

# **Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

## **LNP Funding**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report seeks to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of the funding criteria for the 2006-2007 LNP funding and to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of progress to date with regards to the funding priorities 2005-2006.

### **2. Recommendations**

The LNP is asked to:

- (a) Note the progress on funding priorities 2005-2006
- (b) Note current spend.
- (c) Note the criteria for the allocated 2006-2007 funding
- (d) Note the deadline for spend of 2006-2007 is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007

### **3. Progress funding priorities 2005-2006**

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Spent</b>
Darlaston Town Centre and District Activities Committee	£5,000	
Victoria Park Benches and Plaques	£3,000	£3,000
Archaeological Study of former Bentley Hall	£4,531	£4,531
Mapping of Young Peoples activities and facilities	£2,000 - £5,000	earmarked
County Bridge Association – Youth Project	-	No Response from County Bridge CA

<b>Total Funding spent to date</b>	<b>£ 7,531</b>
<b>Total allocated but not yet spent</b>	<b>£ 5,000 (not incl. mapping project)</b>
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>£ 9,469</b>

Table 1 below gives a further update on these projects

Funding Priority	Service Area	Feedback from Service Area	What Happens Next?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre Development</li> <li>- Events</li> <li>- Re-orientate market stalls</li> </ul>	Physical Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNP recommended allocating £5,000 to the events committee.</li> <li>• Following the trial erection of a 'mini marquee' in King Street in January, as a potential replacement market stall, it was concluded that it may stand up well to windy weather. This was reported to the last LNP meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March. It was also noted that the Markets budget position in 2006/07 is not strong and could not fund either a trial period or acquisition.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, in view of the interest of the LNP in seeking this type of improvement a further supplier has been identified, for a stall that may be both sturdier and cheaper. A demonstration was arranged for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 10.00am, and the outcome will be reported verbally to the meeting</li> </ul>	Update will be given at the LNP meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Park</li> <li>- Bench and plaques</li> </ul>	Environmental Regeneration Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £3,000 allocated by the LNP towards this project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benches have been installed</li> </ul>

Funding Priority	Service Area	Feedback from Service Area	What Happens Next?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological study of the site of the former Bentley Hall</li> </ul>	Walsall Countryside Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Project 1:</b> Funded by LNP – total £4,531. Environmental Regeneration have match funded £4,000 project enabling Project 2 to continue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> </ul>
<b>NEW PROJECT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping Exercise</li> </ul>	LNP Young Peoples Task Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports and Leisure have confirmed that they will be carrying out a similar mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback will be given at LNP meeting</li> </ul>
<b>NEW PROJECT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Bridge Community Association – Youth Project encompassing Environmental improvements</li> </ul>	County Bridge Community Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people to carryout environmental improvements to the fishing pool at the Bentley Leisure Pavilions. Funding therefore required to cover costs of tools, supervision and planting. Awaiting costs from County Bridge CA</li> <li>Initial suggestion is that the fishing pool isn't under a maintenance agreement, but the surrounding area is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No response</li> </ul>
<b>NEW PROJECT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eco Girl theatre group</li> </ul>	Street Pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LNP recommended to approve funding of £1,920</li> </ul>

#### **4. Progress of funding Priorities 2006/07**

No projects identified for 2006/07 funding. Total 2006/07 funding available is £10,000

#### **5. New Project Proposals**

##### **5.1 Eco Girl - £1,920 (approve funding from 2006/2007 funding)**

EcoGirl is an educational theatre production showing children about the environmental issues that threaten our local communities, as well as the planet and how to deal with them

See Appendix 2 for description of project.

The following is a list of Primary schools within the Darlaston LNP area that haven't received Eco Girl Performances. Therefore the LNP is to note the details of the project and approve £1,920 towards delivering 6 performances:-

King Charles Primary  
St Josephs Catholic Primary  
Rough Hay Primary  
Moorcroft Wood Primary  
Pinfold Street JMI  
Salisbury Primary

The schools below have received Eco-girl in the past:-

County Bridge Primary  
Kings Hill Primary  
Bentley West Primary  
Old Church CE Primary

#### **6. Criteria LNP funding 2006-2007**

The Darlaston LNP has been allocated a further £10,000. Note this money must be spent by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2007**.

The focus of the 2006-2007 allocation of funding will have to be on developing safer and stronger communities, in particular:

- One of the council pledges for 2006-2007 is the delivery of 3 environmental projects in each LNP area. Therefore an emphasis should be placed on delivering the 3 environmental projects in the St Matthews Birchills Leamore LNP area. The LNP should aim to fund initiatives that will have the greatest environmental impact across their area.

- There needs to be a focus on hotspots/areas of greatest need, as identified by community intelligence and local stats. Therefore funding should not be split by ward but by areas of greatest need.
- The activities/actions need to have a direct impact on Local Area Agreement indicators.
- The funding will need to link in to the Pledges developed by the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

#### See Appendix 1 – Funding Criteria and Process

To support the LNP in distributing their funding within the criteria a menu/basket of measures is being developed through Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, Environmental Regeneration and Street Pride which the LNP would be able to “purchase” from their £10,000 allocation to assist in developing safer and stronger communities. The menu drawn up by these services will bear in mind the Local Neighbourhood Partnership pledges as well as the Local Area Agreement Indicators.

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## *Appendix 1 – Funding Criteria and Process*

### **Local Neighbourhood Partnerships Funding**

Each of the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships have been allocated £5,000 per ward to help them support initiatives in their local community.

Please see below a guide to:

- Funding criteria 2006-2007- what the funding may be used for
- Funding process – the process that needs to be adhered to, to release the funding

### **Funding criteria**

To be eligible for funding, initiatives will have to link in with the following criteria:

#### **Strategic linkage:**

- They need to be actions which fall within one of the pledges identified by the LNP in their Neighbourhood Agreement
- The action will need to link into the priorities for Vision 2008. In particular to “Ensure a clean and green borough”
- Prioritisation should be given by the LNP to the delivery of 3 environmental projects in their LNP area, which is a Council pledge for 2007/08. The LNP should aim to fund initiatives that will have the greatest environmental impact across their area, not necessarily on a ward by ward basis.
- The activities/actions need to have a direct impact on Local Area Agreement indicators.

#### **Sustainability:**

- The actions need to be ‘sustainable’- therefore they should not need further funding or maintenance in the future, unless further funding or a maintenance agreement has been identified elsewhere. Actions eligible under this criteria are:
  - ‘one-off actions’, which need no further maintenance/ funding, for example: an event
  - Actions which kick start a bigger initiative- for example: to fund a pilot project which can be rolled out through other funding (already identified) if proved to be successful
  - Actions which support a ‘capital’ investment where maintenance or further funding is agreed. For example: the funding of a bin, after having agreed with Street Pride that they will empty this bin regularly.
  - Actions which ‘add value’. For example: funding of equipment to support the expansion of a service/community based project.
- A menu/basket of measures is available to assist LNPs in identifying and prioritising actions and activities that they wish to fund. This has been compiled from Streetpride, Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and Environmental Regeneration.

- Actions that **can not** be funded include: Core funding for a community or other project- as this is not sustainable unless the funding is to bridge a gap between already identified funds.

#### **Applicants:**

- Actions need to be carried out by the council or by its partners (tPCT, Police, Community Organisations, etc). If the project is carried out by a partner this should be through a grant agreement (for more information on grant agreements- see 'funding process'.)

#### **Geographic criteria:**

- Actions need to have a positive impact on the whole partnership area. The LNP will need to ensure the whole partnership area benefits from the funding. Preferably by funding projects that benefit the whole partnership area, rather than a specific area/ ward. Cross boundary projects, working with other LNP's, are also encouraged.
- There needs to be a focus on hotspots/areas of greatest need, as identified by community intelligence and local data. Therefore funding should not necessarily be split by ward but by areas of greatest need.

*Please contact the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team if you want advice on whether your project proposal links into the criteria or need any advice on filling out the project proposal form.*

#### **Funding Process**

The funding process has been amended slightly in August 2007 to ensure a quicker turn around of projects.

Please see below a step by step guide to the new process. Please bear in mind that the timescales involved are individual to each project and are dependent on a number of factors. The LNP team aim to keep the LNP informed of progress through the designated LNP member and at LNP meetings.

Please see the table on the next pages for the funding process.

## Funding Process

**1. Priority needs are identified through the Neighbourhood Agreement pledges.**

**2. The LNP identifies an action that supports the pledge.**  
This may happen by the LNP, for example in a Community Action Group, or individual LNP members may initiate this.

**3. A designated LNP member will be identified to follow through the action.**  
This LNP member will be kept informed on progress. If the action is initiated by an individual and it has not been shared with the LNP yet, they will be the designated contact.

**4. A service area/ partner organisation (including Community organisations) (from now on referred to as the 'delivery agent') which can deliver the action will be identified.**  
The delivery agent may be identified by the LNP, but this may also be initiated by an individual. The LNP may ask the Neighbourhood Partnership Officer for support in identifying a suitable 'delivery agent' from within the Council or from the WBSP Nominated Partners. – Please be aware the identification of a suitable delivery agent may take some time. The designated LNP Member will be kept informed of any barriers.

**5. The delivery agent will need to identify a nominated contact within their organisation who will work on the project.** The Neighbourhood Partnerships Team will need to be informed of the details of the contact person.

**6. The nominated contact will be sent the project proposal form with the request to complete it.**

**7. The Project Proposal form will need to be returned to the LNP team. Upon receipt the project team will check it for eligibility**

**8. If eligible,** the project will be taken to the LNP meeting for the LNP for consideration.

**8.If not eligible,** the LNP team will contact all relevant people to explain why the project is not eligible. They are entitled to resubmit their application with amendments.

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9. If, at the LNP meeting, the LNP agree to fund the project, based on the information on the project proposal form, the Chair will sign and date the form.

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10. The form will be returned to the Neighbourhood Partnerships team and the delivery agent will be sent a memo in which they are told they may commence the project.

**10A. If the delivery agent is a Council department,** they will also be sent a claim for reimbursement form which needs to be completed and returned with evidence of spend and of completion. This will be required for monitoring purposes and to enable monies to be released after completion of the project

**10B. If the delivery agent is outside the council** they will be sent a grant agreement which they need to sign and return. They will also be sent a claim for reimbursement form for monitoring purposes, but will receive the funding upon return of the grant agreement, rather than after the completion of the project.

## Appendix 2

### **PROPOSAL FOR USE OF 'ONE-OFF' RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL PLAN**

**Brief Description of the project?** *Details of spending proposed, how much is it for?*

This project seeks capital funding to purchase six performances of EcoGirl for primary schools in the LNP area.

EcoGirl is an educational theatre production showing children about the environmental issues that threaten our local communities, as well as the planet and how to deal with them. The show encourages audience participation and covers original songs. Eco-Girl covers areas of the national curriculum key stages one and two. The show covers topics such as the three R's (recycle, reduce and use reuse), not dropping litter and how to minimise waste. The show will also touch upon sustainability, the importance of exercise and anti-social behaviour.

Visual theatre can have a positive effect on children including immediate response, high interest in the topics covered, a greater willingness to help and a development of awareness concerning environmental issues.

The Theatre production team will provide the school with a teacher pack that will breakdown the show, it will include question and answer sheets, facts and helpful information, plus activities for key stage one and two.

One performance will cost	£ 320
Total funding requested	£1,920

The following schools will receive a performance of Eco-Girl:-

King Charles Primary  
St Josephs Catholic Primary  
Rough Hay Primary  
Moorcroft Wood Primary  
Pinfold Street JMI  
Salisbury Primary

**How does the proposal link to LNP local plans?** *Explicit cross referenced link to local plan*

This links in with the priority of having clean environment and encouraging recycling in the LNP area.

**How does proposal link to Council Vision 2008?** *Explicit cross reference to each of the 10 priorities it relates to and how*

*This will link into ensuring a clean and green borough and will help deliver the*

*pledge of ensuring our parks and open spaces are well maintained and safe places to enjoy, involving local groups in their development and improvement. The project will also encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall as local people will have a pride and loyalty to their community, their town and their borough.*

**Assurance that the proposal is not contrary to Council policy?** *Explicit statement that the planned spending is not contrary to existing any Council policy*

This proposal is not contrary to the council policy and clearly contributes to the Vision 2008 document.

**Impact of the proposal?** *Who will benefit from this spending, how will they benefit, numbers of people who will benefit, how long will these benefits last*

This will contribute towards educating young people on the consequences of certain actions upon their community and planet. By targeting young people at a primary school age will help to send a positive message for later years. Young people will also be able to tell their parents what they have been involved in at school and send a positive message about the environment at home as well.

**Value for money?** *Are the identified benefits worth the costs to be incurred*

**Match funding?** *Does this proposal attract any match funding (in cash or kind) from council partners or other organisations?*

Approximately over 40 performances have been funded across the borough by other sources.

**Responsible officer?** *If approved, this officer (usually a Service Manager) who will be responsible for ordering the work, spending the money in compliance with the Council's contract and financial procedure rules*  
The responsible officer will be based in Street Pride, Vicky Portman.

**Reporting back?** *When will money be spent, work be done, impact be felt and reported back to LNP. Also need 'audit trail' to evidence this*  
The councils purchasing systems will be adhered to. A clear financial trail will be provided and the production of invoices and orders supplied to draw down the funds. An update will be provided at the next LNP meeting of the progress with the proposal.