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Foreword by the Chair

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund programme is an example of partnership working in Plymouth at its best. Effective planning, programme management and close cooperation between partners are at the heart of its success. Although the commissioning process for the projects that we have delivered was tough, it involved the input and challenge of all the Theme Leads to make sure that we invested in truly cross-cutting interventions that have delivered demonstrable results.

The panel, which I had the privilege to chair has ensured that decisions continued to be made throughout the programme in order to reinvest where necessary to make the best use of resources, and the Local Strategic Partnership's programme management team has worked closely with stakeholders to ensure robust and flexible management of projects. The achievement that I believe we should be proudest of is that the majority of innovative services funded through the programme will continue in the future. The fund will have a lasting impact on the lives of those of our citizens who most need support.

Giles Perritt,
Chair of the Proposal and Approval Panel for NRF/CSG

Notes on this booklet

This booklet has been compiled with our partners to celebrate our achievements over the last two years. It demonstrates the diverse nature of projects delivered and provides a permanent record of good practice. Although many of the projects are cross cutting in nature, the booklet has been organised by theme group for ease of use. Should you require further information on individual projects please refer to the contact details provided. You may also download a copy of each project storyboard from the LSP website www.plymouth2020.co.uk

Introduction

The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal aims to ensure that within 20 years, no one will be disadvantaged by where they live. This is to be achieved by reducing inequality between the poorest areas and the national average, by tackling crime, worklessness, ill health, underachievement, poor housing and poor living environment. As a result of these gaps in neighbourhood inequalities, Plymouth qualified for the funding shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Funding for Neighbourhood Renewal

Fund	2006/07	2007/08	Total
NRF	£2,381,174	£2,825,708	5,206,882
CSG	£970,000	£1,130,000	2,100,000
Total	£3,351,174	£3,955,708	7,306,882

The Government established the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) which was awarded to the 88 most disadvantaged local authority areas in the country, as defined through the 2000 Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Plymouth qualified for this funding due to the markedly different levels of deprivation and quality of life between neighbourhoods as demonstrated by a range of criteria from the six neighbourhood renewal themes. For example, 2003-2005 figures show that based on life expectancy at birth a person living in Chaddlewood would live on average 11.2 years longer than a person living in Stonehouse (Source Public Health Development Unit).

In 2005, these inequalities resulted in Stonehouse, North Prospect, Barne Barton and the City Centre all qualifying for neighbourhood renewal funded interventions.

Neighbourhood Renewal 2006 - 2008

NRF was awarded over 3 phases the first of which began in 2001/02. This booklet is a summary of the achievements of phase 3, a two year programme, from April 2006 to March 2008.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund introduced in 2006 had an element called the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Fund (CSG). This fund supported the neighbourhood renewal agenda and aims to address the quality of the local environment to ensure that it is safe, clean and inviting. This has been shown to have a significant impact on our quality of life.

The decision was made by P2020, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), to manage both of these funds using the same approach to Programme Management.

A cross cutting panel was given responsibility to allocate funding to projects aimed at tackling these inequalities. The panel included representatives from the Primary Care Trust, Devon and Cornwall Police, Government Office South West, the Community and Voluntary Sector, the University of Plymouth, Plymouth City Council and other partners. The key to the success of this programme has been the commitment to partnership working.

Key achievements of the Programme

- 82% of students from the NRF areas, who attended the Science Academy, gained the equivalent of 4 science GCSE's.
- A new innovative community-based approach to health promotion initiatives between the NHS and neighbourhood groups delivered health MOT's, smoking cessation, diet and nutrition advice sessions with more than 5000 residents.
- A new NHS healthy weight and obesity service for children.
- Regeneration of 3 parks and play areas with 2 areas meeting green flag status in 2007/08.
- The Adelaide Park Home Zone won the "Best Community Design" category of the 2007 Abercrombie Awards and has been entered into the Royal Town Planning Institute Awards 2008.
- Practical support and help for unemployed people receiving health related benefits and an extension of community based advisers to engage with workless adults.
- The development of the Plymouth Works database (UNITE). This captures all current workless provision and enables an individual's training needs to be assessed and mapped through the various stages leading to employment.
- Comprehensive approach to raising standards in housing through renovating sub standard homes, bringing empty homes back into use, assisting homeowners with their maintenance through home condition surveys and leveraging private landlord investment to improve rental accommodation.
- The Head Cameras project achieved national acclaim with Plymouth being the national pilot for good practice.

For more information on how the funding was allocated, partnership working and how we will continue to narrow the inequalities gap in the future, please see Appendix 1.