

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION

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

Date: Monday, 12 June 2006

Time: 8.30 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 22nd May, 2006 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 5)
6. Advice Review (Head of Policy and Partnerships to report)
7. NRF Commissioning 2006/07 and 2007/08 - Update (report herewith) (Pages 6 - 22)
8. Funding to Voluntary and Community Sector (report herewith) (Pages 23 - 29)
9. Progress on Women's Strategy (Janet Spurling to report)
10. Annual Plan for the Group (Head of Policy and Partnerships to report)
11. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Monday, 26th June, 2006 at 8.30 a.m.

COMMUNITY COHESION
22nd May, 2006

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

Also in attendance was Councillor Akhtar, Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL, 2006

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion held on 24th April, 2006 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. ROLE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT IN COMMUNITY COHESION

Colin Bulger, Head of Policy and Partnerships, gave a presentation on the role of the Chief Executive's Department in Community Cohesion, assisted by Lee Adams (Assistant Chief Executive), Zafar Saleem (Equalities and Diversity Manager) and Andrew Towlerton (Policy and Research Manager).

The presentation drew specific attention to:-

- The Community Strategy:-
 - ❖ Current Position including Themes, Performance Management, Refreshed Structure of Rotherham Partnership and Partners responsible for delivery.
 - ❖ Future Issues including links to other initiatives, ensuring delivery through Proud Theme Group and date for refresh of the Community Strategy.
- Equalities and Diversity:-
 - ❖ Current Position including current standings on B.V.P.Is.
 - ❖ Future Issues including statutory regulations, widening scope, pending statutory regulations, Audit Commission toolkit, data capture and monitoring and review of the Translation and Interpretation Service.
- Consultation:-

- ❖ Current Position including activity for the Council, good practice, strengthening of corporate capacity and improvements in sharing results.
- ❖ Future Issues including work to be done, co-ordination, sharing of results and working with partners.
- Sustainable Development:-
 - ❖ Current Position including Council seen as having a pivotal role, additional powers and responsibilities, good progress and development of Sustainable Development Framework.
 - ❖ Future Issues including key target tracking national and regionally, balancing of economic growth and improving co-ordination.
- Social Inclusion:-
 - ❖ Current Position including social inclusion as a top priority, range of services, best practice, deprivation from 48th to 63rd most deprived local authority.
 - ❖ Future Issues including Rotherham's position in the deprived local authority list, need to improve knowledge and understanding, targeting and integration of Social Inclusion Framework.
- Voluntary and Community Sector Liaison and Development:-
 - ❖ Current Position including number of voluntary organisations, people involved, funding and key organisations, Rotherham Compact, funds secured by V.A.R., Procurement Strategy and Local Area Agreement.
 - ❖ Future Issues including Government direction, capacity of voluntary and community sector, new funding streams, exit strategies and Voluntary Sector Strategy.

A number of questions were raised during the course of the presentation relating to:-

- Community Strategy and the themes it related to.
- External verification of the Equalities Standard at Level 3.
- Need for this country to follow suit with a single piece of legislation for equalities.
- Equality data capture and monitoring.
- Review of the Translation and Interpretation Service.
- Rotherham's best practice approach to consultation.

- Need for meaningful consultation and appropriate feedback.
- Use of solar panels to move forward with sustainable development.
- Expected changes following targeted resources.
- Capacity of organisations to deliver on outcomes.
- Strength and professionalism of the voluntary sector.
- Exit strategies of the voluntary sector and ability to deliver.
- N.R.F. Framework breakdown.
- Performance management of the voluntary and community sector.

Resolved:- That the officers concerned be thanked for their informative presentation.

4. **ROLE OF NEIGHBOURHOODS PROGRAMME AREA IN COMMUNITY COHESION**

Angela Smith, Neighbourhood Strategy Manager, gave a presentation on the role of the Neighbourhoods Programme Area in Community Cohesion.

The presentation drew specific attention to:-

- Social Inclusion.
- Social Excluded Groups.
- Monitoring Levels of Racial, L.G.B.T. and Domestic Violence Incidents within the Borough.
- Community Involvement.
- Parish Councils.
- Community Leadership.
- Community Planning.
- Asylum Programme.
- Lead Agency.
- Way forward for the Asylum Programme.
- Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Supporting Community Cohesion.
- The Respect Agenda.
- Community Cohesion Holistic Approach.

A number of questions were raised during the course of the presentation relating to:-

- The Respect Agenda.
- Role of V.A.R.
- Exit Strategies for the ceasing of Objective 1 funding.
- Support to Unsuccessful Refugees and Asylum Seekers by Private Providers.
- Appointment of an Off-Road Motor Vehicle Prevention Officer.

Resolved:- That the Angela Smith be thanked for her informative presentation.

5. ROTHERHAM REACHOUT - RESULTS OF THE THIRTEENTH SURVEY

Consideration was given to a report presented by Lee Adams, Assistant Chief Executive, relating to the findings from the thirteenth Rotherham Reachout survey and an outline of the key policy implications for the Council.

The thirteenth Reachout survey was conducted in December 2005. The questionnaire allowed for a detailed and wide-ranging survey, covering topics including:-

- Local Democracy.
- Community Identity and Service Centres.
- Cultural Services, Community Safety.
- Occupational Health.
- Walk In Centres.
- Reachout survey related questions.

The response rate for Reachout 13 was 65%, which was above average for this type of survey and an Executive Summary of the full report was attached.

Resolved:- That the findings from the thirteenth survey of Rotherham Reachout and the policy and practical implications identified within this report be noted.

6. REPRESENTATIVES ON WORKING GROUPS, PANELS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration was given to the appointment of members to various Panels, Sub-Groups and Working Parties for the 2006-2007 Municipal Year.

Resolved:- That the following appointments be made:-

Members' Consultation Advisory Group:-

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member

Members' Sustainable Development Action Group:-

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member

Asylum Seekers Working Party:-

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member

Groundworks Trust Panel:-

Not attended.

Mosque Liaison Group:-

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member

Corporate Equalities and Diversity Steering Group:-

Councillor Burton, Adviser

N.R.F. Commissioning Framework:-

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member

R.M.B.C./B.M.E. Liaison Group:-

Councillor Sharman, Deputy Leader

R.M.B.C./V.A.R. Liaison Group:-

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member, three Advisers and Chair of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

Women's Strategy Group:-

Councillor Burton, Adviser

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - 12TH JUNE, 2006 AT 8.30 A.M.

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion take place on Monday, 12th June, 2006 at 8.30 a.m. and from July, 2006 onwards continue on a monthly basis.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member (Community Cohesion)
2.	Date:	12th June 2006
3.	Title:	NRF Commissioning 2006/07 and 2007/08 - Update
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Department

5. Summary

This report provides brief update on progress with the commissioning process for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF).

6. Recommendations

Members are requested to note progress on the NRF Commissioning process.

7. Proposals and Details

Background

Members will already be familiar with the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the refresh process which has refined the targeting. The target communities are:

- Geographical areas of deprivation (Aston, 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).

There are three elements to the NRF programme:

- Strategically identified activity across themed areas.
- Locally identified activity across the themed areas (based on Area Assembly boundaries).
- Community identified activity across the themed areas (through a community chest)

Strategic Element

The Delivery Plans for this element were considered by the NRF Steering Group on the 26th May 2006 and recommendations made to the CEO Group of Rotherham Partnership. These were considered and agreed at their meeting on the 3rd May 2006. The Commissioning Framework required 8 strategic delivery plans to be brought forward. Each Delivery Plan was developed by a lead partner, and was linked to the appropriate Theme Board within Rotherham Partnership. A summary of each of the delivery plans is contained within Appendix A.

All of the Delivery Plans were agreed by the Steering Group except for Employment Strand B. Further discussions have been requested between strands A and B of the Employment theme before this can be re-considered. It was also noted that some of the detailed proposals will be subject to internal decision making processes within the sponsor organisations.

Area Assembly Fund

The Steering Group considered a menu of proposals at its meeting on the 7th April 2006, to allow Area Assemblies to select options for the spending of their allocations. The menu included the following activities:

- Additional Neighbourhood Wardens
- Junior Wardens Schemes
- Environmental Clean Up Days
- Community Sports Coaching Programme

It was agreed, however, that this should not be an exhaustive list and that further proposals could be considered by the Steering Group at a future date.

Community Chest

At its meeting on 24th February, the Steering Group agreed that the management of Community Chest element of the programme would go through a procurement process in line with the council's standing orders.

A detailed brief was sent out on 6th March to a list of parties who had expressed an interest in managing this element. The brief was also advertised to the voluntary/community sector via the Community Empowerment Network (NoP/VOICE website). As agreed by the Steering Group, the brief indicated that management charges were expected to be in the region of 10% of the full allocation of £440,000 over the two years for this element.

The NRF Steering Group considered all submissions at its meeting of 24th March following an initial assessment by the Accountable Body.

The Steering Group recommended to the CEO Group that South Yorkshire Key Fund (SYKF) be appointed to manage the Community Chest element. It was felt that SYKF offered the best combination of price, experience and processes with:

- Substantive stage by stage breakdown of process provided
- Substantial existing experience in grants programme management (organisation and staff)
- Detailed information on equalities in respect to organisation and service delivery perspective with targeted marketing to under-represented groups based on monitoring
- Eight application rounds with tailored support to applicants
- Match funding from Objective 1
- Existing links with local organisations

This recommendation was agreed by the CEO Group at its meeting on the 6th April 2006, subject to the scheme being branded as a Rotherham scheme.

Next Steps

The NRF Steering Group has completed its tasks as originally set out in its terms of reference. There are a number of issues which remain outstanding:

- Re-submission of Employment Strand B Delivery Plan
- Submission of additional Area Assembly menu options
- Consideration of any changes to Delivery Plans subject to contracting stage.
- Ongoing monitoring of NRF funded activity.

It is therefore proposed that the Steering Group should continue, but that its role, remit and membership is reviewed to accommodate the next stage of NRF work.

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	Total 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 Framework will ensure that funding is used strategically with commissioning of 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, the Local Area Agreement 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

Background Papers:

- NRF Commissioning Framework
- Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
- Theme Delivery Plans

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

12. Contact Names:

- Lee Adams, Assistant Chief Executive, ext 2788, lee.adams@rotherham.gov.uk
- Colin Bulger, Head of Policy and Partnerships, ext 2737, colin.bulger@rotherham.gov.uk
- Deborah Fellowes, Acting Director, Rotherham LSP, ext 2769, Deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk
- Waheed Akhtar, Partnership Officer (Regeneration), ext 2795 waheed.akhtar@rotherham.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Theme:	Teenage Pregnancy
Lead Organisation:	RMBC
Amount:	£300k over 2 years

The initiative aims to further reduce the number of teenage conceptions in the target geographic areas and particularly in the “hotspot” areas identified in the NRF commissioning framework.

At present a number of drop in youth clinics exist within Rotherham, a key activity of the NRF plan is to roll out and promote the service inside and outside the Borough. It is to be developed by young people, for young people to increase the awareness and uptake of services.

The project aims to improve access to free, confidential and readily available contraceptives and provide training to front line workers to enable them to distribute condoms and deliver effective and consistent advice to young people.

A family planning/school nursing development post will be implemented to tackle the issues around the rising number of second pregnancies to teenage mothers, providing essential advice and support on the use of contraception.

Theme:	Life Expectancy
Lead Organisation:	Rotherham PCT
Amount:	£800k over 2 years

NRF funding will reduce health inequalities in target communities by focusing on three key areas

- promoting positive healthy lifestyle options via initiatives such as Step/Calorie Walks and Healthy Eating Training, which will provide basic nutrition information and promote physical activity
- Implementing a “Smoke Free Rotherham” policy to reduce smoking in public places and impact on the illegal sales of tobacco to children. This is part of National legislation requiring all public places to be smoke free by the end of 2007/8.
- Addressing increasing levels of Obesity in adults and children via training and clinical supervision and by delivering healthy eating initiatives via Children’s Centres

Theme:	Liveability
Lead Organisation:	RMBC Streetpride
Amount:	£800k over 2 years

A suite of activities in target communities to be carried out by RMBC Streetpride, including:

- Extra street cleansing
- Purchase and operation
- Publicity campaigns with communities of interest
- Area Assembly Devolved Budget
- Additional street lighting in target areas
- Fly-tipping and graffiti prevention measures
- Removal of ancient rose beds
- Contribution to Neighbourhood Wardens

To ensure the priorities of target communities are properly considered, links will be made with the community of interest networks which are to be developed via the NRF Cross-cutting theme.

NRF work programmes will be reviewed in light of feedback from these networks and relevant initiatives such as the Quality of Life survey.

Theme:	Crime
Lead Organisation:	RMBC Neighbourhoods
Amount:	£800k over 2 years

NRF will support 5 key areas of activity:

- Posts to support the work of the Joint Action Group (JAG) and Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) with a particular emphasis on ensuring NRS areas are targeted effectively
- Funding for Police Community Support Officers to ensure full recruitment in 2006/07 prior to receipt of the majority of Home Office monies, thus ensuring maximum benefit in target areas
- A seconded police officer based in the RMBC Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to strengthen the Unit's focus on addressing anti-social behaviour in NRS areas. This post will work closely with the NAGs
- Funding of key staff at MAARI (the Multi-Agency Approach to Racial Incidents), including an outreach worker to address racist incidents in schools
- A contribution to the "Free 2 Be Me project", which carries out innovative work with the children of drug and alcohol misusing parents. Work with the drug users themselves will have an impact on the problems caused by drug-misuse and alcohol in the community.

Theme:	Employment (Strand A)
Lead Organisation:	Rotherham Chamber
Amount:	£400K over two years

The overall approach is based on identifying strengths and expertise of organisations that are involved in delivering employment initiatives and drawing on this experience to deliver key elements of activity aiding the transition of people into work. The plan identifies three critical stages in relation to supporting people into employment:

- Identification of and engagement in employment initiatives for target communities.
- Individual support, capacity building, job readiness training, pre employment training of individuals wanting to progress into work.
- Identification of supportive employers who are willing to offer employment opportunities, work placements or job trials.

Theme:	Cross Cutting
Lead Organisation:	Voluntary Action Rotherham
Amount:	£800K over two years

There are 12 areas of work within this delivery plan. These are:

- Children & Young People Voluntary Sector Consortium Marketing Toolkit.
- Older People's Forum - developing the capacity of Older People to participate in decision making and planning on issues affecting them.
- The development of an Adult Services Network (a network of those delivering services to older people)
- The coordination of a network of disabled people and disability-related groups to enable them to be effectively involved in the design, planning, and delivery of services
- The development of a BME Service Users Network and a BME Strategy for Rotherham.
- The development of a women's network
- The provision of administrative support for C&YP, BME, Adult Services and Women's networks.
- The further development of the Rotherham Community Empowerment Network (CEN).
- A Volunteer Broker for the Volunteering Team currently being developed in the borough.
- Neighbourhood Level Infrastructure Project.
- Support for the implementation phase of the Rotherham Compact
- A Stronger Communities Facilitator - to oversee and manage the implementation of the Stronger Communities Theme of the Rotherham Local Area Agreement.

Theme:	Attainment
Lead Organisation:	RMBC
Amount:	£800K over two years

The plan details four key elements of activity, each area being led by a key agency on behalf of a range of partners who will contribute to the achievement of outcomes:-

- Embedding anti-bullying strategies in schools
- Support to integrate newly arrived, non-English speaking children and their families into the educational system

- Provision of Family Group Conferencing to support families in identifying their own solutions to a range of issues impacting on the attainment of young people
- Out of Hours Learning Team – brokering a relationship between schools and vol/com sector to facilitate quality assured provision which contributes towards the attainment of young people in both the target areas and target communities

DEFERRED BY NRF STEERING GROUP

Theme:	Employment (Strand B)
Lead Organisation:	RMBC
Amount:	£400K over two years

The delivery plan seeks to establish a team that will offer specialist support to all target communities in order that they can improve access to information, support and learning opportunities for families and communities. The team will be made up of one Co-ordinator, three Community Learning Advocates, a Learning Communities Development Worker and supporting admin staff.

The purpose of the team will be to establish learning as a vehicle to address deprivation, bringing about an improvement in quality of life and employability skills and embedding this into community networks and structures within the target neighbourhoods. This will include the opening up of Skills for Life opportunities for all post 19 learners with qualifications below level 2. In addition it will seek to address the RALP development plan challenge to ‘ensure that a comprehensive, accessible, relevant and attractive adult learning offer is available... that supports entry to employment and the development of skills and qualifications that enable individuals to sustain and progress within employment.’

The intention is that by the end of the NRF initiative, the workers will have changed attitudes and approaches to learning by challenging traditional ways of working and linking partners to create ‘learning communities.’ Through the support offered by the Learning Communities Development Worker, communities will have developed the capacity and established the structures to identify local needs, advocate for appropriate provision and secure funding to deliver that provision. With the establishment and maintenance of a sustainable infrastructure, the team would no longer be required.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member (Community Cohesion)
2.	Date:	12th June, 2006
3.	Title:	NRF Commissioning 2006/07 – Neighbourhood Infrastructure Project
4.	Programme Area:	Neighbourhoods

5. Summary

This report provides a brief overview into the Community Engagement Project being funded through the strategic commissioning process. Neighbourhoods are being commissioned through the cross cutting theme delivery plan to undertake a community engagement project with funding allocated to the proud theme Board. This project is funded for 2 years to work with the Voluntary and Community Sector around building the capacity of local organisations and to develop a community development strategy for the Borough.

6. Recommendations

i. MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE AND APPROVE THIS PROJECT.

7. Proposals and Details

Neighbourhoods are being commissioned through the cross cutting delivery plan of the NRF Commissioning Framework.

“To improve the quality of live for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and groups and ensure service providers are more responsive to needs and improve delivery.”

- By undertaking a community engagement project with funding allocated to the proud theme Board. In working towards the Governments agenda of creating sustainable Neighbourhoods where decision making is devolved to a Neighbourhood level, the key priorities in the activities which are being proposed in this project are focused on communities in most need and on outcomes of the highest priority as identified through community consultation and the community planning process. The evidence for the need for this project has come from a number of sources including;
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- Community Action Plans and the Community Planning process - Many of the issues, priorities and concerns documented in the Community Action plans have formed the basis of RMBC's newly emerging Area Plans and Neighbourhoods Charters which set out RMBC's commitment to service delivery in each of the seven Area Assemblies.
- LAA's – Which is an agreement between all partners of how they will deliver services across the Borough.
- Research carried out by the Network of Partnerships who commissioned Cresr (Sheffield Hallam University) to look at Neighbourhood level infrastructure. This research highlighted the need for a greater understanding of what is likely to be the most appropriate form and function of existing community partnerships in Rotherham post Objective 1 / SRB.

This project is funded for two years to work with the Voluntary and Community Sector around building the capacity of local organisations and to refresh the community development strategy for the Borough. This project will fund a dedicated officer to work with Community Partnerships, Parish Councils and community based organisations in order to;

- Develop new and innovative new ways of engaging with communities in each of the seven area assemblies. Enabling local residents to participate in civic, voluntary, community life and decision making structures.
- Create opportunities for local residents in Rotherham's most deprived Neighbourhoods to become involved in local decision making structures and influence service delivery through the development of seven community involvement forums, one per area assembly.

- Work with the most hard to reach groups/target communities of interest. A detailed action plan will be developed for each of the four Communities of Interests i.e. Minority Ethnic Communities, Disabled People and their Carers, Vulnerable Older People and their Carers and Deprived Children and Young People.
- Prioritise the active involvement/engagement of community based organisations/partnerships/groups and individuals putting community needs and aspirations at the heart of neighbourhood renewal across the Borough. This will be achieved through the implementation of a Community Development Strategy agreed by all stakeholders delivering services within the Neighbourhoods.
- Target specific engagement activities in the 25% most deprived Neighbourhoods across the Borough i.e. Aughton, Brinsworth, Central, Dinnington, Flanderwell, Kimberworth Park, Maltby, Masbrough, Rawmarsh, Swinton North, Wath, Wath East and West Melton.
- Work with partner agencies in order to revise, review and implement a Borough wide Community Development Strategy.
- Work with the Community Involvement team to develop and implement a Performance Management Framework for Community Engagement.

The targeted areas /communities this project will work in are as follows;

Geographical Communities	Please tick to indicate beneficiary group
Aughton	✓
Brinsworth	✓
Central	✓
Dinnington	✓
Flanderwell	✓
Kimberworth Park	✓
Maltby	✓
Masbrough	✓
Rawmarsh	✓
Swinton North	✓
Wath	✓
Wath East	✓
West Melton	✓
Communities of Interest	
Minority Ethnic Communities	✓
Disabled People and their Carers	✓
Vulnerable Older People and their Carers	✓
Deprived Children and Young People	✓

8. Finance

Funding being sought from NRF for this project is as follows;

Funding Source	2006/2007	2007/2008	TOTAL
NRF	£57,000	£32,000	£89,000
RMBC Neighbourhoods	£0	£1,400	£1,400
Grand Total	£57,000	£33,400	£90,400

Once this initiative ends in March 2008 the work which the community engagement officer has started will be continued through mainstream funding from RMBC's Neighbourhoods programme area. Once the strategies, action plans, performance management framework and the seven community involvement forums have been established, this work will continue to be delivered by the seven Community Planning officers in partnership with the service providers and local residents who have been engaging with this project over its duration. It should be noted that part of the forward strategy for this project is that it will not be reliant on the continuation of an additional paid member of staff as the NRF funding being sought in this proposal will be used to pump prime community engagement mechanisms across the Borough.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The main risks associated with not funding this project are as follows;

- The inequality gap between the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and the rest of the borough widens.
- Those neighbourhoods on the 'brink' of deprivation suffer further inequality and inequity of service delivery at a Neighbourhood level.
- Local residents not involved in the decision making process.
- Capacity of local residents to embrace community cohesion activity.
- Capacity of local residents to embrace community Neighbourhood Management.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The development of a strong Neighbourhood infrastructure and the capacity building of communities to become involved in decision making is the cornerstone of Rotherham's ability to deliver a quality Neighbourhood Management service. It helps address all the key elements of the Government's vision for sustainable communities and neighbourhood development.

Community Planning, community Development and other mechanisms of community engagement will also provide a strong suite of evidence for the forth coming CPA inspection and the Local Area Agreement Submission.

As with all activities happening at a local level this project will be integrated into both RMBC's Neighbourhoods service plan and the localised Area Assemblies area plans and Neighbourhood Charters which are currently being developed.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Rotherham Community Strategy - 2005

Rotherham Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy - 2006

Corporate Community Involvement and Consultation Framework - 2006

ODPM Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity – 2005

ODPM Vibrant Local Leadership – 2005

ODPM Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter - 2005

12. Contact Names:

- Debbie Marks, Acting Community Involvement Manager, ext 6966, debbie.marks@rotherham.gov.uk
- Steve Morrell, Skills and Knowledge Co-ordinator, ext 6972, steve.morrell@rotherham.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Theme:	Teenage Pregnancy
Lead Organisation:	RMBC
Amount:	£300k over 2 years

The initiative aims to further reduce the number of teenage conceptions in the target geographic areas and particularly in the “hotspot” areas identified in the NRF commissioning framework.

At present a number of drop in youth clinics exist within Rotherham, a key activity of the NRF plan is to roll out and promote the service inside and outside the Borough. It is to be developed by young people, for young people to increase the awareness and uptake of services.

The project aims to improve access to free, confidential and readily available contraceptives and provide training to front line workers to enable them to distribute condoms and deliver effective and consistent advice to young people.

A family planning/school nursing development post will be implemented to tackle the issues around the rising number of second pregnancies to teenage mothers, providing essential advice and support on the use of contraception.

Theme:	Life Expectancy
Lead Organisation:	Rotherham PCT
Amount:	£800k over 2 years

NRF funding will reduce health inequalities in target communities by focusing on three key areas;

- promoting positive healthy lifestyle options via initiatives such as Step/Calorie Walks and Healthy Eating Training, which will provide basic nutrition information and promote physical activity.
- Implementing a “Smoke Free Rotherham” policy to reduce smoking in public places and impact on the illegal sales of tobacco to children. This is part of National legislation requiring all public places to be smoke free by the end of 2007/8.
- Addressing increasing levels of Obesity in adults and children via training and clinical supervision and by delivering healthy eating initiatives via Children’s Centres.

Theme:	Liveability
Lead Organisation:	RMBC Streetpride
Amount:	£800k over 2 years

A suite of activities in target communities to be carried out by RMBC Streetpride, including:

- Extra street cleansing
- Purchase and operation
- Publicity campaigns with communities of interest
- Area Assembly Devolved Budget
- Additional street lighting in target areas
- Fly-tipping and graffiti prevention measures
- Removal of ancient rose beds
- Contribution to Neighbourhood Wardens

To ensure the priorities of target communities are properly considered, links will be made with the community of interest networks which are to be developed via the NRF Cross-cutting theme.

NRF work programmes will be reviewed in light of feedback from these networks and relevant initiatives such as the Quality of Life survey.

Theme:	Crime
Lead Organisation:	RMBC Neighbourhoods
Amount:	£800k over 2 years

NRF will support 5 key areas of activity:

- Posts to support the work of the Joint Action Group (JAG) and Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) with a particular emphasis on ensuring NRS areas are targeted effectively
- Funding for Police Community Support Officers to ensure full recruitment in 2006/07 prior to receipt of the majority of Home Office monies, thus ensuring maximum benefit in target areas
- A seconded police officer based in the RMBC Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to strengthen the Unit's focus on addressing anti-social behaviour in NRS areas. This post will work closely with the NAGs
- Funding of key staff at MAARI (the Multi-Agency Approach to Racial Incidents), including an outreach worker to address racist incidents in schools
- A contribution to the "Free 2 Be Me project", which carries out innovative work with the children of drug and alcohol misusing parents. Work with the drug users themselves will have an impact on the problems caused by drug-misuse and alcohol in the community.

Theme:	Employment (Strand A)
Lead Organisation:	Rotherham Chamber
Amount:	£400K over two years

The overall approach is based on identifying strengths and expertise of organisations that are involved in delivering employment initiatives and drawing on this experience to deliver key elements of activity aiding the transition of people into work. The plan identifies three critical stages in relation to supporting people into employment:

- Identification of and engagement in employment initiatives for target communities.
- Individual support, capacity building, job readiness training, pre employment training of individuals wanting to progress into work.
- Identification of supportive employers who are willing to offer employment opportunities, work placements or job trials.

Theme:	Cross Cutting
Lead Organisation:	Voluntary Action Rotherham
Amount:	£800K over two years

There are 12 areas of work within this delivery plan. These are:

- Children & Young People Voluntary Sector Consortium Marketing Toolkit.
- Older People's Forum - developing the capacity of Older People to participate in decision making and planning on issues affecting them.
- The development of an Adult Services Network (a network of those delivering services to older people)
- The coordination of a network of disabled people and disability-related groups to enable them to be effectively involved in the design, planning, and delivery of services
- The development of a BME Service Users Network and a BME Strategy for Rotherham.
- The development of a women's network
- The provision of administrative support for C&YP, BME, Adult Services and Women's networks.
- The further development of the Rotherham Community Empowerment Network (CEN).
- A Volunteer Broker for the Volunteering Team currently being developed in the borough.
- Neighbourhood Level Infrastructure Project.
- Support for the implementation phase of the Rotherham Compact
- A Stronger Communities Facilitator - to oversee and manage the implementation of the Stronger Communities Theme of the Rotherham Local Area Agreement.

Theme:	Attainment
Lead Organisation:	RMBC
Amount:	£800K over two years

The plan details four key elements of activity, each area being led by a key agency on behalf of a range of partners who will contribute to the achievement of outcomes:-

- Embedding anti-bullying strategies in schools
- Support to integrate newly arrived, non-English speaking children and their families into the educational system
- Provision of Family Group Conferencing to support families in identifying their own solutions to a range of issues impacting on the attainment of young people
- Out of Hours Learning Team – brokering a relationship between schools and vol/com sector to facilitate quality assured provision which contributes towards the attainment of young people in both the target areas and target communities

DEFERRED BY NRF STEERING GROUP

Theme:	Employment (Strand B)
Lead Organisation:	RMBC
Amount:	£400K over two years

The delivery plan seeks to establish a team that will offer specialist support to all target communities in order that they can improve access to information, support and learning opportunities for families and communities. The team will be made up of one Co-ordinator, three Community Learning Advocates, a Learning Communities Development Worker and supporting admin staff.

The purpose of the team will be to establish learning as a vehicle to address deprivation, bringing about an improvement in quality of life and employability skills and embedding this into community networks and structures within the target neighbourhoods. This will include the opening up of Skills for Life opportunities for all post 19 learners with qualifications below level 2. In addition it will seek to address the RALP development plan challenge to 'ensure that a comprehensive, accessible, relevant and attractive adult learning offer is available... that supports entry to employment and the development of skills and qualifications that enable individuals to sustain and progress within employment.'

The intention is that by the end of the NRF initiative, the workers will have changed attitudes and approaches to learning by challenging traditional ways of working and linking partners to create 'learning communities.' Through the support offered by the Learning Communities Development Worker, communities will have developed the capacity and established the structures to identify local needs, advocate for appropriate provision and secure funding to deliver that provision. With the establishment and maintenance of a sustainable infrastructure, the team would no longer be required.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member (Community Cohesion)
2.	Date:	12th June 2006
3.	Title:	Funding to Voluntary and Community Sector
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Department

5. Summary

Based on a report considered by CMT earlier in the year, this report provides an overview of the Council's funding to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in 2005/06. Key issues and areas for further analysis have been highlighted.

6. Recommendations

- **That Members note the contents of the report**

7. Proposals and Details

Identified programme area lead officers provided details of individual grants given to VCS organisations within their programme area, including amounts, description of service, type and length of agreement, monitoring arrangements and contribution to Corporate Plan.

From this information, funding was categorised as follows:

- **mainstream grant** – direct contribution from mainstream budget
- **external grant** – external grant funding (e.g. SRB, Children’s Fund) channelled via RMBC as accountable and/or project sponsor
- **commissioning/procurement** – purchasing of services from the VCS
- **other support** – e.g. in kind services or subsidised provision of facilities

The total support provided in each category is summarised below by programme area (see also Appendix A).

Table 1: Total VCS funding 2005/06 (N.B. 2004/05 figures provided in some cases where up to date figures were unavailable)

Programme Area	Grant Funding		Commissioning/ Procurement		“In Kind” Support	Total
	Mainstream	External	Mainstream	External		
Adult Social Services		20,000	3,069,430	6,238,725		9,328,155
EDS		2,046,504	30,000			2,076,504
Neighbourhoods	97,530	1,264,929			433,619	1,796,078
Chief Executive’s	473,985	150,000				623,985
Children & Young People		1,858,686	781,251	120,687	1,000	2,761,624
Culture & Leisure	26,522				4,805	31,327
Total	598,037	5,340,119	3,880,681	6,359,412	439,424	16,617,673
	5,938,156		10,240,093			
Total Mainstream (“cash”)		4,478,718				
Total External		11,699,531				

The broad composition of the funding within programme areas is as follows:

- **Adult Social Services** – nearly all support to the sector is via commissioned services, through Supporting People, Adult Services and the Learning Disability Service
- **Economic Development** – the external grant figure relates to EDS carrying out an accountable body function, on behalf of Rotherham Partnership, for SRB and NRF programmes

- **Neighbourhoods** – a mixture of mainstream grants (Community Services, Community Leadership Fund), external grant (Objective 1/community partnerships, Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder) and in kind support via Community Planning team
- **Chief Executive's** – Mainstream grants, providing core support to key organisations via Infrastructure and Corporate Initiatives Budget, topped up by NRF. Staff in Policy and Partnerships also provide substantial support to VCS organisations, but this has not been quantified.
- **Children & Young People** – Support is largely comprised of commissioned services through Children and Families, and external grant, including; Children's Fund, Sure Start, Nursery Education Grant and Learning and Skills Council.
- **Culture & Leisure** – The figures in Table 1 are comprised largely of mainstream grants through Community Arts. Significant additional support is provided through active development work with local organisations and subsidised provision of services, premises and activities, though this would prove difficult to cost accurately.

The figures above equate to per capita spend from mainstream budgets of £17.75. For mainstream grants alone, the per capita figure is £2.37.

Some comparison is possible with other Local Authorities based on research carried out by Professor Gary Craig (University of Hull) for a report on contribution of the VCS to the Yorkshire and Humber region (2004).

Sheffield City Council provided approx £3.12 million of grant funding to the sector in 2004/05 (excluding commissioning/procurement), which equates to per capita spend of £6.08 (compared to our £2.37). Hull City Council's total VCS contribution in 2003/04, including commissioning/procurement, was just over £4 million or approx £16.40 per capita (compared to our £17.75). Doncaster and Barnsley have been unable to provide comparative figures.

The majority of RMBC's support to the sector – approximately 62% - is via commissioning/procurement of services, virtually all of which takes place through Adult Social Services and Children and Young People Services.

Grant support is dispersed across the Council though external grant, which far outweighs the Council's direct mainstream contribution, is largely concentrated in EDS, Children & Young People Services and Neighbourhoods. It should be noted that there will be some double counting in the external grant figures where the Council is acting as both accountable body and sponsor for a particular programme/project.

The level of external grant can change dramatically from one year to the next and the current trend, particularly as programmes such as SRB come to an end and aren't directly replaced, is for external funding accessible to the VCS to diminish.

This is a key issue for the VCS in terms of organisational sustainability and for the Council in terms of the potential loss of services to some of the most hard to reach/vulnerable groups. As part of a service level agreement with Chief Executive's

Department, Voluntary Action Rotherham are in the final stages of developing a Voluntary Sector Strategy for the Borough. The Strategy will address sustainability issues for the sector, looking at the changing funding context and reflecting research that has been carried out into the financial stability of VCS organisations.

Increasingly, organisations will be looking to develop their capacity to enter into service delivery contracts as an alternative to relying on external grant. Central Government is also putting increasing emphasis on the VCS as deliverers of public services. The “Futurebuilders” initiative, for example, is designed to support organisations to develop their capacity to deliver public services in a way that encourages sustainability. The initiative was a recommendation of the Treasury’s cross cutting review into the role of the voluntary and community sector in public service delivery (September 2002).

The Council has taken this on board in its review of the Procurement Strategy, which now puts considerable emphasis on the sector’s role as a service deliverer, but highlights several barriers to successful engagement with the VCS. These include sharing of risk, and lack of awareness of the market, and will be worked through by the Procurement Panel in liaison with the sector.

It should be noted that the Audit Commission is currently carrying out a national study assessing the added value the VCS brings to public service delivery. Consideration needs to be given as to whether the Council should wait for the study’s publication in December 2006 before expanding the scope of its procurement relationship with the VCS.

The Council approach to VCS funding also needs to be looked at in the context of the Rotherham Compact and particularly the Funding and Procurement Code of Practice. Following an impact assessment of this Code of Practice, RMBC is proposing the following actions:

- the development of corporately standardised service level agreements to be explored
- where groups have multiple contracts with the Council, explore the possibility of bringing them into a single agreement with auditable service specifications for individual elements
- identify where common processes e.g. for applications, monitoring etc. will add value
- move to three year agreements, with effective monitoring arrangements, where the Council has confidence in the quality of service delivery

Another important issue to be worked through is the recovery – as part of service delivery contracts or grant funding agreements with the VCS - of indirect overhead and management costs. The need for VCS organisations to understand, calculate and ultimately secure funding for all of their costs, including both direct project costs and all overheads is widely recognised. A “Full Cost Recovery” model developed by ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) is currently being promoted by Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) and has been adopted by a number of local organisations.

Again, the issue was highlighted in the Treasury's cross cutting review into the role of the VCS, which recommended that "funders should recognise that it is legitimate for providers to include the relevant element of overheads in their cost estimates for providing a given service under service agreement or contract".

Discussions on Full Cost Recovery are ongoing via the Compact Implementation Group and VAR staff have delivered presentations to Council finance/funding officers and the Procurement Panel. Obviously, this issue will be particularly pertinent to programme areas supporting the sector via mainstream sources as costs of services/grant requests are likely to increase in many cases as organisations adopt the principles of Full Cost Recovery.

Further work now needs to be undertaken to try to quantify the VCS contribution to RMBC's vision and strategic objectives and ensure that – across the Council – contractual and monitoring arrangements are sufficiently robust to ensure that funding directed to the VCS is helping to deliver the Corporate Plan.

8. Finance

Total financial support to the sector as outlined in Table 1 above is currently £16,617,673 a year, of which £4,478,718 is a "cash" contribution from mainstream budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There will always be some risk associated with contracting with external organisations. In particular, it is essential to implement strong commissioning arrangements, service level agreements and monitoring systems - within the financial regulations of the Authority – to ensure that contractual targets are aligned to and delivering corporate priorities.

There is also a risk of duplication due to a lack of co-ordination of VCS funding, though it is hoped that the data collected for this report will act as a starting point in mitigating this risk.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Financial support provided to the VCS to deliver services and take forward the neighbourhood renewal agenda within communities cuts across all policy areas and Corporate Plan/Community Strategy themes.

Increasing emphasis is placed on community engagement within CPA 2005 and funding issues and implementation of the Rotherham Compact are key to demonstrating progress in this area.

Contact Names:

- Lee Adams, Assistant Chief Executive, extension 2788, lee.adams@rotherham.gov.uk
- Colin Bulger, Head of Policy and Partnerships, extension 2737, colin.bulger@rotherham.gov.uk
- Michael Holmes, Strategic Funding Officer, extension 2738, michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk
- Waheed Akhtar, Partnership Officer (Regeneration), extension 2795, waheed.akhtar@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham MBC

Funding to Voluntary and Community SectorCabinet Member (Community Cohesion) 12th June 2006Appendix A

Programme Area	grant funding		commissioning / procurement		total			
	mainstream	external	mainstream	external	in kind	mainstream ("cash")	external	Overall
Adult Social Services	-	20,000	3,069,430	6,238,725	-	3,069,430	6,258,725	9,328,155
EDS	-	2,046,504	30,000	-	-	30,000	2,046,504	2,076,504
Neighbourhoods	97,530	1,264,929	-	-	433,619	97,530	1,264,929	1,796,078
Chief Executive's	473,985	150,000	-	-	-	473,985	150,000	623,985
Children & Young People	-	1,858,686	781,251	120,687	1,000	781,251	1,979,373	2,761,624
Culture & Leisure	26,522	-	-	-	4,805	26,522	-	31,327
Total	598,037	5,340,119	3,880,681	6,359,412	439,424	4,478,718	11,699,531	16,617,673
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