, based on consultation with residents and businesses. The plan will be required to demonstrate that the activity would integrate with and 'add value' to the strategically identified activity.

Locally identified projects will be considered by the Area Assembly and prioritised and then presented to the Steering Group. The Steering Group will have responsibility for agreeing the prioritised projects to ensure that funding allocations are in line with the overall priorities and add value to the strategic framework. A detailed process and timescale for prioritisation will be worked up in more detail following agreement of the principle.

Community Chest

Whilst there is a focus on targeting of funding through strategic programmes, it is recognised that community groups and organisations can have a significant impact on local quality of life through small-scale activities at the local level. It is therefore proposed that a Community Chest be established with £220K per annum for this purpose.

The Community Chest would enable voluntary and community groups to bid for small amounts of funding to improve outcomes for the most deprived communities across any of the six themed areas. The bids for funding would be required to demonstrate that the activity would integrate with and 'add value' to the strategically identified activity, as well as meeting the guiding principles in Section 3. The aim is that this Community Chest would fund significantly different activities to the strategic fund but with clear outcomes.

Individual grants will be considered up to a maximum of £5,000, although smaller applications would be preferred. The grants would support small groups working in the target communities of place or with target communities of interest. Typically, an application would need to demonstrate:

- Response to local need or the needs of the target communities.
- There has been consultation with potential beneficiaries of the project.
- It is value for money and realistic.

Locally identified projects will be prioritised by officers against a clear set of criteria agreed by the Steering Group at the outset. Relevant stakeholders and partnerships will be consulted on the recommendation, depending on the project and the communities

affected. The Steering Group will have responsibility for agreeing the prioritised projects to ensure that funding allocations are in line with the overall priorities and add value to the strategic framework. A detailed process and timescale for prioritisation will be worked up in more detail following agreement of the principle.

Summary of Framework Allocations

In summary, in 2006/07:

Strategically identified activity across the six themed areas	£2,855,660
Local identified activity across the six themed areas	£420,000
Community identified activity across the six themed areas	£220,000
Total	£3,495,660

In summary, in 2007/08:

Strategically identified activity across the six themed areas	£2,871,557
Local identified activity across the six themed areas	£420,000
Community identified activity across the six themed areas	£220,000
Total	£3,511,557

3. Guiding Principles

Partners have identified some key principles that should guide the development and implementation of the programme of activity identified in the framework. These key principles have been identified to ensure that activity meets the overall objective relating to focus and emphasis (in narrowing the gap), but also delivers value-for-money and a sustainable solution to some of the most difficult issues facing our most deprived communities through improved alignment of activity and a partnership approach.

The activity identified will need to be developed and implemented having regard to the following guiding principles, which take account of the cross-cutting themes of fairness and sustainable development identified in the Community Strategy and which are at the heart of our neighbourhood renewal approach:

a. *Emphasis:*

Activity should address agreed priority outcomes and have a demonstrable impact on narrowing the gap between our most deprived communities and the rest in the borough. To do this, there will need to be a focus on communities most in need and outcomes of highest priority (see Section 2). A clear, logical link between the activity and impact on the priority outcomes will be required.

b. *Added Value:*

The proposals within each of the priority outcomes should evidence baseline outcomes (without NRF supported activity) and intended outcomes (with NRF supported activity). There should be a challenging stretch between the baseline and intended outcomes. It should be possible to identify and evidence that the outputs and outcomes from the activity directly contribute towards the desired intervention.

c. *Best Practice:*

The proposals within each of the priority outcomes should evidence that activity takes account of research and learning from best practice (in Rotherham and elsewhere) into 'what works' in addressing the issues. There is a lot known about

what works and what doesn't that can be taken into account so that there is more chance of an activity succeeding in having the desired outcome.

d. Value for Money:

The proposals within each of the priority outcomes should demonstrate value for money in terms of unit cost. There should be background information available to demonstrate that activity has been fully considered by partners through a reasonable analysis of alternative feasible options and their relative value for money in achieving the same outcome, in addition to sustainability considerations.

e. Partnership:

The proposals within each of the priority outcomes should be developed and implemented in partnership. Consortia teams will be encouraged which demonstrate joined-up approach to working across the public, private, voluntary and community sector to address the linked issues to influencing the priority outcomes. Public sector partners will be encouraged to use the process to support social enterprises.

f. Consultation:

The proposals within each of the priority outcomes should be able to evidence that the activities are based on sound research and consultation with relevant stakeholders and communities (outside of partnership arrangements) and that all linkages with other relevant proposals have been fully considered so that each proposal complements rather than duplicates other proposals.

g. Outcomes:

The agreed proposals and delivery teams will be required to enter into a contract with the Rotherham Partnership (through RMBC as the Accountable Body). This contract will specify the activities and outcomes agreed. The impact of all proposals will be evaluated on the basis of these agreed outcomes so it is important that they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely).

h. Sustainability:

There will be an expectation of match funding from the mainstream and commitment from partner organisations. There will also be an expectation that activity will pump-prime or stimulate additional longer-term activity and/or benefits through influencing changes in the way services are delivered (i.e. not a 2-year project that will result in the 'service' stopping in March 2008 unless other external funding is identified).

In general, pilot activity and/or one-off "projects" will not be considered in this third round of NRF. In terms of pilot activity, it is considered that partners generally know 'what works' locally (and nationally) in relation to the priority outcomes and that further pilot activity will merely provide a short delay in addressing known resource issues for preventative work. In terms of one-off "projects", these will not be considered unless the activity will add value to earlier phases of a longer-term programme of work which has agreed mainstream resources.

4. Commissioning Process

This Commissioning Framework was agreed by the Rotherham Partnership Board on 24 January 2006 following consultation with partner organisations and networks. Partners have been involved in agreeing the targeting, identifying the priorities and developing the programme of activity outlined in the previous sections.

The Chief Executive Officer Group has provided the overall steer in developing the commissioning framework, providing recommendations to the Partnership Board on the preferred way forward.

The day-to-day management of the programme will continue to be operated through a management group made up of lead officers from partner organisations. The existing management arrangements will be refreshed to ensure that membership reflects the priority outcomes of the agreed programme of activity. A new Steering Group will be established to oversee the commissioning and review of NRF activity for 2006-2008.

Lead delivery teams will be agreed to develop a specific aspect of the programme of activity in more detail and bring together all relevant partners and sectors to implement it, with respect to the guiding principles set out (above).

The detailed programme of activity and delivery teams will be agreed by the Chief Executive Officer Group on behalf of the Partnership Board at a special meeting at the end of February. Refinements to the programme and made during March, working with the agreed delivery teams to clarify all aspects of the implementation and monitoring arrangements, with a view to activity commencing on 1 April 2006.

The agreed delivery teams will be required to enter into a contract with the Rotherham Partnership (through RMBC as the Accountable Body). This contract will specify the activities and outcomes agreed.

The monitoring arrangements will be 'light touch' and aligned to the outcomes and targets identified in the Rotherham Partnership Performance Management Framework linked to the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

Draft prepared by Director of Rotherham Partnership, 5 December 2005

Annex A: Shifting Our Outcomes for Target Neighbourhoods and Communities

Floor Target Priority	Overall Aim	NRF "Change Up" Project Specific Activity	Current Resources	NRF Focus & Sustainability
<p>While unemployment has decreased in the borough and the gap is closing with England, worklessness is not falling as fast in the most deprived areas and some hard-to-reach groups are being left behind.</p> <p>Employment rate was a CS indicator identified as 'green' in July 2005 but it remains a key indicator in the new CS. The reason for this is that although the rate of improvement has been steady, it needs to speed up to close the gap with the national average. Moreover, the borough wide picture masks variations across target areas and groups. The Government has recognised this nationally, and the Floor Target has been amended this year to include specific targets for the following groups: BME communities, over 50's, lone parents and low skilled.</p>	<p>1. To roll out neighbourhood based intensive support aimed at helping the economically inactive and work to raise the confidence and aspirations of disengaged adults through quality work experience, innovation and enterprise in the target geographic areas, with particular regard to BME communities and low-income families as target communities of interest.</p>	<p>Consultation with partners has suggested that activity should focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intensive Support – the proposal is for funding to roll out neighbourhood based intensive support aimed at helping the economically inactive who are able to move into employment with specialist support (the current pilot is in Eastwood and Springwell Gardens) and to develop preventative measures to stop people entering IB and other benefits, including working with school leavers, those disengaged from school and NEETs, who need a different style of deliver to learn and be a useful member of future society. 2. Connecting People - the proposal is to fund a series of secondment opportunities from different organisations providing support, advice and/or training over a phased programme, which will include: mapping current activities with a view to improving alignment and integration; strengthening linkages and work with employers and inward investors to extend the opportunities available; strengthening work within communities to actively engage those most hard-to-reach and disengaged through a variety of programmes (and seeking to strengthen referrals and pathways between programmes e.g. sports and arts programmes can provide an engagement pathway to other programmes). 3. Raising Aspirations - the proposal is to increase targeted work and support to individuals and communities for social enterprises as part of the wider programme to address worklessness. The aim would be to increase the number of new-start businesses from the local communities in the most deprived areas. It would enable a broader approach outside of Dinnington, the LAA priority for a Business Incubation Centre and Enterprise Gateway. 	<p>Worklessness is currently being partially addressed through the Jobcentre Plus "Pathways to Work" programme and the SRB funded "Employability Project". However, the focus of both is very specific – Pathways only addressing those on IB less than 12 months and SRB only in the Eastwood pilot area. Further impact on floor targets requires an increased focus on hard-to-reach communities, which is where the NRF could add value. It is a key priority in the LAA Economic Development and Enterprise Block.</p>	<p><u>Annual Amounts:</u> Intensive Support - £200k Connecting People - £100k Raising Aspirations - £100k TOTAL EMPLOYABILITY = £400k</p>

Floor Target Priority	Overall Aim	NRF "Change Up" Project Specific Activity	Current Resources	NRF Focus & Sustainability
<p>A key issue in reducing the difference between the employment rates of disadvantaged groups and the overall rate is that of low levels of adult skills and high proportions of unqualified people in target areas.</p> <p>See comment above relating to the employment rate and specific targets set by Government for particular groups, including the low skilled.</p>	<p>2. To increase adult participation in training and development programmes and raise skill levels and qualifications of the adult population in the target geographic areas, particularly Aughton, Central, Dinnington, Kimberworth Park, Malby, Masbrough, Rawmarsh, Swinton North and West Melton.</p>	<p>Consultation with partners has suggested that activity should focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrating Skills for Life – the proposal is to fund one officer in RMBC/FE (linked to Learning Partnership) on a short-term contract to integrate the Skills for Life agenda into partnership and partner strategies, plans and programmes at all levels, including thematic programmes (e.g. health) through to community planning. The aim will be to enable Skills for Life to be delivered through existing activities so that it is seen as integral to delivering a plan or programme rather than a separate initiative. This will require awareness raising activity as well as providing tools and materials. 2. Community Learning – the proposal is to continue the initiative set up two years ago, taking it into the next phase and refining the programme based on the learning from the first phase of activity. The aim of the second phase will be to better co-ordinate individual learning advisers out in the community engaging and working with individual hard-to-reach learners. The proposals in 1. and 3. above will provide for the future sustainability of this work 3. Connecting Employers – the proposal is to fund phases 2 and 3 of the Entitlement for Skills for Life. Phase 1, the survey work, is being funded through the TEC legacy grant and will be completed by February 2006. Phase 2 will focus on the development and piloting of practical approaches with a selected group of businesses/organisations, based on the information obtained in Phase 1. Phase 3 will use and refine the approaches trialled with a view to embedding Skills for Life elements into businesses/organisations and connecting them to training providers. By working with employers in the low-skilled sectors, in particular, the programme will reach individuals in the most deprived communities of place. 	<p>Resources to support skills programmes are focused around 14-19 age activity. Rotherham's low levels of adult skills and high proportions of unqualified people in target areas, which is key issue for employability now and in the future, is not an area where there is currently dedicated funding support. It is an area where the NRF could complement pre-19 initiatives. It is a key priority in the LAA Economic Development and Enterprise Block.</p>	<p><u>Annual Amounts:</u></p> <p>Integrating Skills for Life - £100k Community Learning - £100k Connecting Employers - £200k TOTAL SKILLS FOR LIFE = £400k</p>

Floor Target Priority	Overall Aim	NRF "Change Up" Project Specific Activity	Current Resources	NRF Focus & Sustainability
<p>Although life expectancy is improving generally in line with the national average, cancer mortality and obesity in children appear to be on an upward trend in the most deprived areas, with the result that this is likely to lead to a widening of the gap in future.</p> <p>Life expectancy was a CS indicator, identified as 'red' in July 2005. It is a continuing indicator in the new CS, supplemented by other key indicators relating to cancer, smoking and healthy eating. Progress in relation to life expectancy depends on progress on reducing life-threatening diseases such as cancer (and lung cancer is a particular challenge particularly acute in the most deprived area) and changing behaviours and attitudes around diet and exercise.</p>	<p>3. To reduce the number of smokers and people starting up smoking (particularly females) in the target geographic areas, and encourage employers borough wide to provide support to smokers and smoke-free environments that will benefit all staff.</p>	<p>Consultation with partners has suggested that activity should focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smoke Free Programme – the proposal is to fund a team of officers in the PCT Public Health Team on short-term contracts to implement a Smoke Free policy and strategy across the borough, working with employers. The project requires intensive activity over the next few years to meet the Government's deadline for Smoke Free workplaces by 2007 (general workplaces) and 2008 (restaurants and pubs serving food). The aim would be for all systems to be in place by the end of the two year period of NRF funding. A high proportion of smokers live in the most deprived communities of place and therefore this programme will have a significant impact on narrowing the gap in life expectancy between areas. 2. Obesity Programme – the proposal is to fund a co-ordinator in the PCT Public Health Team on a short-term contract to pilot an education and change programme in target schools around diet and exercise. The programme would build on current research and best practice and would be aimed at educating children and their families and catering staff in schools, working alongside dieticians and sports coaches. Much of the funding will be used to pilot new ways of delivering school means and sports programmes, but the aim will be identify where small changes can have big impacts with little extra resources so that the programme could be rolled out to many more schools in the future. A high proportion of obese children live in the most deprived communities of place and therefore this programme will have a significant impact on narrowing the gap in life expectancy between areas. 	<p>Resources will be made available through specific Government Grants, such as "Choosing Health" to implement the Smoke Free agenda and tackle obesity. However, there is a need for further funding to supplement the former initiative, which has a wide focus in supporting employers, particularly, businesses, borough wide. The NRF could add value by enabling a wider focus in supporting both individuals and employers. It is a key priority in the LAA Healthy Communities and Older People's Block.</p>	<p>Annual Amounts: Smoke Free Programme - £150k Obesity Programme - £250k TOTAL LIFE EXPECTANCY = £400k</p>

Floor Target Priority	Overall Aim	NRF "Change Up" Project Specific Activity	Current Resources	NRF Focus & Sustainability
<p>There has been good progress in raising educational attainment and reducing teenage pregnancies. However, there are still significant differences in the life chances of young people depending on the area in which they live and their personal circumstances. We need to address the particular issues for vulnerable young people and those most likely to disengage in order to narrow the gap.</p> <p>Educational attainment of Looked After Children (including Children with Special Needs) was a CS indicator identified as 'amber' in July 2005. However, performance can fluctuate with different cohorts. Teenage conception was a CS indicator identified as 'amber-red' in July 2005, with performance having slipped since the previous report (partly a consequence of the measurement changes – now all young people up to the age of 19 are counted). It remains a key indicator in the new CS. The Floor Target aims to reduce overall teenage pregnancy rates by 50% and the DoH has identified Rotherham as 'red' in respect of achieving this target.</p>	<p>4. To raise the confidence and aspirations of young people, particularly the most vulnerable (e.g. Looked After Children, Children with Special Educational Needs) and those most likely to disengage, and further reduce the number of teenage conceptions in the target geographic areas and particularly in the "hotspot" areas where there are particular known problems. The "hotspot" areas are amongst the highest 20% under 18 conception rate wards in England and 50% of conceptions occur in them.</p>	<p>Consultation with partners has suggested that activity should focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sexual Health – the proposal is to build on 'what works' and the infrastructure already in place but to "ratchet up" the level of activity in the target "hotspot" areas, in particular. The programme of activity would include working with parents and young men in relation to their responsibilities, ensuring young people have access to information and advice in the places they use, developing innovative ways of delivering sexual education in schools, maintaining and developing young people friendly sexual health/contraception services and reinforcing support for teenage parents (because second unplanned pregnancies are a major reason for rates failing to reduce more than they have already). 2. Anti-bullying/Inclusion – ACTIVITY TO BE SPECIFIED BY HELEN LONGLAND, LAA LEAD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S BLOCK. IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO SPEAK WITH HELEN SINCE THE SECOND SUBMISSION WAS AGREED DUE TO LEAVE. 	<p>There is a strategy in place to reduce unwanted conceptions and provide improved levels of support and ring-fenced monies have been available from Social Services to the tune of £179,000 per annum year although Social Services have indicated that a similar amount will continue to be available) and Sure Start, which ends in March 2006. Particular emphasis is now being placed on education rather than simply advising and making available contraception, and the NRF could help strengthen this focus in particular target areas. Improving the life chances of vulnerable young people is a key priority in the LAA Children's and Young People's Block.</p>	<p>Annual Amounts: Sexual Health - £200k Anti-bullying/Inclusion- £200k TOTAL LIFE CHANCES = £400k</p>

Floor Target Priority	Overall Aim	NRF "Change Up" Project Specific Activity	Current Resources	NRF Focus & Sustainability
<p>Significant falls in crime have been recorded in the most deprived areas, with some evidence this is leading to a narrowing of the gap. However, crime remains concentrated in these areas, where violent crime (including alcohol fuelled behaviour) and anti-social behaviour in particular are rising fastest.</p> <p>Overall crime rate was a CS indicator identified as 'amber' in July 2005. Overall crime is not an indicator in the new CS. Measurement now focuses on progress on particular borough priorities relating to safety issues given the dramatic reductions in overall crime in Rotherham relative to the national average. In addition, the emphasis of the national Floor Target has changed with increased focus on achieving greater reductions in high crime areas.</p>	<p>5. To reduce levels of violent crime and anti-social behaviour in the target geographic areas, narrowing the gap between these areas and the borough average, particularly in the following areas: Central, Kimberworth Park, Maltby, Masbrough and Rawmarsh.</p>	<p>Consultation with partners has suggested that activity should focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Centre Wardens – the proposal is to fund a small team of wardens to operate solely in the Town Centre to reduce anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of crime, with a view to changing behaviours and perceptions and encouraging investment over the next two years during this critical time in the implementation of the Town Centre Renaissance Masterplan. The warden programme will aim to protect this investment but also to pilot whether this way of working can have a substantial impact in reducing crime (the warden programme has not operated so far in the Town Centre). If the impacts are substantial, it is proposed that the team would be mainstreamed, as with the neighbourhood wardens (21 have been mainstreamed financial year 2006/07). 2. Anti-social Behaviour – the proposal is for a defined 'pot' of funding for capital improvement works in the most deprived areas, which would be allocated to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in these areas. The priorities would be based on previous research and consultation with communities, aimed at preventing and controlling youth nuisance (as opposed to environmental nuisance – see 6. below). The capital improvement works might include providing youth shelters or fencing off private land, whatever is most appropriate for the area and specific circumstances. Other non-capital activities may be funded through the additional Area Assembly allocation. 3. CCT Renewal – the proposal is for funding to replace 95 camera heads in the borough, which would make the system safe and serviceable for a considerable time and reduce the maintenance fees. The current camera heads are 10+ years old and many are now dangerous. It would supplement other funding from the Home Office to digitize the system (£200k has been secured). In addition, funding is required for an additional camera head at Mushroom Roundabout, a key road link strategically and for the effectiveness of ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) system. 	<p>The Council and Police have agreed to implement a local approach to addressing crime and anti-social behaviour through the development of local "Safer Neighbourhood Teams". This will enable services to respond more effectively to local priorities as well as strategic priorities and pool resources across complementary services. The NRF can provide 'pump priming' funding to stimulate this new way of working, which will be primarily resourced through Council and Police mainstream funding and the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. It is a key priority in the LAA Safer and Stronger Communities Block.</p>	<p><u>Annual Amounts:</u> Town Centre Wardens - £150k Anti-social Behaviour - £135k CCTV Renewal - £115k TOTAL COMMUNITY SAFETY = £400k</p>

Floor Target Priority	Overall Aim	NRF "Change Up" Project Specific Activity	Current Resources	NRF Focus & Sustainability
<p>There has been measurable improvement in 'liveability' borough wide, but there is evidence that the 'liveability' agenda is a growing issue in the most deprived neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Resident satisfaction with their place as an area to live was a CS indicator identified as 'red' in July 2005 (Reach-Out). It remains a key indicator in the new CS as 'liveability' is an increasingly important issue both for Government nationally and for partners locally. The Government has introduced a new national Floor Target relating to delivering cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and improving the quality of the built environment in deprived areas.</p>	<p>6. To significantly increase resident satisfaction with the quality of the built and natural environment in all the target geographic areas, particularly in Brinsworth, Central, Flanderwell, Maltby, Masbrough, Rawmarsh, Swinton North and Wath East.</p>	<p>Consultation with partners has suggested that activity should focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greenspace Framework – the proposal is to fund one officer in RMBC Leisure Services on a short-term contract to complete the greenspace strategy and develop a programme to achieve Green Flag status across an agreed number of green spaces in the most deprived areas. There is currently no greenspace strategy for the borough. Having a clear strategy, a priority identified in the Community Strategy, would enable better targeting of existing resources as well as open up opportunities to secure more investment from external funding sources, such as the Housing Market Renewal Fund, Big Lottery and ODPM Fund. 2. Environmental Campaign – the proposal is for funding for an education campaign which will aim to change bad habits and anti-social behaviours (e.g. flytipping/ graffiti/dog-fouling) as well as increase pride in a neighbourhood. 3. Capital Programme – the proposal is for a defined 'pot' of funding for capital improvement works in the most deprived areas, which would be jointly managed by RMBC Streetpride and Leisure Services. Priorities would be based on previous research and consultation with communities, aimed at preventing and controlling environmental nuisance (as opposed to youth nuisance – see 5. below). The capital improvement works might include bringing greenspaces up to Green Flag standard or fencing off open pieces of land to prevent flytipping), whatever is most appropriate for the area and specific circumstances. Other non-capital activities may be funded through the additional Area Assembly allocation. It complements both 1. and 2. above with capital monies. 	<p>The Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder and Decent Homes programmes are enabling significant transformation in the quality and diversity of the housing stock and tenure in the most deprived areas, which is a key plank of the strategic approach to neighbourhood renewal in these areas. However, these are primarily capital intervention programmes. During the early phases of these capital programmes, the NRF can add value through stimulating a wider focus on design and planning within the neighbourhoods and complementary stewardship initiatives through residents and landlords.</p>	<p><u>Annual Amounts:</u></p> <p>Greenspace Framework - £50k Environmental Campaign - £50k Capital Programme - £300k TOTAL LIVEABILITY = £400k</p>

Annex B: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Projects (2005/06) – Exit Strategy Update

Key

Colour Code	Description
Green	Project will not/unlikely to require NRF in 2006/07 (i.e. has secured alternative funding, being mainstreamed, some identified but amount/level not confirmed)
Amber	Project may secure alternative resources in 06/07. Sources identified but no degree of certainty. No amount/level is as yet secure.
Red	Exit strategy either not developed or unclear. Attempts to secure funding made with negative results. Some projects not in a position to secure mainstream funding.

Projects at risk of not securing alternative funding from April 2006 (i.e. “red” and “amber” projects) have been analysed in terms of their broad correlation with the developing NRF framework, according to the following definitions:

- High** Projects should receive funding under the new framework. However, there will be a need to refocus activity.
- Medium** Broad correlation with new framework. However, projects will be required to demonstrate suitability of proposals through one of the three strands (commission, area based or community chest). Funding is not guaranteed and projects are unlikely to receive funding at previous levels.
- Low** Little or no correlation with new framework. Therefore projects will not receive any further NRF funding.

Table 1: Rotherham Partnership Projects

Project	Amount	Comment
Rotherham Partnership Office	170,000.00	Subject to change pending outcome of LSP restructure
Community Cohesion Partnership	80,000.00	
Lifelong Learning Partnership Support	63,500.00	
Strategic Housing Partnership Support	50,000.00	
Community Safety Unit	76,500.00	
Community Development & Involvement Partnership	102,546.00	Identified in a report discussed by CMT on 19 Sept; identified as a top tier priority project for mainstream funding via the Council's Corporate Core Budget. Tim Hawkins The CDIP will no longer be a theme partnership. Officers supporting CDIP may be redeployed as part of VAR re-organisation as part of the Sub Regional Investment Plan. Janet Wheatley

Table 2: RMBC Projects

Project	Amount	Description	Comment	Correlation to NRF Commissioning Framework
NRF Financial Monitoring and Evaluation	58,591.00	Financial administration and evaluation of NRF programme	Subject to change pending outcome of LSP restructure. Simeon Leach	N/A
Library Learning Centres	80,984.00	Through Community Libraries, develop learning centres promoting short courses that incorporate basic skills and offer routes to progression.	To be determined once project is evaluated. May seek further NRF. Guy Kilminster	Medium
Community Learning Plans	59,908.00	Funding to support the development of Community Learning Plans in Rawmarsh, Maltby, Dinnington, Wath and Kimberworth Park.	Project intends to extend activity beyond the NR areas. Julie Roddis	High
Action in the Community for Employment - N.B. NO LONGER RMBC	170,000.00	Community based information, advice & guidance project targeting those who are most disadvantaged in the labour market.	Have looked at other sources of external funding. One tender already unsuccessful. Actively seeking alternative sources of funding. Chris Hiley	Medium
Risky Business – N.B. previously AMBER	98,139.00	Support to young people at risk of sexual exploitation	Subject to work of Task and Finish Group and possible multi-agency team/funding. Jane Senior/Rod Norton	Low
The Welcome Centre – Asylum Seeker's Project	100,000.00	Specialised teaching facility for children of asylum seekers who aren't ready to go straight into mainstream schools	Exit Strategy not clearly established – Bev Booker	Medium
Youth Crime Prevention	50,000.00	To provide three social work post for the YOS	Would need to be mainstreamed if funding ends. Karen Potts	Low

Children & Young People's Support Service	25,000.00	Provides a range of information and support services to children & mothers who have experienced domestic violence and delivers a preventative programme to children & young people in a variety of settings.	Mainstream funding will be looked at within existing programme area budget Kerry Albiston	Low
Strengthening Families Project	64,163.00	Funding to co-ordinate multi agency parenting programme which will support families experiencing difficulties.	Discussions are being held in relation to alternative sources of funding. NRF may still be required. Elaine McShane	Medium
Anti-Social Behaviour Unit	107,769.00	Funding for SY Police Officer and council staff including administration, surveillance and detection	2 nd tier priority funding sought from Medium Term Funding Strategy (MTFS). Funding for second police officer will probably come from police. Helen Nixon	Medium
Choices and Options	59,759.00	Support for victims of domestic violence (vol sector in RCRP)	2 nd tier priority, identified as requiring funds from existing programme area budgets. Helen Rhodes	Low
Parent Participation Project – N.B. previously GREEN	76,565.00	Funding to support Thornhill, Ferham and Canklow schools in engaging parents in added value activity which develops, individual and family skills	Aims to build parent support capacity in schools to self-sustain activity beyond life of funding, but won't be fully self-sustaining. Jeanette Lane	Medium
Employability Mapping	10,000.00	Mapping of employability services to provide a strategic overview, identifying gaps, good practice, etc.	Project has reached a natural conclusion. Rachael Siddall	
Rotherham Construction Project	36,000.00	To maximise benefits to Rotherham communities and individuals from major investments in construction	Job will transfer to the Academy of Construction Trades and will be financed through own trading activities. Ian Gascoigne	
Neighbourhood Statistics	32,024.00	Further detailed analysis of deprivation in borough & development of Performance Management Framework for the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy	Good practice to be mainstreamed-project will identify issues to be picked up through other plans. Michael Hellewell	

Rotherham Trainee Initiative	36,330.00	Development of a trainee programme for care leavers	Mainstream RMBC resources in place to pick up this work. Funding requirement based on 15 placements over 12 months with allowance of £20 per week. Katy Hawkins	
Children's Centre Development	95,983.00	Additional funding to complement the Surestart Grant in the establishment of 11 Children Centres	Will be incorporated into Surestart Grant delivery. Sandra Wright	
Family Group Conferencing	74,907.00	Funding to pilot the introduction of Family Group Conferencing	To be integrated in to Child Protection Practice. Peter Rennie	
Equip Project	60,000.00	Provision of positive action training placements to enable individuals from Black and Minority ethnic communities to gain skills and learning in the workplace to overcome barriers to entering employment.	Identified as a top tier priority project for mainstream funding through MTFs. Simon Cooper	
Home Start	9,000.00	Support for under 5's and their families in the Central Rotherham area	RMBC succession planning has identified it will not look for continuation funding. Karen Potts	
Environmental Wardens	52,000.00	Environmental crime detection and enforcement action	Identified as top-tier priority for mainstream funding via Council's Corporate Core Budget. Subject to further consideration. Mark Ford	
Rotherham Neighbourhood Wardens	100,000.00	Dedicated warden services to tackle local ASB and quality of life issues.	Identified as top-tier priority for mainstream funding via Council's Corporate Core Budget. Subject to further consideration. John Parks	
Streetpride: Environmental Improvement Lighting Improvements Environmental Hotspots	100,000.00	Community walkabouts and audit of schemes. Community clean ups	Identified as a top tier priority for mainstream funding via the council's Corporate Core Budget. Subject to further consideration and support from other	

Graffiti Removal				partners. Colin Knight	
Healthy Schools	25,000.00	Funding towards part of the salary of one of the Healthy Schools Consultants.		Project looking to income generate for its work. In discussion with RMBC. Liz Galliver	

Table 3: RMBC/ VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR Projects

Project	Amount	Description	Comment	Correlation to NRF Commissioning Framework
Community Learning Advisors	100,000.00 V/C	Aims are to increase the no. of adults participating in learning, to support individuals to develop learning plans, to increase no of adults gaining functional qualifications and to raise and maintain awareness of learning opportunities.	Built on the front end of the Community Learning Advisors project. Has not secured funding or developed a clear exit strategy. Melanie Skill	High
Disabled Young People & Parent Network	17,807.00 V/C	Aims to ensure that disabled children from the BME community get maximum benefits from educational opportunities, health care etc, to advocate on behalf of parents, to support the development of the minority ethnic parents group & to provide welfare advice to the young disabled and their families.	Discussion with Social Services about mainstream support. Ahead of this, difficult to assess likelihood of success. Mohammed Suleman	Medium
Brampton CAP	60,000.00 V/C	Community partnership which aims to increase the capacity of the local community enabling them to take forward social and economic regeneration of the area through	This project is subject to review scheduled to take place within the Neighbourhoods Directorate. Not currently managed by RMBC. Debbie Marks	Low

		implementation of the CAP.		
Young Persons Outreach Project	42,503.00 V/C	Accessible outreach support, information and therapeutic interventions for young people experiencing emotional distress and/or mental health issues. The project works mainly with young people aged 11-25 on a one to one basis.	Discussion exists with CAMHS to develop a Service Level Agreement as well as incorporating activity in to Every Child Matters strategy. Will look to seek further NRF. Catherine White	Medium
Canklow CAP – N.B. previously RED	40,000.00 V/C	Partnership Development Manager to implement Community Action Plans and develop capacity within local partnerships. Project sponsored by RMBC and Partnership Manager line managed via Neighbourhoods directorate.	This project is subject to review scheduled to take place within the Neighbourhoods Directorate. Debbie Marks	Low
Dalton/Thrybergh CAP - N.B. previously RED	30,000.00 V/C	Partnership Development Manager to implement Community Action Plans and develop capacity within local partnerships. Project sponsored by RMBC and Partnership Manager line managed via Neighbourhoods directorate.	This project is subject to review scheduled to take place within the Neighbourhoods Directorate. Debbie Marks	Low
Greasborough/Munsborough CAP - N.B. previously RED	25,000.00 V/C	Partnership Development Manager to implement Community Action Plans and develop capacity within local partnerships. Project sponsored by RMBC and Partnership Manager line managed via Neighbourhoods directorate.	This project is subject to review scheduled to take place within the Neighbourhoods Directorate. Debbie Marks	Low
Apna Haq	11,000.00	Support for Asian women experiencing	Identified as 2 nd tier priority requiring	Low

		and fleeing domestic violence	funding from within existing programme area budgets. Zlakhah Ahmed	
Dawn Children and Parents Project	32,600.00 V/C	Support work with young children affected by the experience of divorce and breakdown of relationship, focusing on life skills and helping to fulfil educational potential	Looking for further funding through CYPF via Big Lottery Fund. Julie Adamson	Low
Extended Youth Services	80,600.00 V/C	Project provides an open service for all young people on a drop in basis. Provision of opportunities for training and skills to enhance employment prospects, targeted sessions on sexual health, raising social awareness etc.	Cost of project likely to fall between 40k-50k. Have had positive discussion with Council Youth Services. If full costs not picked up by council will approach Big Lottery Fund for resource shortfall. Steve Abson	
Make a Difference Volunteering	38,750.00 V/C	Recruit, train and deploy a range of volunteers to support community activity	Built into Voluntary Sector SRIP and is therefore unlikely to require NRF. Janet Wheatley	
Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Support	150,000.00 V/C	Grant support to voluntary and community sector organisations via RMBC Chief Exec's Department	Short term project will end with more focused support continuing via RMBC mainstream budget. Waheed Akhtar	
Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance Management	68,660.00 V/C	REMA is the umbrella organisation supporting BME voluntary and community sector organisations in Rotherham	Identified as a top tier priority project by RMBC. Subject to consideration as a possible Service Level Agreement. Mahroof Hussain.	

Table 4: PCI projects

Project	Amount		Comment	Correlation to NRF Commissioning Framework
Project for Children of Drug-Misusing Parents (Free to be Me)	35,224.00	The project provides intervention to increase the long term well being of vulnerable young people who are living in deprivation due to their parents' drug dependency.	No alternative resources for this forthcoming. Will be considered by Crime Reduction Partnership, likely to need to run for at least another 12 months for effective evaluation. Anne Charlesworth	Medium
Thrybergh and other Youth Clinics	15,000.00	Information, advice and counselling for the young people of Thrybergh regarding health issues.	Exploring PCT mainstream resources or NRF funding. Discussion in progress. Dr Rupita Tewari	Medium
Wath Youth Drop-in	15,000.00	Information advice and counselling for young people on health issues.	Exploring PCT mainstream resources or NRF funding. Discussion in progress. Dr Rupita Tewari	Medium
Youth Clinic Development Nurse	30,000.00	This post provides a service for the "hard to reach" throughout the borough – clinic work in the six most deprived areas.	Exploring PCT mainstream resources or NRF funding. Discussion in progress. Dr Rupita Tewari	Medium
CHD Facilitators	35,000.00	To work with GP practices in identifying and delivering care to people with heart disease.	Has been mainstreamed in to the LDP. Jo Abbott	
Management of Drug Users (Shared Care)	30,000.00	Employment of a specialist worker at "The Gate" who will provide assessment and treatment services for the drug using population who are asylum seekers & the homeless.	Mainstream resources for this project identified via the drugs Misuse Polled Treatment pot. Anne Charlesworth	
Locality Substance Use Service	50,000.00	This scheme aims to identify bases for new drug services in Rotherham.	Project has met the end of its lifecycle. Anne Charleworth	
RAILL (Rotherham Active in	5,000.00	Provides regular exercise sessions	Mainstreamed by RMBC Social Services.	

Later Life)	which helps in prevention and rehabilitation of a number of conditions in older people.	Di Hollingsworth	
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Table 5: VAR Projects

Project	Amount	Comment	Correlation to NRF Commissioning Framework
Community Development Workers	274,998.00	No alternative sources of funding identified. Janet Wheatley	Low
Voluntary Sector Support and Training Link Posts	109,449.00	Its proposed project will be included in (1) Change-Up proposal (2) Objective 1 Proposals and (3) SYIP. Keith Dodson	

Table 6: College/Schools Projects

Project	Amount	Comment	Correlation to NRF Commissioning Framework
Learning Champions	100,000.00	No alternative sources of funding identified. Alison Marquand	Medium
Rawmarsh Breakout	98,315.00	Buy-in from local community and school but no alternative funds identified or approached. Lesley Hutt	Medium
Family Health Nurse Advisor	15,673.00	Have received an indication that PCT might pick up element of work. May source funding through Central Government via Behaviour Improvement funds. Nothing allocated. Lesley Hutt	

Annex C

NRF Commissioning - Target Communities within Area Assembly Boundaries

Area Assembly	NRF Area population		Area Assembly Populations									
	No of people in NRF areas	% of all people in NRF areas	No of BME in Area Assembly	% BME Rotherham	No of Older People with long term illness	% Older People with long term illness in Rotherham	No CYP in non employed households	% of CYP in non employed households across borough	No Limiting Long Term illness in Area Assembly	% Limiting Long Term illness in borough	Total Communities of Interest	% Communities of Interest
Rother Valley South	4,210	5.89%	665	6.59%	2616	12.11%	1061	9.02%	6694	12.47%	11036	11.36%
Rother Valley West	1,545	2.16%	750	7.44%	2833	13.11%	1228	10.44%	6929	12.90%	11740	12.08%
Rotherham North	15,309	21.42%	1752	17.37%	3400	15.74%	1922	16.34%	8305	15.46%	15379	15.83%
Rotherham South	19,962	27.94%	4805	47.65%	3411	15.79%	2444	20.78%	8348	15.55%	19008	19.57%
Wentworth North	4,379	6.13%	534	5.29%	3000	13.89%	1439	12.23%	7351	13.69%	12324	12.69%
Wentworth South	19,182	26.84%	897	8.89%	3512	16.26%	2608	22.17%	8654	16.11%	15671	16.13%
Wentworth Valley	6,868	9.61%	682	6.76%	2830	13.10%	1060	9.01%	7421	13.82%	11993	12.34%
Total NRS Areas	71,455	100.00%	10,085	100.00%	21,602	100.00%	11,762	100.00%	53,702	100.00%	97,151	100%

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1. Meeting:	Community Cohesion Delegated Powers Meeting
2. Date:	19 th December, 2005
3. Title:	Draft Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
4. Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Department

5. Summary

This report invites the meeting to consider Rotherham Partnership's draft Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which was agreed for consultation by Rotherham Partnership at its most recent Board meeting.

6. Recommendations

The panel is asked, to:

- 1. To consider the overarching strategic framework.**
- 2. Considers the proposed targeting of communities of place and interest**
- 3. Notes the timetable for finalising the strategy.**

7. Proposals and Details

Rotherham's current Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was agreed in July 2004, and intended to cover the period 2004 to 2010. An integral part of the Community Strategy, it seeks to ensure that all communities benefit from the economic, social and environmental progress in the Borough by addressing root causes of deprivation and driving forward improved services, co-ordination and delivery at neighbourhood level.

In its September Board meeting, Rotherham Partnership Board agreed to a refresh of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy to, with a particular focus on

- Improving its alignment with new Community Strategy following its refresh
- Strengthening targeting and develop local indicators - at the time the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was being developed, available information to support targeting and develop local indicators was limited. Since the strategy was published, work has been undertaken to improve this information base through commissioned research and the development of research and performance capacity within partner organisations.
- Reflect and incorporate the raft of new national policy and good practice in relation to neighbourhood well being.

A copy of the draft Strategy is attached (appendix b). This was considered and agreed at Rotherham Partnership at its next Board meeting on 22 November. This will then be the subject of further detailed consultation with partners and communities during December and January. The actions plans for inclusion in Section 7 will be finalised following agreement to the framework and presented to the Board at its next meeting on 24 January 2005. The final Strategy should be in place in April 2006.

8. Finance

The refresh of the LNRS will have financial implications in relation to publicity and publication costs. These are difficult to specify at this early stage but are unlikely to be significant.

The development of a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is a core requirement for all areas in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Neighbourhood Renewal is one of the key themes of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Community Strategy. Without the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, the Council and other partners may be unable to show a coherent approach, strategic focus and commitment to neighbourhood renewal and addressing deprivation

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

One of the main aims of the refresh is to ensure that that Strategy is fully integrated into the Community Strategy, and is key to the Community Strategies successful delivery. It also helps to shape and guide a wider network of plans, strategies and initiatives.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy includes a performance management framework to ensure that all communities benefit from the economic, social and environmental progress in the Borough, particularly those most deprived. This Performance Management Framework will be strengthened as part of the refresh of the NRS. At this time the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was being developed between November 2003 and June 2004, available information to support targeting and develop local indicators was limited.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Partner organisations including Rotherham MBC, have been fully involved in developing the Strategy.

Rotherham's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, 'Sowing the Seeds for a Brighter Future' 2004 to 2010.

This report has been considered by CMT.

Contact Names:

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Appendix A: Background to Targeting of Communities of Place and Interest

In 2004 the Government released its revised Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Index uses a number of indicators that reflect different types of deprivation. These include: employment; education, skills and training; health and disability; barriers to housing and services; crime; and the living environment; together these provide an overall score that positions Rotherham in relation to all other (354) Local Authority areas. This placed Rotherham as the 63rd most deprived Local Authority in the country. Whilst this is still relatively high (placing Rotherham amongst the top 20% most deprived Local Authorities in the country), it is significantly lower than the previous Index in 2000 which ranked Rotherham as 48th most deprived.

In 2005 Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) were commissioned to identify the main drivers for this change and the extent to which it could have been affected by changes in methodology rather than the level of deprivation. It concluded that "it appears that there has been progress in reducing multiple deprivation levels across Rotherham" and that this improvement has been driven by improvements in employment, education and, to a lesser extent, health. The findings of this research have been consistently supported by other analysis that also point to the good progress and above average progress that has been made in reducing deprivation in the borough.

Targeting of Communities of Place

Rotherham has an especially unusual pattern of deprivation. In most Local Authority areas it is concentrated in a few large areas but, in Rotherham, it is spread across the whole of the borough and most communities have deprived and not so deprived areas. It is essential to be able to identify conditions at the neighbourhood level to ensure that pockets of deprivation are not masked in generally larger areas that they may form a part of (such as a Ward). A Local Index of Multiple Deprivation has been developed to identify the target areas for neighbourhood renewal and this strategy uses a range of locally developed indicators that have been combined into this Index. The top 20% most deprived areas were used to define target areas for the strategy. This measure captures the areas most in need and enables us to measure their progress. The OCSI, in their report, described the Local Index of Multiple Deprivation as "an effective and accurate method for identifying the geographical areas to be targeted" under the strategy. It commented very positively on the "clear, systematic and evidence-based methodology used". Through the Local Index of Multiple Deprivation, two levels of focus have been identified: Level 1 Areas - these neighbourhoods suffer from high levels of multiple deprivation. They are the top 25% most deprived communities in Rotherham where there is a population of 1,300 or more. Level 2 Areas - these are smaller neighbourhoods that are suffering from high levels of multiple deprivation. These small areas fall within the top 25%. The proposed areas are: Aughton, Brinsworth, Central, Dinnington, Flanderwell, Kimberworth Park, Maltby, Masbrough, Rawmarsh, Swinton North, Wath, Wath East and West Melton. Detailed maps have been provided separately.

Targeting of Communities of Interest

We recognise that the task of renewing neighbourhoods includes providing support for communities who are not just defined by their geographical location. Many communities of interest also face multiple deprivation and whilst some of these

groups are concentrated in the target neighbourhoods none are exclusive to them and can be found across the borough. For this reason the strategy targets both communities of place and communities of interest. A detailed and clear rationale was used to identify these target communities of interest. The initial starting point for the analysis was the Government's 'Breaking the Cycle Report' which identified groups that were considered at high risk from deprivation and social exclusion. These were then developed and refined based on local statistics, evidence and consultation, including the findings of the report of the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion. Through detailed profile analysis and consultation with partners, the strategy identifies a small number of communities of interest that suffer from high levels of deprivation, as follows: Minority Ethnic Communities and Asylum Seekers; Disabled People and their Carers; Vulnerable Older People and their Carers; and Deprived Children and Young People.

Contents Page aligned to Community Strategy

Foreword

Section 1 Introduction – Purpose and Focus

Section 2 Background and Strategic Context

Section 3 Overview of Current Position and Progress

Section 4 Overarching Strategic Framework

Section 5 Approach to Targeting Neighbourhood Renewal

Section 6 Cross-cutting Themes

Section 7 Delivering and Measuring Progress

Section 1

INTRODUCTION – PURPOSE AND FOCUS

This Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) is integral to the delivery of Rotherham's Community Strategy 2005-2010. It sets out the commitment of partners to tackling the inequalities that exist between those communities that experience most deprivation and the rest in the borough.

The Rotherham Partnership brings together key decision-makers from the public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations and supports them to agree and implement joint strategic objectives to improve Rotherham. It is the borough's response to the wide range of Government programmes and initiatives that require joint working across the sectors, as well as effective community involvement.

In recent years the borough has seen substantial new development, business success and significant improvements in the quality of public services. The Community Strategy reflects this progress and sets out a number of key challenges and priorities for partners to drive forward further improvement and deliver real and lasting benefits for Rotherham residents.

Deprivation in the borough is decreasing. According to the Government's own figures the borough has moved from 48th most deprived local authority in the Country in 2000 to 63rd in 2004.

However there is still much to do address inequality, and ensure that all of the residents of Rotherham benefit from the Community Strategy. Rotherham still ranks amongst the top 20% most deprived local authorities in the country and some communities in the borough experience disproportionately high levels of worklessness and crime and relatively poorer health and unemployment.

Using national and local data, partners in Rotherham have been able to analyse patterns of deprivation and identify the communities in the borough most in need. These communities will be specifically targeted so that our resources can have maximum impact (Section 5). In order to ensure that these communities benefit from the opportunities being created by the Community Strategy, partners in Rotherham are focusing not only on the borough wide delivery of the vision but also on specific action directed towards target communities.

The Community Strategy vision is made up of five strategic themes which will direct the future work of the Rotherham Partnership: Achieving, Learning, Alive, Safe and Proud. These themes are underpinned by two cross-cutting themes: Fairness and Sustainable Development. All of the strategic and cross-cutting themes are key to neighbourhood renewal.

We believe that for neighbourhood renewal to be sustainable, we need to build preventative strategies that will deliver longer-term benefits rather than simply

tacking current problems. As such, the specific action directed towards target communities aims to address the root causes of deprivation.

To deliver sustainable neighbourhood renewal, all of our actions must - in supporting the Community Strategy themes - help us make progress in three key areas: to improve the life chances of children and young people; to enable everyone to achieve functional skills for life; and to improve the position of the economically disadvantaged through sustainable employment.

These three key areas are not additional to our strategic themes, but integral to them. However, because we believe neighbourhood renewal needs to focus on the root causes of deprivation not just on the consequences, we have identified these three key areas as critical indicators. If we are not making progress on these areas, it is likely that we are not addressing the root causes.

In addition to making progress on our strategic themes and key areas, we are committed to working together to improve the quality and integration of local services in line with community needs and aspirations. It is the intention of partners in Rotherham to move towards neighbourhood management of local services with a particular focus on Rotherham's most deprived communities.

To support this, we are committed to strengthening interagency working at a local level. There are many current and emerging examples of this already, but it will also be a significant development area for partners and our approach will continue to evolve in line with best practice over forthcoming months and years.

For neighbourhood renewal to be fully effective, we need to focus action and resources into the most deprived communities and it is essential therefore that all partners address neighbourhood renewal in their service plans, action plans and programmes. The issue of "mainstreaming" (this is making the action an integral part of partners long term programme) is critical to achieving sustainable neighbourhood renewal in the longer term and this will continue to be an important action for all partners.

However, there are also other external resources available and we must continue to look to maximise their alignment with mainstream plans and programmes. The Local Area Agreement for Rotherham has given us an opportunity to do this more systematically. With programmes such as Objective 1, Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder, along with funding through Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), there is significant potential to pump prime new initiatives, focus resources on communities most in need and support our intentions to mainstream renewal through changing the ways we work and adopting best practice.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) will support the delivery of both the Community Strategy and Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. Our priorities in the LAA blocks will enable us to accelerate delivery through a further stretch across the targets we identified in our Community Strategy. Each of our LAA blocks are helping to make a contribution to one or more themes in our Community Strategy. The LAA for Rotherham is a stretching vision which will benefit the all of

the borough's communities, but it also has a particular emphasis on narrowing the gap between the most deprived communities and the rest in the borough.

It is our aim to enable residents to increasingly influence decisions made about where they live, their services, and quality of life. We will continue to support and strengthen processes of community planning to provide opportunities for communities to engage and have influence.

We are also committed to learning more about communities. We have information already that has enabled us to target particular communities for the purpose of this strategy, but we know there is more to learn and we will continue to improve our intelligence by improving both data sharing and listening more to communities.

Rotherham's LNRS will make a contribution on a local scale towards the Government's National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets in the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. Targeted action in our most deprived communities will address these important targets.

The Community Strategy 2005-2010 had four key components: a vision for the borough; SMART objectives with targets to 2010; action plans to deliver change across the five strategic themes; and arrangements for monitoring and review.

Without a focus on neighbourhood renewal, delivery of the borough wide vision and priorities could benefit some neighbourhoods and communities more than others. The targeting and specific actions we have identified in this strategy will ensure that the objectives benefit all communities, and close the gap between our most deprived neighbourhoods and communities.

The aim is that no one should be disadvantaged by where they live. This means that everyone should have the same high level of access to appropriate services for them and their family.

Across each of the five strategic themes in the Community Strategy we have set out the key priorities agreed by the Rotherham Partnership and the strategic actions identified to progress these. This strategy sets out how we will address inequality through specific action in our target communities. As such, this strategy also contains action plans (Section 7).

The timescale for the priorities and actions in this strategy has been aligned with both the National Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and our Community Strategy. Both of these strategies identify targets to 2010. We will review our Community Strategy and LNRS in tandem.

By working together to deliver on core priorities, develop new ways of working at neighbourhood level and improve the co-ordination and quality of local services we are confident that inequalities in the borough will be reduced and all Rotherham communities will see marked improvements in quality of life.

The aims of the strategy are to:

- 1 Deliver on national priorities in the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and contribute to the delivery of National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets at the Rotherham level
- 2 Ensure the effective delivery of Rotherham's Community Strategy at neighbourhood level to make sure that all communities benefit.
- 3 Reduce inequalities and "close the gap" between Rotherham's most deprived communities and the rest of the Borough.

The broad aims of the strategy are to:

- A** Deliver the vision for Rotherham for everyone by addressing inequalities through specific action in targeted communities and building preventative strategies that will deliver longer-term benefits rather than simply tackling current problems.
- B** Address the root causes of deprivation by ensuring actions in target communities help us make progress in three key areas: to improve the life chances of children and young people; to enable everyone to achieve functional skills for life; and to improve the position of the economically disadvantaged through sustainable employment.
- C** Ensure our resources and service delivery are aligned with community needs across target communities by:
 - 1 Driving forward service integration at neighbourhood level through the development and roll-out of a neighbourhood management approach.
 - 2 Prioritising the active involvement of communities and putting community needs and aspirations at the heart of neighbourhood renewal.
 - 3 Ensuring effective mainstreaming of neighbourhood renewal in the plans and programmes of partner organisations.
 - 4 Maximising the use of external resources, and aligning these resources to the mainstream, to support the transformation of deprived areas.
 - 5 Improve intelligence by improving both data sharing and listening more to communities

Section 2

BACKGROUND AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 2005-2010 has been informed by:

- The review of Rotherham's Community Strategy 2005-2010.
- Delivery of other key local strategies and plans.
- Detailed and independent analysis of deprivation.
- An external review of our approach to targeting.
- Improved information from Community Planning.
- Consultation and engagement with partners and local communities.

This section provides an overview of the national and local policy context.

The National Context

The National Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy published in 2001 sets out the Government's vision for narrowing the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country. The objective of the strategy stated that: Within 10 to 20 years, no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

As part of the National Strategy, the Government set a number of challenging National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets that reflect the need to raise the standard of public services in the country's most deprived areas by dramatically lifting standards of employment, educational attainment, housing, health, and lowering crime rates. These Floor Targets have been reflected in Rotherham's Community Strategy which identifies SMART objectives against which we will measure progress locally and agreed targets to 2010.

The National Strategy placed communities and strong local economies at the heart of the renewal process. To provide a focus for delivery, the Government identified 88 local authority areas that scored most highly on its Index of Multiple Deprivation. Those areas became eligible for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and were required to produce Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies to identify how local partners would work together to address inequalities and contribute to the National Floor Targets. Rotherham is one of the 88 target areas.

The National Strategy and associated National Floor Targets provide the broad context for our Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) and it is essential that action developed and taken locally contributes effectively to the Government's overall strategy of reducing inequality. We must take into account our performance against the Floor Targets and ensure we prioritise action to address targets where we are weak or where we are not improving fast enough.

The NRF was originally allocated for a three year period between April 2001 and March 2004. It has since been extended twice, with Rotherham receiving

additional monies over the last two years between April 2004 and March 2006, and most recently, having received confirmation of a further extended allocation to March 2008. The Government requires the 88 target areas to use NRF to support neighbourhood renewal priorities and, particularly, the Government's Floor Targets. It should also complement mainstream activity and wider regeneration programmes.

The Regional Context

The Yorkshire and Humber Region contains nine Local Authority areas that are classified as Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and qualify for Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) as part of the Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. Each of these areas has a Local Strategic Partnership established to oversee and deliver neighbourhood renewal. The Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber co-ordinates the delivery of neighbourhood renewal policy in the region alongside the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU). The NRU oversees the delivery of the Government's National Floor Targets.

There are also several other programmes in the Region and sub-region which complement the National Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. These include: Regional Development Agency Investment Plans, which aim to strengthen the regional economies and connect people to the new economic opportunities; the National Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme, which has provided additional monies to promote neighbourhood renewal in particularly deprived areas (in Yorkshire and the Humber this includes Eastwood and Springwell Gardens in Rotherham); the South Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Programme, which is investing large sums of money into housing infrastructure targeted at the most deprived areas of the sub-region, (this includes large areas of Rotherham). In addition, South Yorkshire is currently a designated an Objective 1 area, providing an additional £700 million of European Structural Funds over a seven year period up to 2007.

The Borough Context

Rotherham Partnership launched the borough wide Community Strategy 2005-2010 in July 2005. It describes the future vision for the borough and the key targets and actions that partner organisations across Rotherham have committed to achieving, working individually and collaboratively, in partnership. The Community Strategy provides the framework for this joint working.

The vision is based on the aspirations, needs and priorities of local communities and includes short-term strategic action plans, which state how the vision will be implemented, and the arrangements for monitoring to ensure that the medium-term objectives are being met, including targets to 2010. Underpinning the Community Strategy vision are five strategic themes: Achieving, Learning, Alive, Safe and Proud together with two cross cutting themes Fairness and Sustainable Development. These themes together describe how Rotherham will look and feel in 2020. They are aspirational and challenging, but will be delivered through the commitment and resources of all partners.

In 2020 Rotherham will be a prosperous place with a vibrant, mixed and diverse economy and flourishing businesses. People will be recognised as informed, skilled and creative, innovative and constructively challenging. They will feel good, be healthy and active and enjoy life to the full. Not only will communities be thriving but neighbourhoods will be safe, clean, green and well-maintained with well-designed, good quality homes and accessible local facilities and services for all. Importantly, Rotherham people, businesses and pride in the borough are at the heart of our vision.

There will be five thematic partnerships, each responsible for progressing one of the strategic themes. They will: develop a delivery plan to take forward the vision, priorities and targets; commission activity through partnerships and partners; monitor progress against the targets and address barriers to progress; and join up strategic and neighbourhood activity.

The Neighbourhood Context

Rotherham's Community Strategy recognises that if all residents are to benefit, targeted action is needed to address inequality across the Borough.

Despite recent progress and real opportunities for the future, there remains a risk that some communities will not fully benefit. We want to ensure that the gap narrows between these communities who are disadvantaged and the rest across the borough. Addressing this is the focus of the LNRS, which is integral to the delivery of the Community Strategy. This strategy identifies the areas and communities most in need based on national and local data, and targets specific action in these areas to address the issues that currently exist.

We know that, in theory, some of the targets we have set ourselves in the Community Strategy could be achieved without addressing inequality. For example, we could improve Rotherham's Gross Domestic Product (GVA) and average earnings by concentrating on growth and improvement where it is most easy - and enabling only successful communities to benefit. However, we know that measures of deprivation (and success) are inter-linked - so wherever there are high levels of economic inactivity, there will be poor environments, poor health, lack of educational achievement, and higher levels of people suffering from crime. We need to take action to address all these issues simultaneously.

We also know that we will be even more successful in encouraging business and employment growth across the whole borough if our approach to addressing deprivation works. Consequently it is important that the targets we set ourselves in the strategy achieve two broad outcomes: they help deliver borough wide targets; they address inequality at neighbourhood level. In achieving these outcomes it is important that we recognise and celebrate the rich mix of cultures, lifestyles and environments in Rotherham - one of our many strengths - and ensure that services and programmes respond to the diverse needs of communities.

Through neighbourhood renewal we need to build on successful neighbourhood-based work in Rotherham that seeks to enhance the local environment and bring about wider benefits of improved health and reduced crime. Neighbourhood renewal needs to be sustainable and so we will prioritise preventative measures to address the root causes of deprivation rather than focus on purely short term action. This approach will bring long term benefit and will address the barriers that prevent people from benefiting fully from the significant opportunities that the Community Strategy will create.

We want to achieve quality and excellence across a wide range of services and, with a focus on communities of place and interest, drive forward new and innovative ways of co-ordinating and managing local service delivery and promoting interagency working. We also want to learn from good practice elsewhere and share our own experiences with other areas that are delivering on neighbourhood renewal.

It is important that we recognise the role of other local strategies and plans in delivering on neighbourhood renewal. The Housing Strategy, for example, will transform housing stock within the borough by focusing on homes that do not meet decency standards which is one of the National Floor Targets. Education strategies and plans are already addressing Floor Targets in relation to educational attainment, strategies are developing to improve health and reduce inequalities in health and plans are in place to address crime and disorder. Economic strategies, learning plans and regeneration plans are driving forward progress in relation to employment and skills. A range of other strategies and plans are already contributing to local neighbourhood renewal.

The LNRS is intended to add value to this wide range of plans and strategies by targeting action and focusing on the root causes of deprivation.

Section 3

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT POSITION AND PROGRESS

The previous sections have set out the focus and purpose of the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) and the national, regional and local issues which have provided the context for developing the borough wide vision and strategic themes. This section focuses on the national priorities for neighbourhood renewal – the Government's National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets – and outlines Rotherham's current position and progress on these important national benchmarks. The following sections (4 and 5) focus on the borough wide priorities for neighbourhood renewal. These sections outline in more detail the connections with Rotherham's Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement and the agreed target communities.

Our Overall Progress

The Government's National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets aim to increase the employment rate, raise educational performance, improve health and the quality of social housing, reduce crime and improve the environment across the country's most deprived communities. The National Floor Targets are fully aligned with the priorities and targets of Rotherham's Community Strategy and enable us to consider how well we are improving the quality of life for communities at a local neighbourhood level.

Overall, there has been good progress against the National Floor Targets. Rotherham is performing well on all targets and, in most cases, at a rate that is well above national average. This good progress is also supported by other evidence. Official figures, for example, show that Rotherham has moved from the 48th most deprived Local Authority in the country in 2000 to 63rd in 2004. The findings of an independent analysis of deprivation conducted by the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion reinforce this message.

However, despite this good progress, there remains more work to be done. In Rotherham, like the rest of the country, there continues to be an unacceptable gap between the quality of life between some communities and neighbourhoods. For example, a person living in one of the borough's most deprived wards can expect on average to live eight years less than a person living in a less deprived ward. The key challenge is to maintain and accelerate the good progress made.

Rotherham's current position and progress against the Floor Targets is outlined below. This summary of performance is grouped under the headings of the five themes found in Rotherham's Community Strategy 2005-10. The analysis is based on current Floor Target data and the findings of a study of deprivation in Rotherham commissioned by the Local Authority and undertaken by the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI). Further information about the study, which was published in October 2005, can be found in Section 4.

Progress on Rotherham Achieving

There are three key National Floor Targets relating to the Rotherham Achieving theme. These targets provides a measure for Government about the relative progress of areas nationally. Here we outline how Rotherham is currently positioned relative to the national average and the Floor Targets. The National Floor Targets relating to the Achieving theme are:

- Increase the employment rate.
- Increase the employment rate of disadvantaged groups.
- Significantly reduce the difference between the employment rates of disadvantaged groups and the overall rate.

The gap between Rotherham's employment rate and the England average has been closing since 2002 and it is now only 0.4% below the national average. Following a sustained dip Rotherham's employment rate for lone parents increased dramatically during 2004 and is now only narrowly below the national average. For other groups, such the over 50's, those with no qualifications and ethnic minorities, there has been little shift in the borough's relationship with the national average and significant gaps continue to exist. The key issue for Rotherham is to address the disparities that exist within the borough between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest.

Evidence from the research undertaken by the OCSI consultants notes that:

- Unemployment has decreased across Rotherham and the Borough has closed the gap with England.
- But some hard-to-reach groups may be left behind - older workers, lone parents, unqualified people, non-white females.
- Most deprived areas are closing the worklessness gap with national average though there is some evidence that worklessness is falling faster in the Borough least deprived areas than in its most deprived areas.
- The major driver of worklessness is sickness, of the 19,435 workless people of working age across Rotherham 15,130 are on sickness benefits and 3,970 are officially unemployed .

Progress on Rotherham Learning

There are three key National Floor Targets relating to the Rotherham Learning theme. These targets provide a measure for Government about the relative progress of areas nationally. Here we outline how Rotherham is currently positioned relative to the national average and the Floor Targets. The National Floor Targets relating to the Learning theme are:

- Age 11 (Key Stage 2): Raise standards in English and Maths so that by 2006, 85% of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above, with this level of performance sustained to 2008, and; by 2008, the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above is reduced by 40%

- Age 14 (Key Stage 3): Raise standards in English, maths, ICT and science in secondary education so that by 2007 85% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, maths ICT (80% in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008, and; by 2008 in all schools at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in each of English, maths and science
- Age 16 (Key Stage 4): By 2008, 60% of those aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C and in all schools at least 20% of pupils achieve this standard by 2004, rising to 25% by 2006 and 30% by 2008.

Progress has been good at both key stages 2 and 3 with a narrowing of the gap occurring across most subject areas at both key stages. However despite this progress there has not been a significant narrowing of the gap as this progress has been echoed at the national scale. A similar picture can be observed in relation to GCSE attainment where despite improvement over a sustained period there has been only a slight narrowing of the gap due to progress being mirrored nationally.

Evidence from the research undertaken by the OCSI consultants notes that:

- Rotherham is generally closing the gap with England in terms of school (Key Stage) exam results.
- The school (Key Stage) exam results are comparable to the other 88 Neighbourhood Renewal Fund areas.
- However, there is little evidence of most deprived areas closing the gap (based on individual level data).
- There has been a big drop in young people Not Entering Employment Education or Training with for example access to higher education and graduations doubled 1994-2003.
- There has been an increase in working age qualifications and employment related training.
- But some groups are less qualified. For example, BME aged 25-49 are much less qualified than whites and younger groups in most deprived areas.
- Adult skill levels are low, with 37% having no qualifications (29% England).

Progress on Rotherham Alive

There are three key National Floor Targets relating to the Rotherham Alive theme. These targets provide a measure for Government about the relative progress of areas nationally. Here we outline how Rotherham is currently positioned relative to the national average and the Floor Targets. The National Floor Targets relating to the Alive theme are:

- Reduce mortality rates by 2010 from heart disease and stroke and related diseases by at least 40% in people under 75, with at least a 40% reduction in the inequalities gap with the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation and the population as a whole.

- Reduce mortality rates by 2010 from cancer by at least 20% in people under 75, with a reduction in the inequalities gap of at least 6% between the areas with the worst health and deprivation and the population as a whole.
- Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.
- Reduce the under 18 conception rate by 50% by 2010.

Life expectancy in Rotherham is below the national average for both males and females with male life expectancy only 1% below the England average. For females life expectancy has declined over recent years and this may in part be accounted for by an increase in the number of female deaths due to smoking. Good progress has been made in relation to circulatory disease mortality and the borough appears to be on target to meet the Floor Target. The picture is less clear for cancer mortality where there has been an upward trend and a widening of the gap since 2001. Finally, the under 18 conception rate in Rotherham has decreased since 1998 leading to a slight narrowing of the gap.

Evidence from the research undertaken by the OCSI consultants notes that:

- Life expectancy is improving, generally in line with the national average.
- There has been good progress on many of the main health issues, including circulatory disease mortality, teenage pregnancies, etc.
- Health is a major issue in the borough and rates are generally below the national average.
- 17,350 people receive Disability Living Allowance (7% of population) and 6,600 people over 65 (17% of population) – this is well above regional and national levels and increased over the 2001–2003 period.
- There are huge variations in the borough. A person living in the borough's least deprived neighbourhoods lives on average eight years longer than a person living in one of the more deprived neighbourhoods.
- There is little indication that most deprived areas are closing the gap.

Progress on Rotherham Safe

There are three key National Floor Targets relating to the Rotherham Safe theme. These targets provide a measure for Government about the relative progress of areas nationally. Here we outline how Rotherham is currently positioned relative to the national average and the Floor Targets. The National Floor Targets relating to the Safe theme are:

- Reduce crime by 15% and further in high crime areas.
- By 2010 bring all social housing into a decent condition with most of this improvement taking place in deprived areas, and for vulnerable households in the private sector, including families with children, increase the proportion that live in homes in decent condition.

- Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and improvement to the quality of the built environment in deprived areas and across the country, with measurable improvement by 2008.

Rotherham's BCS comparator crime rate is currently 5% below the national average and the borough also performs well against Yorkshire and the Humber and the average across NRF areas. Success in this area is largely accounted for by large reductions in vehicle crime and domestic burglary. Although there is no national figure with which to compare our performance Rotherham's non-decent homes figure of approximately 80% appears high and compares unfavourably with other boroughs in the sub-region. On measures of liveability Rotherham's performance is variable. In the case of unacceptable levels of litter and detritus the borough's performance is better than both the national average and the average for NRF areas. Whilst the percentage of residents satisfied with local parks and open spaces is improving in line with NRF areas, although the gap with the national average is widening.

Evidence from the research undertaken by the OCSI consultants notes that:

- Recorded offences are below the England average, especially for violent, sexual and robbery offences.
- Burglary and vehicle crime are slightly higher but rates are dropping.
- The highest crime rates are in the most deprived areas but significant falls in crime in these areas have been recorded and there is some evidence that this is leading to a narrowing of the gap.
- Whilst decreases in recorded crime are highest in the most deprived areas of Rotherham, leading to a narrowing of the gap within the borough, crime remains concentrated in target areas.
- Housing standards are relatively good though about 80% of Rotherham Council housing is 'non-decent' based on the Government definition. Meeting the Floor Target for decent homes by 2010 will be a considerable challenge.
- Measurable improvement in so-called 'liveability' - the cleaner, safer and greener agenda - is a growing issue in some neighbourhoods. Research suggests that Rotherham is particularly deprived in this area and evidence points to high levels of deprivation in the town centre. However, the high levels of investment being directed at the town centre in the future should significantly contribute to addressing this.

Progress on Rotherham Proud

There are no National Floor Targets relating to Rotherham Proud, but we have included public satisfaction as a key national measure which all areas monitor and which is considered in the council's corporate Comprehensive Performance Assessment Score.

Evidence from the research undertaken by the OCSI consultants notes that:

- Hardest to help groups are often concentrated in areas of high deprivation, such as BME groups, lone parents, young children, older people
- However some hardest to help groups are to be found across the Borough e.g. people with no qualifications and unemployed people

Listening to Local Views

The Rotherham Partnership has facilitated the production of Rotherham's Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) through the involvement of a wide range of partners across the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. The approach included the establishment of a working group for key themes, guided by an overall Steering Group. The membership of the groups was drawn from partner organisations within the Rotherham Partnership.

Robust and in depth research into the make-up of Rotherham's neighbourhoods, and identification of those neighbourhoods most in need was an early priority, and this work is outlined in detail in Section 5 as our Approach to Targeting Neighbourhood Renewal. Partners worked together to identify the underlying causes of deprivation in Rotherham's most deprived neighbourhoods and related this to the priorities of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and Rotherham's Community Strategy 2005-2010.

The preparation of this strategy builds on the substantial consultation carried out in 2003 and 2004. This strategy is an up-dated version of the previously published strategy in 2004, responding to the changes in the Community Strategy which was refreshed early in 2005. The original consultation, which included desk based studies, workshops, and meetings with the Area Assemblies and community partnerships, has been supplemented by the recent independent analysis of deprivation conducted by the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion.

We will continue to track the views of Rotherham's communities through: Rotherham Reachout, the borough's Citizen's Panel; the annual Quality of Life/Satisfaction Survey; Community Planning. We will use these existing mechanisms to gauge how the LNRS is progressing, particularly in closing the gap between the neighbourhood renewal areas and the rest of the borough. Over the first year of implementation, we will actively publicise and communicate the strategy and investigate the need to develop these existing mechanisms and establish further mechanisms to refine our processes.

The process of developing the strategy has provided a good basis from which to further develop and deliver neighbourhood renewal. It is important that partners across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors continue their involvement and commitment to the priorities and actions.

Section 4

OVERARCHING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The previous sections have set out the focus and purpose of the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) and the national, regional and local issues which have provided the context for developing the borough wide vision and strategic themes. The previous section focused on the national priorities for neighbourhood renewal – the Government's National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets – and outlined Rotherham's current position and progress on these important national benchmarks. This and the following section focus on the borough wide priorities for neighbourhood renewal. This section outlines in more detail the connections with Rotherham's Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. The following section outlines the agreed target communities.

The Strategic Themes

There are five strategic themes which will direct the future work of the Rotherham Partnership. They provide, underpinned by the cross-cutting themes, the strategic framework for the 2020 Vision.

Rotherham Achieving

Rotherham will be a prosperous place, with a vibrant, mixed and diverse economy, and flourishing businesses. Inequalities between parts of the borough and social groups will be minimised. There will be an excellent town centre known for the high quality design of its public spaces and buildings, specialist and quality shops, markets, and cultural life for all age groups. Rotherham will be accessible from other areas and will have a wide choice of integrated transport options available. Villages and rural areas will be revitalised and provide high quality of life among Rotherham's beautiful countryside.

Rotherham Learning

Rotherham people will be recognised as being informed, skilled and creative, innovative and constructively challenging. They will be self-confident and have a sense of purpose. They will aspire to develop and achieve their full potential in their chosen careers, work, leisure and contributions to local life. Learning and development opportunities will be available and accessible to all. Through this enabling, learning environment, involvement and entrepreneurship will be encouraged.

Rotherham Alive

Rotherham will be a place where people feel good, are healthy and active, and enjoy life to the full. Health services will be accessible and of a high quality for those who require them. Rotherham will celebrate its history and heritage – building on the past, and creating and welcoming the new. People will be able to express themselves and have opportunities to be involved in a wide range of high quality cultural, social and sporting activities. The media, arts, literature and sport will flourish. As a society, we will invest in the next generation by focusing on children and young people.

Rotherham Safe

Rotherham will be a place where neighbourhoods are safe, clean, green and well maintained, with well-designed, good quality homes and accessible local facilities and services for all. There will be attractive buildings and public spaces. Communities will be peaceful but thriving, relatively free from crime and the fear of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour. Environments, people and businesses will be protected and nurtured. Children will be safe from harm and neglect. A preventative approach will be taken to minimise crime, accidents and hazards; and to further strengthen resilience and thus safeguard all Rotherham citizens.

Rotherham Proud

Rotherham people, businesses and pride in the borough are at the heart of our vision. Rotherham will have a positive external image and its people will be renowned for their welcome, friendliness and commitment to the values of social justice. Active citizenship and democracy will underpin how Rotherham works. Achievements and diversity will be celebrated. Rotherham will be a caring place, where the most vulnerable are supported. It will be made up of strong, sustainable and cohesive communities, both of place and interest and there will be many opportunities for people to be involved in civic life and local decision making. The means to do this will be clear, well known and accessible.

The Local Area Agreement Priorities

The Local Area Agreement for Rotherham is a stretching vision which will benefit the community. It is a vision based on the priorities agreed by the Rotherham Partnership in the borough wide Community Strategy 2005-2010 but in it we have committed ourselves to further stretching targets to 2008. Rotherham's Community Strategy priorities fit well with the Government's own national priorities for improving the life chances of children and young people, growing the economy and enterprise and creating safer, stronger and healthier communities.

So that the Local Area Agreement (LAA) really does add value to the Community Strategy, we have homed in on a few priorities which we believe present the most significant challenges for partners but the most significant potential opportunities for the community. Our priorities in the Local LAA blocks will enable us to accelerate delivery through a further stretch across the targets we identified in our Community Strategy. Each of our LAA blocks are helping to make a contribution to one or more themes in our Community Strategy.

- The Economic Development and Enterprise Block is making a stretching contribution to deliver our Achieving and Learning themes.
- The Children and Young People's Block is making a stretching contribution to deliver all themes, but particularly Achieving, Learning and Alive.
- The Safer and Stronger Communities Block is making a stretching contribution to deliver our Safe theme.
- The Healthy Communities and Older People's Block is making a stretching contribution to deliver our Alive theme.

- All of the themes are making a stretching contribution to deliver our Proud theme and cross-cutting themes of Fairness and Sustainable Development.

The LAA for Rotherham is a stretching vision which will benefit the all of the borough's communities, but it also has a particular emphasis on narrowing the gap between the most deprived communities and the rest in the borough.

Economic Development and Enterprise Block

The LAA will add value by strengthening integrated action which will promote enterprise, innovation and growth and connecting communities to these new opportunities. In terms of neighbourhood renewal, the LAA has a specific priority to maximise economic and opportunities to reduce disadvantage and raise quality of life and living standards, particularly in the most deprived communities.

Children and Young People's Block

The LAA will add value by strengthening integrated action which will ensure all children and young people are given the protection, support and encouragement they need to reach their full potential and share in the opportunities created. In terms of neighbourhood renewal, the LAA has a specific priority to improve the attainment of groups such as Looked After Children, children from BME groups and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Safer and Stronger Communities Block

The LAA will add value by strengthening integrated action which will promote liveability and improve quality of life within neighbourhoods. In terms of neighbourhood renewal, there is a particular focus on narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the rest of the borough through focusing on crime and anti-social behaviour, the quality of the local environment and housing conditions in the neighbourhood renewal target areas.

Healthy Communities and Older People's Block

The LAA will add value by strengthening integrated action to promote choice and positive attitudes to health and reduce health inequalities experienced by particular neighbourhoods or vulnerable people. In terms of neighbourhood renewal, there is a particular focus on promoting choice and improving services provided to disadvantaged neighbourhoods and vulnerable people through information, advice, support and access to these services.

Section 5

APPROACH TO TARGETING NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

This section explains the approach in Rotherham to targeting neighbourhood action based on our research and consultation. It provides an outline of the analysis, describes the target communities that provide the focus for delivery and suggests where further work is needed to improve our understanding of community needs and aspirations. For the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) to be effective, it is essential that action is focused on addressing the deprivation that exists within communities – both communities of place and communities of interest. Much work has been done to understand the patterns of deprivation and thereby enable resources and effort to be targeted most appropriately. However, it also recognises that there are important differences between the borough's deprived communities - what might be top priority for one community may be less of an issue in another. The strategy is designed to respond to these differences.

Overview of Deprivation in Rotherham

Deprivation is widespread and can be found across the whole of the borough. There are, however, some communities that are especially affected by it and require additional help to reduce the gap between the most deprived communities and the borough as a whole and improve quality of life.

In 2004 the Government released its revised Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Index uses a number of indicators that reflect different types of deprivation. These include: employment; education, skills and training; health and disability; barriers to housing and services; crime; and the living environment; together these provide an overall score that positions Rotherham in relation to all other (354) Local Authority areas. This placed Rotherham as the 63rd most deprived Local Authority in the country.

Whilst this is still relatively high (placing Rotherham amongst the top 20% most deprived Local Authorities in the country), it is significantly lower than the previous Index in 2000 which ranked Rotherham as 48th most deprived.

In 2005 the respected Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) were commissioned to identify the main drivers for this change and the extent to which it could have been affected by changes in methodology rather than the level of deprivation. It concluded that "it appears that there has been progress in reducing multiple deprivation levels across Rotherham" and that this improvement has been driven by improvements in employment, education and, to a lesser extent, health. The findings of this research have been consistently supported by other analysis that also point to the good progress and above average progress that has been made in reducing deprivation in the borough.

Our Target Communities of Place

In recent years, with support from the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB), the Rotherham Partnership has greatly enhanced the approach and capacity to provide small area data to allow accurate reporting of conditions at the local level and identify the inequalities that exist.

Rotherham has an especially unusual pattern of deprivation. In most Local Authority areas it is concentrated in a few large areas but, in Rotherham, it is spread across the whole of the borough and most communities have deprived and not so deprived areas. It is essential to be able to identify conditions at the neighbourhood level to ensure that pockets of deprivation are not masked in generally larger areas that they may form a part of (such as a Ward).

A Local Index of Multiple Deprivation has been developed to identify the target areas for neighbourhood renewal and this strategy uses a range of locally developed indicators that have been combined into this Index. The top 20% most deprived areas were used to define target areas for the strategy. This measure captures the areas most in need and enables us to measure their progress.

The OCSI, in their report, described the Local Index of Multiple Deprivation as “an effective and accurate method for identifying the geographical areas to be targeted” under the strategy. It commented very positively on the “clear, systematic and evidence-based methodology used” and stated that they would be happy to highlight this work as an example of good (or even “best”) practice.

Through the Local Index of Multiple Deprivation, two levels of focus have been identified, as follows:

- **Level 1 Areas.**

These neighbourhoods suffer from high levels of multiple deprivation. They are the top 25% most deprived communities in Rotherham where there is a population of 1,300 or more.

- **Level 2 Areas.**

These are smaller neighbourhoods that are suffering from high levels of multiple deprivation. These small areas fall within the top 25%.

Here we provide a summary of current understanding of each of the target areas using the outcomes of research and consultation and community engagement.

It provides current understanding about the target areas, their needs and aspirations and the main issues that that need to be addressed to ‘close the gap’. This provides the baseline for identifying key issues and actions which are causing the area to be considered as disadvantaged and then measuring our progress.

Aughton Area

One of the smallest target areas Aughton has a population of 856. The area has low numbers (1.4%) of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents. In terms of deprivation indicators, it scored highly in terms of low incomes, worklessness, low skill levels and poor health. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising skill and educational attainment levels
- High levels of worklessness
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Liveability and quality of life issues
- Improving health

Brinsworth Area

The population of this target area is 685. In terms of the ethnic background, 1.8% of the population are BME. In terms of deprivation indicators, it scored highly in terms of educational attainment, poor health and housing. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising skill and educational attainment levels
- High levels of worklessness
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Liveability and quality of life issues
- Improving health
- Improving the quality of housing

Central Area

The largest target neighbourhood covering much of the Town Centre and adjacent neighbourhoods, including: Canklow, Eastwood, Clifton, Herringthorpe, East Herringthorpe, East Dene, Dalton and Eastwood. The population of the area is 32,134. It has high numbers of BME residents at 10.6%. In terms of deprivation indicators, the target areas is more deprived in terms of low educational attainment, low skill levels, worklessness, poor health and crime. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising skill and educational attainment levels
- Creating new job opportunities and linking to the Town Centre regeneration
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Liveability and quality of life issues
- Improving open spaces
- Improving health
- Improving the quality of housing, opening up choice and affordability

Dinnington Area

Dinnington has a population of 4,208, and 1.1% of the population are BME. Compared to other areas in the borough, Dinnington scored highly in relation to worklessness and poor health. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes

- Raising educational attainment and skill levels
- Improving health
- Raising housing standards and improving the quality of the environment
- Creating new job opportunities and linking to former colliery site regeneration

Flanderwell Area

The smallest target area, Flanderwell has a population of 523. Of this total population, 1.1% were of a Non White Ethnic Group. Across all of the deprivation indicators, the target area is more deprived in terms of low educational attainment, low skill levels, worklessness and poor health. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising skill and educational attainment levels
- Creating new job opportunities
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Liveability and quality of life issues
- Improving open spaces
- Improving health
- Improving the quality of housing, opening up choice and affordability

Kimberworth Park Area

The population of the target area is 6,413 – one of the largest areas. 0.7% of the population is BME. It is more deprived in terms of low educational attainment, low skill levels, worklessness, poor health and crime. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Improving local recreational facilities for children and young people
- Creating new job opportunities
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Keeping the area clean and improving the appearance of the build environment
- Improving health
- Improving the choice and availability of housing in the area

Maltby Area

Maltby has a population of 6,345, of which 1.1% were BME. The deprivation analysis revealed that the area has high levels of worklessness, poor health and relatively high levels of crime. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Low educational attainment and skill levels
- High levels of worklessness
- Reducing crime
- Reducing transport congestion – especially along the High Street
- Improving leisure and recreational facilities and green spaces
- Improving health

Masbrough Area

The Masbrough target area has a population of 6,646 and has the highest proportion of BME residents of all the target areas at 17%. Across all of the deprivation indicators, the target area is more deprived in terms of incomes, educational attainment and skill levels, worklessness, poor health and crime. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising skill and educational attainment levels
- Creating new job opportunities and linking to the Town Centre regeneration
- Improving available childcare facilities to support parents into learning and work
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Improving the environment
- Improving health
- Improving the quality of housing and range of affordable housing

Rawmarsh Area

Rawmarsh has a population of 7,014, with 1.6% BME. Through the deprivation analysis, we found the area has low levels of educational attainment and skill levels, worklessness, poor health and high levels of crime. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising skill and educational attainment levels
- Creating new job opportunities
- Improving the local environment, including parks and green space
- Improving the maintenance of streets and neighbourhoods
- The development of Rosehill is a key development
- Reducing transport congestion, especially at Parkgate
- Improving community facilities and leisure opportunities
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Improving health
- Improving the quality of housing and choice of housing

Swinton North Area

One of the smaller target areas, Swinton North has a population of 995. Of this total population, 0.3% were BME. The deprivation analysis revealed that the area is deprived in terms of low incomes, low educational attainment and skill levels. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising skill and educational attainment levels
- Creating new job opportunities
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Liveability and quality of life issues
- Improving open spaces
- Improving health
- Improving the quality of housing, opening up choice and affordable housing

Wath Area

Wath has a population of 1,902. The BME population is 1.8%. Through the deprivation analysis, the main issues affecting the area are low incomes, worklessness, poor health and housing. The key priorities are:

- Raising Incomes
- Creating new job opportunities and linking to the regeneration of Manvers
- Improving community safety
- Improving transport
- Improving the environment, including reducing litter
- Improving the appearance of the Town Centre
- Developing community and recreational facilities, including Montgomery Hall

Wath East Area

One of the smallest target areas it has a population of 940, of which 3.1% are BME. Across all of the deprivation indicators, the target areas is more deprived in terms of low incomes, low educational attainment and skill levels, worklessness and poor health. The key priorities are:

- Raising Incomes
- Raising educational attainment and skill levels
- Creating new job opportunities and linking to the regeneration of Manvers
- Improving crime and the fear of crime
- Improving the environment
- Improving health

West Melton Area

The West Melton area has a population of 547. 1.5% were BME. Analysis shows that it is more deprived in terms of low educational attainment, low skill levels, worklessness and health. The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Raising educational attainment and skill levels
- Creating new job opportunities
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Improving the environment
- Improving health
- Improving the choice and availability of housing

Our Target Communities of Interest

We recognise that the task of renewing neighbourhoods includes providing support for communities who are not just defined by their geographical location. Many communities of interest also face multiple deprivation and whilst some of these groups are concentrated in the target neighbourhoods none are exclusive to them and can be found across the borough. For this reason the strategy targets both communities of place and communities of interest.

A detailed and clear rationale was used to identify these target communities of interest. The initial starting point for the analysis was the Government's 'Breaking

the Cycle Report' which identified groups that were considered at high risk from deprivation and social exclusion. These were then developed and refined based on local statistics, evidence and consultation, including the findings of the report of the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion.

Through detailed profile analysis, the strategy identifies a small number of communities of interest that suffer from high levels of deprivation, as follows:

- Minority Ethnic Communities and Asylum Seekers
- Disabled People and their Carers
- Vulnerable Older People and their Carers
- Deprived Children and Young People

We have included current profiles of our target communities – four communities of interest groupings described in our approach outlined in Section 5.

Minority Ethnic Communities and Asylum Seekers

The size of Rotherham's Ethnic Minority Community (all other than white) is relatively small at 7,712 or 3.1% of the total population.

The largest minority ethnic group is Pakistani at 4,704 or 1.9% of the total population and is concentrated in and around the Town Centre. The Pakistani community makes up 61% of the 'non-white' population in the borough. The unemployment rate for Pakistanis in Rotherham is 3 times higher than the rate for the White population.

Rotherham also has a large Irish population at 1063 or 0.43% of the total population. In relative terms the Irish population in the borough is much higher than both the regional and national average. The areas in the borough most populated with Irish residents is North and South Anston.

There are currently around 700 asylum seekers in Rotherham, which represents around 8% of the total asylum seekers in Yorkshire. These are concentrated in and around the Town Centre and make up around 0.28% of Rotherham's total population.

The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Improving job opportunities
- Raising educational attainment and skills levels (particularly those aged 35-49)
- Addressing language and cultural barriers to accessing services
- Regenerating the Town Centre
- Addressing crime and community safety
- Improving health
- Improving housing issues
- Improving the choice and availability of housing
- Celebrating culture and diversity

Disabled People and their Carers

Nearly 18,000 people in Rotherham are claiming Disability Living Allowance or 7% of the population, almost twice the national average.

The Over 60s account for nearly half (7,800) of all Disability Living Allowance claimants in Rotherham and children under 16 account for nearly 10% (1700) of all Disability Living Allowance claimants in the borough. The numbers on disability related benefits have been rising. There are 3,725 people claiming higher care rate in Rotherham and 6,415 people claiming Attendance Allowance, of which 53% are aged 80 or more.

Health Deprivation is concentrated within the urban areas, particularly in the Town Centre, Maltby and Dinnington and, to a lesser extent, Rawmarsh and Greasborough. An increasing number of children under the age of 18 are carers for sick or elderly dependents. The 2001 Census showed that locally around 12% of the population provided unpaid care. Of these, one quarter provided care for more than 52 hours per week. The Census also showed that nearly 3% of people providing care are children.

The key priorities are:

- Raising income
- Improving job opportunities
- Improving transport
- Improving crime and community safety
- Improving health
- Improving medical and care facilities
- Addressing social Isolation

Vulnerable Older People and their Carers

Over one quarter (13,845) of older people aged over 60 in the borough are claiming pension credit. Vulnerable older people are dispersed across all areas. Lone pensioners account for nearly half of all pensioner households (14,701) with three quarters (11,132) of all lone pensioner households being female.

Rotherham has higher rates of people aged over 60 who are permanently sick or disabled (7.7%) compared to the national average (5.0%) and almost two thirds class themselves as having a Limiting Long term illness. Roughly, one third (6,600) of all Disability Living Allowance claimants in Rotherham are over 65. Nearly one fifth of older people are in need of care in the Borough and are claiming Attendance Allowance, 53% of these claimants are aged over 80. The 2001 Census showed that locally around 12% of the population provided unpaid care. Of these, one quarter provided care for more than 52 hours per week. The Census also showed that nearly 3% of people providing care are children.

The key priorities are:

- Raising income
- Improving job opportunities

- Regenerating the Town Centre
- Improving transport
- Improving crime and community safety
- Improving health
- Improving the choice and availability of housing
- Improving medical and care facilities
- Addressing social Isolation

Deprived Children and Young People

The percentage of children living in low income or workless households in the borough is slightly higher than the national average. In the 2001 Census nearly one quarter (11,825) of all children lived in workless households in the borough.

The IMD 2004 showed that in the most deprived areas of Rotherham more than 50% of children were living in low-income households (on means tested benefits or very low waged) and one quarter of all dependent children live in Lone Parent households. In the 2001 Census, 407 young people aged 16-17 in Rotherham were parents (3.4%) and of those, 228 or 1.9% were lone parents. Rotherham's under 18 conception rate in 2003 was 51.5 (equivalent to 255 pregnancies in 2003) this compares to a national rate of 42.1. Just under half of all teenage parents in the borough have no qualifications.

In terms of educational deprivation the percentage rate of young people in Rotherham leaving school without any qualifications is high in comparison to the national average as is the percentage rate of young people not achieving 5 Grade A*-C GCSEs. These figures are even starker for Looked after Children in the Borough. In Rotherham, we know that less than half of all Looked after Children achieve 1 GCSE or equivalent. In September 2005, there were a total of 345 Looked after Children in the borough.

The key priorities are:

- Raising incomes
- Improving job opportunities
- Raising educational attainment and skills levels (particularly those aged 35-49)
- Addressing crime and community safety
- Improving the choice and availability of housing
- Developing community and recreational facilities

Section 6

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

There are two cross-cutting themes that underpin the five strategic themes in Rotherham's Community Strategy 2005-2010. These two cross-cutting themes are: Fairness and Sustainable Development. The strategic themes will need to adequately address fairness and sustainable development through the action plans developed to deliver them. This is equally applicable to action plans developed to deliver the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS). Achieving fairness and sustainable development are key to delivering neighbourhood renewal. At the heart of neighbourhood renewal is a focus on addressing inequalities and delivering sustainable progress that will enable all communities to benefit from the opportunities created.

Fairness

All individuals in Rotherham will have equality of opportunity and choice. Rotherham will provide open and accessible services. We will treat each other with fairness and respect, and our diverse needs and strengths will be understood and valued. Rotherham will actively challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination and ensure that all the priorities encompass an equalities approach.

Increasing fairness is critical to ensuring that people can fulfil their potential, live in prosperous and safe communities and to reducing deprivation. We are committed to making sure that vulnerable and excluded groups fully benefit from the borough's social, economic and environmental progress and to addressing issues of discrimination, for example, in relation to race, gender, culture, disability, faith, sexuality. This is particularly important as people from such groups tend to be disproportionately represented in the borough's target communities.

Fairness issues are central to the LNRS by, for example, ensuring that services and programmes respond effectively to the diverse needs of Rotherham's population and geography, and strengthening community involvement and engagement in the delivery of local services, with a particular focus on the borough's most deprived areas.

A particular emphasis will be the need to promote community cohesion within Rotherham and its diverse communities by strengthening mutual understanding between communities and by supporting positive interaction, participation and celebrating diversity. Diversity is one of the borough's strengths, people often identify strongly with the area in which they live and the strategy focuses on strengthening, celebrating and exploring the culture and diversity of the borough's very distinctive neighbourhoods.

Sustainable Development

Rotherham will be a place where the conditions are right to sustain economic growth, the well-being of its citizen's is prioritised and there is a high quality living

environment sustained through minimizing harm from development. Rotherham will be recognised locally, nationally and internationally for the positive impact of all organisations being excellent in sustainable development best practice.

The LNRS is guided by an understanding that sustainable development is key to the strategy's success and to ensuring improved quality of life for the target areas and communities and the borough as a whole. It is often the most deprived areas and communities that are disproportionately affected by unsustainable practices such as high levels of air pollution transport or transport movements. Sustainable development calls for action on every level, from the global to the neighbourhood.

Sustainable development and neighbourhood renewal are closely intertwined and mutually supporting. They both have a long-term approach at their heart; recognising that social, economic and environmental issues are interdependent; that activity focusing on one of these areas should not be pursued in isolation and that progress should benefit everyone, especially by tackling poverty and disadvantage.

To ensure that sustainable development is integrated into the LNRS and its implementation, the strategy and associated action plans will be audited for their impact on sustainable development at their draft stage to help ensure that associated negative impacts of progress are avoided and opportunities for positive impacts are realised.

Section 7

DELIVERING AND MEASURING PROGRESS

This final section outlines what we intend to do to progress our priorities and address the needs of our target communities. It includes our action plans for the two year period 2005/2007 which will provide the overarching framework for neighbourhood activity, including the targeting of resources. The section also includes details of our performance monitoring arrangements for this strategy, which are fully integrated with our arrangements for the Community Strategy. The action plans will be reviewed by partners annually and we will report progress on our targets through the Rotherham Partnership bi-annually alongside reporting on our Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

Delivering Through Partnership

The Rotherham Partnership Board will oversee the overall delivery of the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) and subsequent reviews of the strategy. The Partnership Board is made up of the leaders and equivalent from the key partner organisations that are helping to deliver change in Rotherham across the public, private, voluntary and community sector. The Board, which meets bi-monthly to discuss and make decisions about future strategic direction, will receive, bi-annually, reports of progress on the National Floor Targets, Community Strategy targets and local neighbourhood renewal targets.

Accountable to the Partnership Board for the delivery of the Local Area Agreement, Community Strategy and LNRS will be five thematic partnerships based on the five strategic themes of the Community Strategy. These partnerships will be responsible for co-ordinating and overseeing the development and delivery of the strategic themes: Achieving, Learning, Alive, Safe and Proud. They will be made up of representatives from relevant partner organisations across the public, private, voluntary and community sector.

Through working with partners and stakeholders we will share our knowledge and skills to transform mainstream activities through the public services, put in place best practice initiatives that are known to work and pilot new initiatives, where there is evidence to support us doing this. Mainstreaming is crucial to the sustainability of neighbourhood strategies in the long term. We will focus existing services and resources explicitly on deprived areas and provide local residents and communities a central role in neighbourhood renewal.

Monitoring Progress

It is essential to have effective systems in place to monitor performance and progress against the targets, and ensure that we are 'closing the gap' locally and nationally.

1. We will measure our success in meeting the National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets. These are standards that the Government expects all Local Authority areas to achieve.

2. We will aim to go beyond the 'minimum' standards set out in the Government's Floor Targets. We have set ourselves an additional target that Rotherham's performance will be in the top quartile of all NRF areas for 33% of the targets.
3. The Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement have identified a series of 'headline' targets that 'stretch' and go well beyond the Floor Targets.
4. For each of the target geographic communities where robust information is available we have established a baseline position and developed, or are in the process of developing, targets aligned to and exceeding the Floor Targets.
5. For many communities of interest information is not readily available and in such cases we will commission independent renewal experts to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of our actions in addressing deprivation.
6. A framework has been put in place for ensuring that projects funded through the NRF significantly contribute to addressing deprivation and the targets contained in this strategy.
7. Each of Rotherham Partnership's thematic partnerships will be required to submit a progress report on a bi-annual basis to the Rotherham Partnership (including the target neighbourhoods and communities).
8. Finally, reflecting that sustainable development is key to its success, the Strategy and all the Community Action Plans will be audited on their impact on sustainable development at their draft stage.

The Rotherham Partnership will review progress bi-annually and take action to address any areas where they consider progress needs to be strengthened or accelerated. This will form a key part of the Rotherham Partnership's overall Performance Improvement Framework for the Community Strategy.