

Fair Share: Transforming Your Space



England



Introduction

The programme

Launched in July 2002, the Fair Share: Transforming your Space in England programme targeted 51 local authority areas that had, to that date, struggled to access their 'fair share' of National Lottery funding. Through the programme £36.6 million has been allocated to enable communities most in need to make their local environment safer, greener, cleaner, more pleasant to use and accessible to all. The programme was designed to support projects which involve local people at every stage. The aim being that, in all areas, local communities would be given the chance to: improve their natural environment; develop their knowledge and skills; gain a stake in their local community; lead healthier lifestyles. This programme has given us the opportunity to support a wide variety of sustainable development projects: including, the rejuvenation of open public spaces and landscapes; improving footpaths, cycle paths and waterways; creating and maintaining recreation areas for children and young people; developing natural habitats for wildlife. Across all projects there has been a clear emphasis on inclusion and communities owning their local environment. Our investment in public spaces is beginning to make a real difference to people's lives in communities across England.

The publication

Transforming Your Space (or TYS as you will see it referred to throughout) is not over – some projects are up and running, some are still in the planning stages. Many of the grants will continue right through to 2007. So this publication was not conceived as a retrospective study of a completed programme. Rather, it is recognising the achievements to date, and building on them for the future. In the following pages you will find project summaries of all 51 local authorities' aims, objectives and priorities, the partnership working, the community input, the problems and the successes.

In addition to the summaries for each England region, we have focussed on one case study which best exemplifies what TYS is all about.

The main purpose of this publication is as a tool for learning and networking, so if you are particularly interested in the work of any of the local authorities, or in one of the highlighted projects, contact details for each grant holder have been included.

The Fund

The Big Lottery Fund was launched on 1 June 2004 and brings together the work of two National Lottery distributors: the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund. The TYS programme was launched under the New Opportunities Fund, and now continues under the Big Lottery Fund. Throughout the text which follows, we will refer to 'the Fund' to emphasise this continuity.

Eastern

Basildon District Council

The TYS Basildon project has two main partners, Basildon District Council (BDC) and BTCV, UK's largest practical conservation charity. The two partners both have specific project aims and objectives, but the overall aim is to engage local people on a voluntary basis to protect their local environment and improve their health. Total funding is £318,000.

Gateway to Basildon (BDC)

Consultation helped identify 11 sites as potential projects. All are within the council's Priority Action Areas (PAAs) and are open spaces, ponds or wooded areas owned or managed by BDC. Ten of the sites are located close to heavily populated housing estates or local schools, with some prone to vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Work on the sites will rely heavily on local volunteers and range from community clean ups to new nature reserves and easy access trails. The aim is to develop a sustainability strategy through establishing 'friends of' or local residents support groups.

The BTCV Green Gym

Working closely with a range of health provision organisations, the Green Gym offers residents an opportunity to improve their health by taking part in organised conservation and environmental activities. They will work alongside Gateway to Basildon on 11 sites and offer their volunteers training and support. See case study on page 5.

← Contact Details
Basildon District
Council

Norman Redican
Voluntary &
Community Sector
Development Officer
Basildon District
Council

Tel: 01268 2940 68
Email:
norman.redican@
basildon.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Essex Community
Foundation

Judy-May Brandy
Programmes Director
Essex Community
Foundation

Tel: 01245 356018
Email: judy-may@
essexcf.org.uk

Essex Community Foundation (Tendring District Council)

Essex Community Foundation is administering the TYS scheme in the Tendring District Council area. The Fund allocated £258,818, (including management costs). Total project costs were £424,234 with partnership funding from The Countryside Agency, Sport England, BTCV, Tendring District Council and other local contributors.

Clacton was targeted, having the highest levels of multiple deprivation in the district, with more than its fair share of anti-social problems.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was keen to be active in addressing local needs and to meet a number of its own strategic priorities. It was whole-heartedly in support of the three projects, which jointly have the potential to benefit nearly 8,000 people. The creation of a skate park was the first of the projects, jointly funded with Sport England and Tendring District Council. The second, a garden close to the sea front, owned, designed and developed by local people in the community, is making good progress. The third is transforming a neglected open space into a park. Residents were extensively consulted and all three projects have encouraged community participation throughout, at both the decision-making and implementation stages. Taskforces have been set-up, opportunities for cross-project working along common themes and programmes of training to skill people in the community for the continued maintenance.



Luton Borough Council

Luton Borough Council was allocated £370,716 including management costs. Total project costs are £333,781.

The Luton Forum selected the most deprived areas in the town to benefit from the scheme. The selection process for the projects included assessments against strategic fit with local priorities, action plans and relevant initiatives. The Forum finally chose one Town Centre Refurbishment Project and an umbrella project, Nature Near Home, working across Luton in each of the eight locations with the highest levels of multiple deprivation.

Match funding was secured from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Prudential towards the Town Centre Project in Park Street. This developed into a pavement maze designed by local school children working with Adrian Fisher, a leading maze designer. The council delivered this project in partnership with a steering group of Town Centre stakeholders and consultation was undertaken via high profile local press coverage and public exhibitions.

Nature Near Home, delivered by the North Chilterns Trust, is working with local communities, getting them involved in transforming their neighbourhoods, making them cleaner, safer and environmentally improved, for example through the creation of community garden or pocket parks.

← **Contact Details**
Luton Borough
Council

Lesley Nicholls
Community
Programme Manager
Luton Borough
Council

Tel: 01582 546271
Email:
nichollsl@
luton.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Great Yarmouth
Borough Council

David Glason
Planning Policy
Great Yarmouth
Borough Council

Tel: 01493 846643
Email: dcg@great-
yarmouth.gov.uk

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

The total Fund grant for the Runham Vauxhall Regeneration Project is £487,862. Total project costs are £772,862, with matched funding being sourced from the town's Inte Great bid, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Landfill Tax Credits among other contributors. Norfolk County Council is also a key partner.

The Runham Vauxhall Recreational Green Space and Gateway Bridge & Links Projects stem from the council's consultation sessions with the Runham Vauxhall Residents Association. The ward is one of the most economically and socially disadvantaged in the country, and the projects selected reflect the priorities that the community identified. These were (a) a local open space with recreational facilities and (b) a footway along the riverside, with seats, bins and improved drainage.

In addition, a replacement Millennium style pedestrian and cycle bridge across the river Bure will improve the linkages between Runham Vauxhall, the railway station and the town centre. Reflect the architecture of the current iron railway bridge which is in a poor state of repair.

The Residents Association is fully supportive of the projects and is kept fully informed of developments, having a key input into the schemes at bi-monthly project meetings.

Eastern



Case Study

Puck Lane Open Space (Basildon)

Puck Lane Open Space is a small woodland with green walkways between two densely populated housing areas. The woodland is full of indigenous trees and plants and has a network of access trails which need to be re-established. It has four ponds that have sadly dried out in recent years.

Aims:

- involve local residents in regular litter picks to discourage future litter dropping
- remove dumped rubbish and prevent future dumping by blocking unnecessary vehicle access
- improve the general appearance of the site
- improve access to and around the site to encourage use by families
- clear ponds of rubbish and leaf litter to attract wildlife and water back into the ponds
- remove vandalised trim trail equipment.

There have been seven work parties involving volunteers and local residents from both the Green Gym and Gateway to Basildon projects to date. Work has included:

- over 40 bags of litter removed
- access to and around the site improved by cutting back and coppicing
- ponds starting to be cleared of litter and invasive foreign plants
- flowerbeds weeded and will be re-planted
- old iron railings removed and wooden fencing to be erected
- vandalised trim trail removed.

Results so far:

- twelve local residents involved
- less rubbish and litter visible
- site staff spend more time on the site and not on repairs and vandalism
- more residents want to join in.

More work is planned on this site over the next 24 months.



Eastern

Peterborough City Council

Peterborough City Council was allocated a total of £360,818. Three areas across the city were identified to benefit from projects, two of which are rooted in the local communities with the third having the potential to make a significant impact at a citywide level.

Improvements to Open Space – Paston & North Wards. These schemes focused on providing areas of quality open space that could be used by the whole community. One of the major issues for both these communities was a lack of any informal, quality recreational open space. Although Paston has open space, much of this was isolated and residents were apprehensive of using it. The schemes have provided a variety of features including informal play areas and community quiet contemplation areas. Many local groups and organisations have been included in these projects.

River Nene – Embankment. Although a highly valued amenity, consultation proved that this resource was providing for low numbers of visitors due to lack of access and activity. The scheme focused on land-based works to improve access and enjoyment for local people and visitors alike. Many groups have been involved in this project, including a local secondary school who have helped design an entrance feature.

← Contact Details
Peterborough City Council

Mandy Dewdney
Community
Regeneration Team
Leader
Peterborough City Council

Tel: 01733 742 566
Email:
mandy.dewdney@
peterborough.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Waveney District Council

Martyn Burnside
Community
Development
Manager
Waveney District Council

Tel: 01502 523006
Email:
martyn.burnside@
waveney.gov.uk

Waveney District Council

Waveney District Council was allocated £314,915. To date, project costs stand at £590,000, with partnership funding from Suffolk County Council, Kirkley Single Regeneration Budget, Kessingland Parish Council and the District Council itself.

Three projects are being developed – one in each of the deprived North and South Lowestoft wards (to improve parks with a history of antisocial behaviour), and one in Kessingland, our most deprived rural ward. These areas were identified as part of ‘planning for real’ exercises in Lowestoft and through the Lowestoft Community Development Strategy. In this strategy, environmental improvements to local areas, community safety and improved facilities for young people were priority issues.

For Kessingland, the funding was offered to help them deliver the Parish Action Plan. Play areas and open spaces were seen as key facilities that the community felt needed improving. This funding will improve an existing dilapidated play area and provide a multi-use games area for young people.

The principle aim has been to engage with the community and empower them to be involved in decision-making and work in partnership with the authorities to manage and improve the sites.

East Midlands

Ashfield District Council

Ashfield District Council was allocated £235,000 to develop new play facilities in its three principal parks: Kingsway, Sutton Lawns and Titchfield Park. The project was developed with the LSP and the local community.

The district is a former coal mining area and has suffered significant deprivation since the closure of the mines and other traditional industries. The council and the LSP are working to address this issue and this has enabled a much-needed scheme to be developed to provide facilities for young people where previously none existed. The schemes have been developed as part of a wider initiative to improve these three key parks and have been integrated into the overall masterplans for the sites.

New skate/ BMX parks have been developed at all three parks, plus a new children's play area at Kingsway Park. Funds were secured from East Midlands Development Agency, Section 106, and Neighbourhood Renewal Funds.

The play areas have been very well used since their construction and feedback from the user groups is very positive. A small amount of vandalism has been experienced, but in the main the durable specification of the equipment has proved itself.

← Contact Details
Ashfield District
Council

Sarah Daniel
Senior Projects
Officer
Ashfield District
Council

Tel: 01623 457300
Email: s.daniel@
ashfield-dc.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Bolsover District
Council

Geoffrey Dyer
Economic
Development
Manager
Bolsover District
Council

Tel: 01246 242413
Email: geoffrey.dyer
@bolsover.gov.uk

Bolsover District Council

Bolsover District Council was allocated £361,818 towards total project costs of £845,181. Match funding came from The Coalfield Regeneration Trust, private sector funding, East Midlands Development Agency, Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership and the local parish councils.

Community consultation was carried out throughout the areas, using the Council's and LSP's community networks. The projects selected seek to enhance the quality of life of these communities, improve the appearance and amenities of local recreational, play and playing fields, deliver sustainable community assets and assistance in providing a local resource centre in deprived former colliery communities.

The Doe Lea Resource Centre project was identified as a priority objective in the Community Action plan. All the other projects also have linkages with national, regional, county, local and community strategies.

The beneficiaries of all projects will be local residents within deprived wards, who will be encouraged to participate in the development of the projects in working together through a network of local community groups.

East Midlands

Derby City Council

Derby City Council was awarded £797,780 and has secured £76,111 of match funding to date. The funding, which is designed to improve local environments, has been allocated to five projects across the city, all based within Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs). The projects' aims are to:

- improve a play area at Osmaston Park
- extend and increase access to the community centre at Boulton Lane
- create recreational space on Booth Street for children, young people and older people
- create a Neighbourhood Base in Austin for local people to access a range of services in one place
- refurbish a run down play area on Shakespeare Street with areas for children, young people and disabled children.

The projects were selected after a bidding round – they had to be based in one of the 12 NRAs and applicants had to demonstrate that they had consulted with local people and had developed their project in line with Derby's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. All of the projects were endorsed by the LSP.

The projects are all being delivered by community and voluntary organisations supported by the council, delivering the associated aim of capacity-building in the community. See case study opposite.

← Contact Details
Derby City Council

Zoë Roberts
Regeneration
Co-ordinator
Derby City Council

Tel: 01332 256239
Email: zoe.roberts
@derby.gov.uk





Case Study

Shakespeare Street Play Area (Derby)

The Shakespeare Street Play Area was allocated £182,000 of Transforming Your Space funding to renovate a very run down play area on Shakespeare Street. Shakespeare Street is in one of the 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in Derby and the play area had suffered vandalism and anti-social behaviour. As well as renovating the area with new equipment, the local community panel, in partnership with Derby Homes, aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour and provide positive activities for young people to take part in.

The play area opened in December 2003 and has proved very popular. Over 50 people attended the opening and football competitions have been organised by the local police and held on the play area. Instances of anti-social behaviour in the area have been reduced as children and young people now have a safe, stimulating place to meet and play.

The design of the play area resulted from local consultation, and a partnership of Derby Homes and the local community panel have managed the project. Members of the local community panel attend TYS network meetings and have gone on to successfully secure other funding for equipment to be used on the area. Having local residents leading the project helped to reassure the community when the building works were going on and the park was closed. The community panel ran a competition for children and young people to encourage them to stay away from the area while it was being developed and promote a sense of ownership to lessen the chance of vandalism once the play area was opened.

London

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham (LBBD) received funding of £400,373 for three park improvement projects. Total project costs have now been estimated at £950,000; match funding is from SRB6, Gate It and the Borough itself.

LBBD is the eighth most deprived borough in London and these projects will address many of the issues arriving from this deprivation.

The regeneration of **Padnall Lake** aims to improve its water quality, biodiversity and surrounding green area, to enable the community to take pride in the currently deprived open space. Groundwork East London (GEL) are leading with the consultation and design work.

In May 2002, the Borough was petitioned to build a BMX track on the redundant Arena site within **Old Dagenham Park**. This has been supported by the Borough and has been expanded to include the pavilion and ornamental garden upgrade. The Borough is working with the Dagenham Village Partnership, BMX Track Group and GEL.

Parsloes Park is the Borough's biggest but has suffered from a lack of investment over the past 20 years. The youth workshops conducted by GEL showed the need for a challenging adventure playground, aimed at 12-16 year olds.



← Contact Details
London Borough of
Barking & Dagenham

Gavin Flynn
TYS Project Officer
London Borough of
Barking
& Dagenham

Tel: 020 8227 3482
Email: gavin.flynn
@lbbd.gov.uk

Contact Details →
London Borough of
Brent

Victoria Buzza
Regeneration Officer
London Borough of
Brent

Tel: 020 8937 1074
Email: victoria.buzza
@brent.gov.uk

London Borough of Brent

Brent received £559,039, in total split between three projects that attracted £4,199,355 match-funding. The three bodies funded were Stonebridge Housing Action Trust (SBHAT), for the Hilltop education and sports project; Community Consultants South Kilburn (CCSK), for the Brentfield Environmental Services Trust; and Fortunegate Community Housing (FCH), for the Church End community centre.

The selection process used a system which scored projects on five factors, namely their ability to deliver and improve: (a) quality of life to communities; (b) appearance and amenities of local environment; (c) development of community assets; (d) community participation (e) project planning and structures.

All projects are located in the priority areas, to the south of the borough, which are in the top 10 per cent most deprived wards in the country. All projects involved residents and members of the community in the design process through steering groups, and are being delivered according to a participation ethos, with residents being actively involved in steering groups and design panels.

All projects link into the Brent regeneration strategy and play an important part in the delivery of the action plan. They are delivered in partnership with London Borough of Brent policy and regeneration unit as well as the sports services and education, arts and libraries.

London

London Borough of Enfield

Enfield Borough Council was allocated £456,721. Total project costs are £703,221, including partnership funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Alma Primary School, Mercke, Sharpe and Dohme, Green Horizons and Countryside Agency Doorstep Greens.

Following extensive consultations, four key themes were identified to provide the strategic framework for Enfield's TYS programme.

1. Increasing the provision of high quality open space in an area lacking public space.
2. Increasing community access to open spaces, natural resources, amenities and community facilities.
3. Promoting healthier lifestyles within sustainable communities.
4. Meeting the needs and priorities of residents in a deprived and disadvantaged area through building real, working partnerships.

Three projects – Alma Primary School Open Space, Greening Edmonton and Boundary Brook – were selected for funding. These link in with the community, neighbourhood renewal and cultural strategies of Enfield Council. The themes identified to provide the TYS strategic framework inform the council's community, neighbourhood renewal and cultural strategies.

← Contact Details
London Borough of
Enfield

Robert Martin
Project Manager
Neighbourhood
Renewal
London Borough of
Enfield

Tel: 020 8379 2487
Email: robert.martin
@enfield.gov.uk

Contact Details →
London Borough of
Waltham Forest

Jeremy Chandler
Group Manager
London Borough of
Waltham Forest

Tel: 020 8496 6318
Email:
jeremy.chandler
@lbwf.gov.uk

London Borough of Waltham Forest

The London Borough of Waltham Forest was allocated £625,768. The total programme costs are currently estimated to be in the region of £1.6 million, with very substantial match-funding being provided by the Council itself and other match-funders including Forest Homes, SENDA and through planning agreements with developers.

A major community consultation exercise was carried out across the borough to determine which projects should be included in the final submission. Over 60 expressions of interest were received from agencies and local community and residents groups. These were assessed by a steering panel which comprised community representatives as well as Council Members.

The concerns highlighted through these consultations centred on the condition of the Council's parks, playgrounds and open spaces; the lack of youth provision, particularly in some deprived areas; and the need, again most keenly felt in deprived areas, for better provision for BME communities.

The final proposal sought to meet these needs, and comprised four thematically linked projects – a Friends project for four open/public spaces in the borough; a complementary Friends project for local playgrounds; a Youth Hub project in Leyton; and access and refurbishment works for the William Morris Community Centre in Walthamstow. See case study on page 12.

London

Case Study

The Leyton Youth Hub (London Borough of Waltham Forest)

The Leyton Youth Hub Project will create a major new centre for youth activities within the Pavilion building at the old Leyton Cricket Ground. Leyton has been identified as one of the borough's most deprived areas and is currently the subject of a major regeneration Action Plan. Within the context of the wider regeneration proposals there will be a particular focus on countering youth deprivation.

The project also aims to unlock the potential of an important historic building, which until recently was mostly locked and out of use. As a result of this project, attractive and dynamic spaces will be filled with services for, and activities by, young people. A wide range of community groups from different backgrounds are queuing up to use it for events, both within the building itself and within the extensive grounds surrounding it.

The project is being delivered by the Council's Youth Service, but there is a steering committee representing local user groups and other partner stakeholders, such as Forest Homes, EduAction and Sure Start. The TYS Lottery funding of £120,000 has proved to be a catalyst for substantial match-funding, especially from the borough, from Forest Homes and from SENDA, which has brought the current refurbishment budget to over £360,000. This excludes significant education resources which have already been used to create a new IT centre within the building.

The project has had a marked impact on local community involvement, training, and capacity building. Local parents, through Sure Start, the Leyton Neighbourhood Forum youth group, the SCORE youth project and other local user groups, have all contributed actively in planning the next steps.

As the project has progressed, additional works have been found to be necessary, and this has caused some resourcing problems. However, the net benefits to the community of the complete package will be enormous.





North East

Blyth Valley Borough Council

Blyth Valley Borough Council was allocated £315,000, covering all of the original project costs although additional funding has been unlocked to extend the project beyond expectations.

Rather than limit the impact of the funding geographically, the project ambitiously set out to engage the resident population of the borough, as well as visitors to the area. The basis of this all-embracing project was the Peoples' Plan, Blyth Valley's Community Strategy, which was borne out of extensive community consultation. The project, entitled the Blyth Valley Wildspace Network, aims to reconnect the populace with their environmental roots through a phased programme of improvements to open spaces, footpaths and bridleways and promoted through a comprehensive system of signposting, leaflets and events.

One of the obvious aims was to encourage more healthy activity in the Borough and thus add benefits to the existing Walking your Way to Health programmes. Another key aim was to enable the communities to be able to make continued improvements to their local environment after the initial funding period.

Throughout the project, community engagement has been a priority, with the flexible framework allowing communities to have their say.

← Contact Details
Blyth Valley Borough Council

Michael Sharpe
Environmental
Projects Co-ordinator
Blyth Valley Borough Council

Tel: 01670 542370
Email: msharpe
@blythvalley.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Darlington Borough Council

Pearl Berry
Economic
Regeneration Officer
Darlington Borough Council

Tel: 01325 388 642
Email: pearl.berry
@darlington.gov.uk

Darlington Borough Council

Darlington Borough Council was allocated £265,432. Total project costs were profiled at £346,490 and partnership funding from Sure Start, Children's Fund and Early Years was secured within months of the allocation being confirmed. The Council has undertaken to fund the balance itself.

The area targeted for the funding was the North Lodge Park in Darlington which has high levels of multiple deprivation and a history of anti-social behaviour, such as substance misuse. Community consultation was carried out in the area through a questionnaire. On analysis, several priorities become evident: 1) community safety 2) recreational facilities for young people of all ages and abilities 3) fostering of social inclusion.

All of the projects are located within or working with residents of the North Lodge Park area and link directly to the Darlington Partnership Community Strategy, the Urban Green Spaces report 'Green Spaces, Better Places' and the Regional Economic Strategy for the North East, in that they promote community safety, inclusive communities, health and well-being and enhance the local environment.

Darlington Partnership, local community groups, project manager, service users and partnership funding bodies are all involved in the Steering Group Meetings, which include ongoing community consultation.

North East



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council was awarded £944,580, including £54,225 for management and development costs. The total project costs are a little over £2.6 million, with match funding secured from various sources: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), Surestart, Single Regeneration Budget (SRB), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Church Urban Fund, the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the council's own resources.

The areas targeted for the funding were the borough's four highest priority neighbourhoods – Newtown/Primrose Hill, Hardwick/Salters Lane, Portrack & Tilery and Parkfield/Mill Lane they are within the worst 10 per cent nationally in the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Community consultation had already been carried out within these areas through the development of the council's various strategies, so community discussion groups were established in each of the areas to confirm priorities. Elected community ambassadors were invited to regular sessions to develop the projects, which include, among others, the creation of a community garden, entrance features, sports pitches and general play areas, street lighting, traffic-calming, CCTV and improvements to existing resource centres.

The majority of the projects are delivered by Stockton Borough Council's Regeneration Department in close collaboration with the local community partnership boards and resident groups.

← Contact Details
Stockton-on-Tees
Borough Council

John Angus
Community Renewal
Officer
Stockton-on-Tees
Borough Council

Tel: 01642 526499
Email: john.angus
@stockton.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Wansbeck District
Council

Karen Maclean
Sustainable
Programmes
Co-ordinator
Wansbeck District
Council

Tel: 01670 843212
Email: k.maclean
@wansbeck.gov.uk

Wansbeck District Council

Wansbeck District Council was allocated £321,249 project costs. Total project costs are £938,223, including partnership funding from ERDF, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Single Regeneration Budget, Single Programme, Countryside Agency, Northumberland Environmental Partnership, Northern Rock, Northumbrian Water Ltd and Greening for Growth. The balance has been funded by the council itself.

The opportunity to direct TYS funding to delivery of neighbourhood renewal objectives was actively pursued during the preparation of the district's first Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Action Plan (2002). A number of projects were identified that focused on three of the district's Neighbourhood Renewal Target Wards: Newbiggin East, Choppington/Guidepost and Sleekburn.

Subsequently, five projects were selected, all of which aim to enhance the quality of life of the target communities (in the top 10 per cent deprived wards nationally) by making highly visible environmental improvements, making areas safer, greener and more accessible to all. Furthermore, they seek to engage local people in the project planning and delivery, empowering communities and building confidence and skills.

The projects contribute to a number of regional and local strategies and policies including: Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy; Local Agenda 21; Wansbeck's Community Plan and One Northeast Regional Economic Strategy. See page 16.



Case Study

Cambois Foreshore Environmental Improvement Programme (Wansbeck)

The Cambois Foreshore has been the subject of small scale environmental improvements in the past and this project has started with the desire of the East Bedlington Community Area Partnership to continue and expand this programme, making a real impact on the Cambois Foreshore and the adjacent, small and scattered former mining communities. A steering group was initially established to oversee the project, and through a variety of consultation processes and mapping of responses, community hopes have been defined.

The project is being delivered by Greening for Growth. Overall project costs are £202,749: £154,897 for capital costs, £47,852 revenue (the Fund's contribution being £94,897 and £23,352 respectively). Partnership funding has been secured through ERDF, and Single Programme. Revenue costs include a full-time community environment worker who is engaging with local residents to produce plans and drawings that show aspirations for the area. Capital costs include construction of new footpaths and car parks, improved access to the foreshore, construction of a pond, children's play features, installation of new benches, seats and litterbins, and a whole range of 'green' improvements including planting and environmental clean up.

Feedback from the community has been extremely positive. The general feeling among residents is that Cambois has been neglected in the past, and this project has enabled groups and individuals to have a level of control over what is happening in their area. This has resulted in renewed enthusiasm and community spirit. The original steering group has now formed a constituted group that aims to represent Cambois in other major developments in the area, and also draw down further funding to continue improvements to their local environment.



North West

Blackpool Borough Council

TYS Blackpool includes four projects. These are the Solaris environmental centre, Stanley Park, the Talbot and Brunswick Health Village and the St Johns Centre. The TYS total towards these capital projects amounts to £738,465. However, the projects themselves are all part of larger works, totalling many millions from a wide range of sources.

All the projects are managed through the council, in partnership with the community.

When Blackpool was notified that it was eligible, a shortlist of potential projects were taken to the LSP, and four received unanimous support. The projects selected represent different geographical areas within Blackpool as well as identifying a broad range of beneficiaries from the community. They are all in, or within easy reach of, the wards identified as having the highest need in Blackpool.

There are many partners involved including health, environmental, church, community, leisure and, of course, the community. The public has been involved in consultation through area and theme forums, as well as direct participation via community organisations, which will be based in the new and renovated premises funded through TYS.

← Contact Details
Blackpool Borough
Council

Ray Dobson
Project Co-ordinator
Manager
Blackpool Borough
Council

Tel: 01253 477330
Email: ray.dobson
@blackpool.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Bolton Metropolitan
Borough Council

Kath Lowden
TYS Co-ordinator
Bolton MBC

Tel: 01204 336656
Email: kath.lowden
@bolton.gov.uk

Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council

Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council submitted its umbrella bid to the Fund in November 2002. By this time, an open bidding round had been held and the TYS Partnership prioritised a number of projects, selected on the basis of best meeting the aims and objectives of the TYS criteria. The projects selected were approved in December 2003 and the grant received totalled £1.33 million. Match funding has come from a variety of sources including the Local Authority, Heritage Lottery Fund and Coalfields Regeneration, totalling in excess of £700,000.

The projects are situated throughout the borough and range from improvements to parks and routeways, community centres, and youth centres and play areas. The projects are being delivered by a variety of agencies including the local authority and local voluntary organisations.

The community has been involved in the design and planning of the various projects including consultation events held on parks with children, with local residents and end users of youth centres, as well as with local residents and user groups. The projects link to the aims and objectives of the Bolton Community Strategy (LSP) which aims to regenerate local communities as well as having links to the Liveability Agenda.



Burnley Borough Council

In 2003 Burnley Borough Council was allocated £312,884 towards 'A Cleaner Safer, Greener, Environment'. Total project costs for this TYS programme are £494,051 with match funding from a wide variety of partners, including European and SRB 6 funding, the Countryside Agency, Barclays, Elevate East Lancashire, Section 106 Agreements and the council itself.

The target area covers the whole of the borough. This will enable work to be undertaken both within regeneration programme target areas and outside, where other funds are limited.

Residents throughout the borough participated in identifying key priorities for action through Local Planning in Action events and themed workshops, and the result was a wide variety of project themes. Growing Places, delivered in partnership with Groundwork East Lancs, helps allotment associations carry out valuable improvements such as fencing, drainage and footpaths; Teenzones encourages young people to get involved in the design and development of their recreational areas.

The scheme also focuses on capacity building. Community Buildings, Development and Support encourages residents to take more responsibility for managing their community buildings and equipment. The Walking Buses project, co-funded by the Countryside Agency, has provided a co-ordinator to develop safe and supervised routes for children to walk to school, supported by community volunteers.

← Contact Details
Burnley Borough
Council

Cecilia Whitaker
SRB Co-ordinator
Burnley Borough
Council

Tel: 01282 477181
Email: cwhitaker@burnley.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Ellesmere Port &
Neston Borough
Council

Sarah Palgrave-Neath
Parks and Open
Spaces Manager

Tel: 0151 356 6766
Email: sarah.palgrave-neath@epnbc.gov.uk

Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council

Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council received £287,675 for its 'Parks for People' partnership project with Groundwork Wirral. The total project cost of £1,009,542 was matched by Sport England, Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN), Barclays Site Savers, Cheshire Safety Partnership, ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), Single Regeneration Budget, Section 106 agreements, Countryside Agency, SureStart, Ellesmere Port and Neston Community Safety Partnership and the council.

Four parks were targeted: Stanney Fields Park in Neston and Wolverham Park, Luton Road Playing Fields and Westminster Park in Ellesmere Port. Stanney Fields was selected for community involvement and as Neston's main park. Ellesmere Port parks were selected for the positive impact that improvements would have on their communities, all in areas of multiple deprivation.

Extensive consultation was undertaken by the council and Groundwork Wirral in developing the projects, which include four play areas, three multi-use games areas (MUGAs) (including one floodlit), the borough's first wheels area and protection by high quality fencing around the parks. The MUGAs have enabled organised school holiday activities. This has continued at Stanney Fields with additional funding accessed through the Friends group.

North West

Hyndburn Borough Council

Hyndburn Borough Council was allocated £317,332, towards Transforming Community Spaces in Hyndburn. Partnership funding was secured from Hyndburn Borough Council, British Waterways, Friends of Rishton Youth, Green Partnership, Lancashire Environment Fund, with in kind contributions from volunteers.

Hyndburn BC has four wards within the top 10 per cent of the most deprived in the UK. However, it was recognised that these already receive significant public sector grants from various sources. The Local Strategic Partnership agreed, therefore, that the Big Lottery Fund grant would have a more significant impact if it were to be strategically targeted at 'hot spot' areas of deprivation outside of those four wards.

The community strategy for Hyndburn identified crime and environmental issues as the key issues which the residents wanted addressed. Following consultation, three projects were proposed and supported by the LSP. These schemes support measures to reduce domestic burglary and reduce juvenile nuisance by providing more sites tailored to the needs of local teenagers. The skate park and multi-use games area for Great Harwood is now complete. The canal access and towpath improvement scheme is also now underway. Unfortunately, legal issues forced the withdrawal of a proposed alley-gating scheme. A community garden and improvements to youth facilities will take its place.

← Contact Details
Hyndburn Borough
Council

Ian Marfleet
Projects
Development Officer
Hyndburn FIRST

Tel: 01254 600641
Email: ian.marfleet@hyndburnbc.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Knowsley
Metropolitan
Borough Council

David Perry
Fair Share Project
Officer
Knowsley
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 0151 443 2396
Email: david.perry@knowsley.gov.uk

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council was awarded £1,813,540 towards environmental projects in its area. To date, £619,529 of match funding has been secured, from various public and private sector sources.

The programme is aimed at improving both the quality of life and environmental facilities, as detailed in Knowsley's Tomorrow (the Local Agenda 21 Strategy). The proposal centres around four key themes identified in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies. These themes are also priorities in the Community Plan:

- 1. Parks Packed with People** – Improving local parks with new landscape developments and facilities.
- 2. Urban Greenspace** – Improving neglected and derelict land to create new green spaces for the community.
- 3. Teenage Activity Areas** – Providing much needed facilities for teenagers to exercise and learn new sports skills in an informal setting.
- 4. Green Scene** – Greening the urban environment and adding to the urban forest by planting trees along major thoroughfares.

The individual projects were identified through a number of public consultation exercises that were carried out in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Renewal Team, the Community and Youth Service and the Sustainability and Environmental Development Division.



Case Study

Hyndburn Canal Improvement Project (Hyndburn)

The PROSPECTS Foundation, an environmental charity based in Hyndburn, East Lancashire, was awarded £105,000 towards a series of community identified projects along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on its nine-mile route through Hyndburn.

The overall project value is £210,650 split between capital (£181,000) and revenue (£29,650), with TYS funding approximately £89,200 and £15,800 respectively. The match funding was secured from Lancashire Environmental Fund (£51,000), Lancashire County Council (£30,000), Hyndburn Borough Council (£10,000) and in-kind labour from British Waterways (£10,000) and volunteers (£4,650).

The prime aim of the project is to improve access onto the canal towpath and to provide additional facilities for the benefit of local residents and passing boaters. This is being achieved through a large range of projects including towpath resurfacing, access improvements, disabled angling platforms, a picnic site, signage, seating, mooring bollards, dog bins, a community mural, artwork, dry-stone wall repairs and viewpoints.

All the projects were identified by local residents who are members of the four PROSPECTS Panels in Church, Clayton-le-Moors with Altham, Oswaldtwistle and Rishton. The involvement of the local community is key to the success of the project. This is being achieved through consultation on improvements, involvement in artwork design, involving local schools, providing training opportunities, erecting notice boards for use by other local groups and where possible involving local residents in any practical work.

The project is currently ongoing with a completion date of May 2005.

North West

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's allocation was £1,147,726. Total project costs are £1,782,838, with match funding secured from a variety of sources (i.e. ERDF, NDC, SRB6, NRF, Countryside Agency, Living Spaces, United Utilities) and the council itself.

Consultation with council departments and external organisations identified three key themes – play, recreation and open space – as priorities, so TYS funding was directed to these three areas.

Funding for Oldham's Play & Environmental Network (OPEN) is being distributed across the whole borough rather than targeted at one particular area. This approach was adopted to enable areas that had not benefited from earlier regeneration programmes to receive a 'fair share' of the funding and to avoid the misconceptions that arose from previous area-based regeneration programmes (linked to the disturbances in 2001). This approach contributes to the LSP and council's aims of borough-wide regeneration and community cohesion.

Projects were selected after a public request for ideas. These applications were then worked up in partnership with either the council or Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale. Following an assessment of links to Oldham's Community Strategy, priority schemes were selected by Area Committees and then grouped together to form eight umbrella projects for the area.

← Contact Details
Oldham Metropolitan
Borough Council

Imogen Fuller
Regeneration Officer
Regeneration
Department
Oldham Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 0161 911 4165
Email: imogen.fuller@oldham.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Pendle Borough
Council

Vaughan Jones
Employment &
Community
Initiatives Manager
Pendle Borough
Council

Tel: 01282 661962
Email: vaughan.jones@pendle.gov.uk



Pendle Borough Council

Pendle Borough Council was allocated £480,447. The funding is split between two projects, and match funding has been received from the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB6).

The Canal Corridor Small Projects Fund aims to provide a support process which will empower smaller voluntary and community organisations to compete with larger bodies for funds, and enable them to deliver environmental improvements in line with the Canal Corridor Strategic Framework. It is focused on the SRB6 target wards of Brierfield, Whitefield and Bradley, which all fall within the 10 per cent most deprived wards in England. Key stakeholders include: British Waterways, Pendle Borough Council, Pendle Partnership and Pendle Community Network.

Pendle Productive Landscapes is targeted at Waterside ward in Colne, which falls within the 10 per cent most deprived wards in England. The council has engaged Lancashire Wildlife Trust to manage this project, which aims to match likely sites with community groups and deliver practical projects over a three-year period. The main objective of the project is to produce a wildlife corridor through the area.

Both projects are focused at grass roots level and are linked to the local community strategy.

North West

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council was allocated £1,196,670. Total project costs are £1,482,590, including partnership funding from the Department of Transport, Forestry Commission, Mersey Basin campaign and the council. Project managers have also been successful in adding value to projects and expanding their scope by attracting additional funding from United Utilities and Sustrans.

The LSP decided that the funding should be split between the borough's four townships, on a per capita basis. Individual projects could then be worked up in each township based on local priorities and linking to local strategies. Local steering groups identified areas of need and, following further consultation and work, submitted projects to the LSP and the Fund.

A total of six projects were approved, three in Rochdale Township and one in each of Middleton, Heywood and Pennine Townships. A general theme running through each is encouraging people to engage with their local environment, be it through improvements to facilities in local parks, safe walking and cycling routes, or providing better access to nature areas.

← Contact Details
Rochdale
Metropolitan Borough
Council

Nick Barton
Assistant Projects
Manager
Rochdale
Metropolitan Borough
Council

Tel: 01706 864847
Nick.Barton@
rochdale.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Salford City Council

Anne-Marie Marshall
Fair Share
Programme Officer
Salford City Council

Tel: 0161 793 2927
Email:
anne-marie.marshall
@salford.gov.uk

Salford City Council

Salford City Council was allocated £1,337,542 and total funding available for the project currently stands at £2,979,643. A variety of match funding has been located through council sources including ERDF, Sure Start, SRB and Housing Market Renewal Fund. In addition, match funding has been found through an array of charitable and private sources.

Salford is one of the most deprived local authorities in the country and has been blighted by physical dereliction and social deprivation. The funding was allocated across 13 of Salford's 20 wards. Projects were originally identified through the local community plans, where the community was consulted on the local projects they wanted. This includes transforming a derelict building into a community café, modernising dilapidated community centres and improving open spaces, parks, footpaths and play areas across Salford. By engaging in projects sought by the community, it is anticipated the improvements to the physical appearance of buildings and open spaces will generate a sense of pride, be less likely vandalised and be utilised by a wide variety of residents.

The projects will help build capacity, improve access and enhance the local environment and facilities.

North West

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Regeneration Department) was allocated a grant of £1,382,027 towards the Sefton Neighbourhood Transformation Programme, which concentrates on three core elements:

- land restoration through the enhancement of open spaces
- habitat creation through provision of an urban tree canopy
- restoration of inland waterways through the improvement of the Leeds/Liverpool canal.

In order to encourage sustainability and community ownership, there has been a strong emphasis on community involvement at all stages of the programme. Projects were chosen through an application process, after meeting the relevant Fund criteria and will be delivered by a mixture of internal and external agents. The Neighbourhood Regeneration Unit works closely with all partner agencies, in particular with Sefton Borough Partnership, which co-ordinates Sefton Council regeneration initiatives.

The following projects are live: Urban Oasis, Urban Trees for South Sefton, Green Gym/Allotments, Hatton Hill Park, Crossens Community Park, Transforming Spaces in Healthy Schools and Orrell Mount Park.

The Leeds/Liverpool Canal project is in the planning stage.

← Contact Details
Sefton Metropolitan
Borough Council

Kerry Mushrow
Fair Share & Admin
Co-ordinator
Sefton Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 0151 934 3482
Email:
[kerry.mushrow@
regen.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.mushrow@regen.sefton.gov.uk)

Contact Details →
St Helens
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Mark Canning
Regeneration
Projects Manager
St Helens Together

Tel: 01744 21515
Email:
[mcanning@sthelens
together.org.uk](mailto:mcanning@sthelens
together.org.uk)

St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

In April 2003, St Helens Together, the LSP for St Helens, was allocated £951,977 towards a Greener Spaces Programme centred on the Ward of Parr. The LSP's portfolio of projects within the programme has associated match funding of circa £3.5 million, which will be used to comprehensively improve the local environment.

The Greener Spaces Programme is to improve open spaces across the Parr Ward, the borough's most disadvantaged ward, enabling communities to make them safer, healthier, greener, cleaner, better designed, more welcoming and accessible to all. The areas and project ideas for the programme were developed through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund consultation arrangements, recognised environmental issues and Pathways consultation.

The programme currently consists of eight individual projects which began in November 2003 and will be completed by March 2007. These projects are principally being delivered by St Helens LSP Partners, St Helens Council, Helena Housing and Groundwork, all of whom are liaising closely with, the residents of the Parr Ward empowering and involving them to meet their needs and aspirations.

North West

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council was allocated £329,195. The total cost of the projects was £838,608. Match funders includes Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Countryside Agency (Doorstep Greens), West Pennine Housing Association, ERDF, Section 106, National Road Safety Initiative, Arts Council North West, and Tameside Children's Fund.

Areas targeted for assistance were within the council's declared regeneration areas. Local communities were canvassed to put forward schemes for improving their area, and two themes emerged: (1) small children's play and (2) improving the environment around communities.

Throughout the consultation period, local people have been involved in formulating ideas and designing their chosen scheme. Local businesses, children from local schools, elder members of the community, local police and resident groups have all contributed.

Three projects have benefited from the TYS funding. A Doorstep Green was created from a former housing clearance site within a new housing development. Another includes a Doorstep Green within a much larger recreation improvement scheme in a large social housing estate. The third is a mix of initiatives in a traditional terraced housing area consisting of community play, educational awareness, alleyway gating, arts based environmental schemes and road safety improvements.

← Contact Details
Tameside
Metropolitan Borough
Council

Jim Davies
Divisional Housing
Renewal Officer
Tameside MBC

Tel: 0161 343 7230
Email: jim.davies@
tameside.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Trafford Metropolitan
Borough Council

Melvyn Dawson
Senior Resource
Procurement Officer
Trafford MBC

Tel: 0161 912 4167
Email
melvyn.dawson
@trafford.gov.uk

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council was allocated £293,607, with match funding coming from Irwell Valley Housing Association.

Following consultation with the Trafford Neighbourhood Partnership (comprising community representatives from the most deprived neighbourhoods in the Borough) it was agreed that the three estates within St Martin's ward (Sale West, Manor and Devon), known collectively as the Sale Estates, should benefit from the funding.

Residents within the targeted area have suffered from social exclusion, poor environmental quality and increasing levels of anti-social behaviour and youth nuisance. To ensure community involvement in the development of the projects, it was agreed that an initial consultation exercise, involving residents of the three estates, should take place. A landscape architect subsequently identified a number of potential projects and these ideas were discussed with representatives from the Sale Estates Partnership. As a result, two priorities – reclamation of green spaces, routes through the estates – and a number of potential sites were identified.

A Design Steering Group was set up to develop the proposals further. This group arranged consultation events for local residents, shortlisted sites to be improved and agreed final plans.

North West

West Lancashire District Council

West Lancashire District Council was allocated £385,544. This is funding a small number of projects to effect improvements in the quality of the local environment in order to create community assets in public and green spaces of benefit to local people.

Projects were selected to complement local and regional strategies, embracing enhancements to the environment, leisure improvements and crime prevention initiatives. Following consultations within the community, the LSP selected two project ideas specifically targeting Skelmersdale, which has four wards falling into the worst 10 per cent in the index of deprivation. The Quality Access Routes aims to develop a network of high quality, safe and attractive multi-user access routes through Skelmersdale. The Teenzones project will create three designated recreation areas for teenagers and older children as there are limited leisure facilities for this age range.

Additional match funding has been sought and Lancashire County Council, Small Sites Reclamation, Living Spaces and residents have all contributed.

The local community has been encouraged to participate in the progress of the projects with estate management boards, resident committees and youth groups being consulted and asked for their input in terms of design and community requirements.

← Contact Details
West Lancashire
District Council

Gary Jones
Funded Programmes
Manager
West Lancs District
Council

Tel: 01695 712600
Email: gary.jones@
westlancsdc.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Wigan Borough
Council

Angela Foster
Programme Manager
– Wigan
Transforming Your
Space
Wigan Council
Planning &
Regeneration
Department

Tel: 01942 705517
Email: angela.foster
@wiganmbc.gov.uk

Wigan Borough Council

Wigan Borough Council was allocated £668,771. Total project costs were £1,016,282, and partnership funding from the North West Coalfield Communities Regeneration Programme, the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, Living Spaces, European Funding and local grants was subsequently secured.

Up to 12,000 people will benefit from the programme, which will help to regenerate 10 former coalfield areas in the east of the borough. These have suffered severe environmental, social and economic problems since the closure of the collieries that once existed close to these areas.

The council invited local groups and residents from the target areas to submit ideas for the programme and consultation was undertaken to find out residents' views. As a result a number of priorities became apparent. There was a need to improve: (1) community space (2) community health and safety and (3) access to surrounding countryside and recreational amenities.

The consultation identified 27 proposals that could address these priorities and best fit with the community plan developed through the LSP. The programme has now employed two Community Development Workers to work up the schemes with the community groups and local residents.

North West

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council was allocated a total grant of £1,242,688 for 14 individual projects. The total project costs came to £1.8 million, with match funding from Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Northwest Development Agency, Heritage Lottery Fund and various residents and community associations. There is a variety of projects – from children’s play to skate parks, to cycle-ways and a significant contribution to Wirral’s Bio-diversity Action Plan.

The projects were chosen by consultation with partners in the community and Friends groups representing communities using the parks. The final decision on the list of projects was chosen by the LSP and endorsed by the council’s cabinet.

The projects are geographically spread across Wirral with a strong emphasis on the more deprived areas of the borough.

The key stakeholders are Friends groups, local youth and community organisations, park users, cyclists and Wirral Bio-diversity Partnership.

The delivery organisations are Groundwork Wirral and the council’s Parks and Open Section, which co-ordinates and works alongside 27 Friends of Parks groups. Through the Friends Network, over 1,000 people are actively involved in making decisions about how Wirral’s parks are managed and developed.

← Contact Details
Wirral Metropolitan
Borough Council

Mike Garbutt
Project Officer
Wirral Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 0151 637 6208
Email: mikegarbutt@wirral.gov.uk



South East

Portsmouth City Council

The Portsmouth Regeneration team from the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Partnership worked with the LSP to select the projects to be proposed for this funding. £210,864 was allocated from the Fund, with match funding of £131,450 found by the partners – Wymering Methodist Church, Community Chest, Single Regeneration Budget and BTCV.

Milton Park and Bransbury Park

Skateparks This project, led by the Milton Neighbourhood Forum, started the ball rolling with inclusion of skateparks in the city.

Community Centre Safety Project

Wymering Methodist Church applied for funding to secure their community centre, renovate the structure and refurbish a wooden floor.

St Mary's Viewpoint A voluntary group living in social housing in Portsmouth wished to improve the play facilities within their boundaries for the use of children and young people living there.

Milton Piece This is a community allotment project that encourages people from the wider community to take part in growing fruit, vegetables and plants.

Arundel Court School Community

Environmental Project Parents, teachers, children and volunteers are making good use of ground within their school boundary, right in the heart of the city, turning part of it into a nature and activity trail.

← Contact Details
Portsmouth City
Council

Linda Taylor
Senior Economic
Regeneration Officer
Portsmouth City
Council

Tel: 023 928 41501
Email: linda.taylor@portsmouthcc.gov.uk





Case Study

Milton Piece – Community Allotment (Portsmouth)

Milton Piece is a community allotment that is run by its members and volunteers by committee. Portsmouth Council hold their finance and operate the payment of salaries for the two part-time development workers. £46,000 revenue from Big Lottery Fund will pay the workers for two and a half years. Matched funding from the city council has been contributed towards this project and includes time in kind from officers of the Prevention team. Members and volunteers are being helped towards independence so that they can apply for funding in their own right in the future.

Milton Piece has disabled access and gaining gardening skills and shared learning is encouraged. One aim of the project is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption by residents who live in inner-city communities. A number of Bangladeshi women are now looking to have a plot of their own to start a group that will grow a range of vegetables and demonstrate to themselves and others how to cook in traditional styles.

The development workers are crucial, bringing a wide range of practical expertise to the project. One volunteer who has mental health difficulties has found working on the project beneficial to his health.

A wooden shop and patio area has been added to the allotment.

A few break-ins have occurred to the tool sheds and stores, however, this is rare. The location of Milton Piece is near a quiet, residential area of the city. Gravel car parking is nearby to park cars and minibuses.

South East

Thanet District Council

Thanet District Council was allocated £404,821. Total project costs are £1,042,199, with partnership funding from Living Spaces, SRB, and Thanet District Council Waste and Recycling Section.

Community groups were asked to make an initial application through an expression of interest from outlining their particular project. These were thinned down to a practical list who were asked to provide more details and produce a proposal with estimated costs, which was examined by a sub group acting for the Thanet LSP.

The projects selected are community driven regeneration projects. They are looking to improve two existing bandstands, one in Margate and one in Ramsgate, while a third project is the improvement of a communal square providing play facilities, gardens and a recycling centre.

All projects are located within priority wards based on the indices of multiple deprivation, and all have had problems which have needed to be resolved. We are now entering the stage of widespread consultation to ensure that the whole community is being served by these projects, with the intention to start construction in 2005/06.

← Contact Details
Thanet District
Council

Sam Thomas
Regeneration
Manager
Thanet District
Council

Tel: 01843 577023
Email: sam.thomas
@thanet.gov.uk



South West

Bournemouth Borough Council

The grant from TYS entitled Working for Wallisdown totals £256,535. Three projects are being funded: a children's playground in Moore Avenue Park, a cycle path on Turbary Common and a multi-use games area in Moore Avenue Park. Bournemouth Borough Council has contributed £35,000 to the projects.

All three projects are in the Wallisdown area of North West Bournemouth. There has been a huge demand for improvements to the local environment for some time, and the concentration of effort has emanated from the local community shop, which is home for the West Howe Investing in People (WHIPS). This organisation has spearheaded the projects that form the TYS grant package. Bournemouth Borough Council has worked in partnership with WHIPS, as well as The Friends of Turbary Common, Henry Brown Youth Club, Sure Start, the Youth Service and St Phillip's Church.

The playground and cycle path have both been built and have been warmly received by the local communities. They are both well used and have helped improve the local environment and facilities for many people. The MUGA is due to be constructed in January 2005 and is aimed at providing facilities for older children and teenagers.

← Contact Details
Bournemouth
Borough Council

Sarah Kelly
Landscape Architect
Bournemouth
Borough Council

Tel: 01202 451189
Email: Sarah.Kelly@bournemouth.gov.uk

Contact Details →
North Somerset
Council

Graham Quick
Strategic Projects
Co-ordinator
North Somerset
Council

Tel: 01934 634 850
Email: graham.quick@n-somerset.gov.uk

North Somerset Council

As part of the long-term regeneration of Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset Council was allocated £225,000. The funds are to be spent over the next three years and will benefit two areas of the town: Orchard Meadows and the Bournville Estate.

The Orchard Meadows Enhancement Project seeks to enhance and revitalise the area through an integrated traffic management and urban design approach. The area is a secondary shopping area close to Weston-super-Mare town centre. Match funding has come from the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) and from the Local Transport Plan.

The scheme forms part of SWRDA's Civic Pride programme and is one of 11 projects which aim to upgrade the environment and make Weston town centre a far more desirable location for residents and tourists.

Coniston Play Area is located on the Bournville Estate in Weston-super-Mare. The estate has a high level of needs across a range of indicators. The project aims to restore and improve open space land adjacent to a planned healthy living centre. The key elements are to demolish an existing redundant building, restore open space and create a community park. Match funders include Sure Start, Doorstep Greens, Living Spaces and local development.

South West

Swindon Borough Council

Swindon Borough Council was allocated £256,535. Total project costs were £377,363. Partnership funding was received from Living Spaces, Swindon Borough Council and the Parks and Walcot Neighbourhood Renewal Board.

The areas targeted for funding were statistically the most disadvantaged in Swindon. Parks and Walcot had recently been awarded renewal funding from the South West Regional Development Agency and full community consultation had been undertaken so suitable projects were already identified. The Central area has the highest black and minority ethnic residents in Swindon and experiences social issues such as prostitution, drug dealing and rough sleepers.

A working group consisting of Swindon Borough Council officers and representatives from outside organisations met to consider 18 expressions of interest received from community groups, ward councillors and youth and community workers. Following this process the LSP recommended eight projects in the Central and Parks and Walcot areas.

The projects vary from the provision and improvement of play areas and open spaces, to improved street lighting and waste management and public art.

← Contact Details
Swindon Borough
Council

Gillian Morris
Community Education
Officer
Swindon Borough
Council

Tel: 01793 463708
Email: gmorris@swindon.gov.uk





Case Study

Children's Playground in Moore Avenue Park (Bournemouth)

The project has capital funding of £125,000 and revenue funding of £8,865 spread over three years. The capital funding is to pay for the construction of a children's playground on what was an ex-bowling green and its surroundings. The revenue funding has so far been used for training of the local community, which included a 'planning day' to get the community group to agree how to organise themselves, forming a Friends of Moore Avenue Park Group. There have been a couple of celebrations too, with a turf cutting ceremony at the beginning of the project and an opening party when the playground was completed. The project aims are to provide up-to-date play facilities for both young and older children in a safe and stimulating environment. The playground is located in a small park surrounded by public housing. The area has high levels of unemployment and anti-social behaviour, and single parents struggle against the odds to raise their children the best way they can.

The delivery organisation is Bournemouth Borough Council, working most closely with The West Howe Network (WHIPS) which is a local community organisation, plus Sure Start, The Henry Brown Youth Club, The Youth Service, St Phillip's Church.

The community has been involved from the start, with regular meetings with the WHIPS at the Elmrise School. Consultation exercises have been carried out for over a year at all local events in or near the park itself, including St Phillip's Church 50th Birthday celebrations and the West Howe Safety Day, an annual event.

The beneficiaries are the local children and their parents who now have a wonderful new playground, with play equipment that they have chosen themselves.

The feedback has been excellent. In fact, the playground has been a victim of its own success with queues forming for the most popular pieces of equipment! Graffiti and vandalism has been minimal, and the local community regularly holds litter and stone picking sessions. Because the play equipment is new and exciting, parents are staying in the playground and helping their children and with the comfortable seating, picnics are often seen. The design process proved to be quite 'organic', in that changes were made on the way, and people did change their minds!

West Midlands

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council was awarded £372,198 and has been successful in securing match funding from Section 106, Neighbourhood Renewal Funds, building surveyor contribution and the council's own resources.

The funding is being channelled into three projects that will transform a range of local parks and nature reserves. The first project focuses on Priory Park, the second on Grange Park and the third, a multi-site project, on nine different parks throughout the area.

Similar works are being carried out at both Priory Park and Grange Park. Funding will pay for a multi-use games area, a play facility for younger children and improved information and security measures – signage, improved entranceways, security fencing and anti-car/motorbike barriers. Funding will also pay for community events within the park. The multi-site park project will largely focus on improved information, security and community events at each of the parks.

Consultation work was carried out in order to develop plans in conjunction with the local communities and existing 'friends' groups. All projects were then approved by the LSP. Projects are now underway, physical improvements have begun and fun days and other events have taken place.

← Contact Details Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Sally Orton
Head of Arts,
Heritage and Parks,
Dudley Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 01384 818181
Email: sally.orton
@dudley.gov.uk

Contact Details → Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Rob Marlow
Senior Strategy &
Resources Officer
Sandwell
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 0121 569 3724
Email: robert_marlow
@sandwell.gov.uk

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell was awarded £1,978,138 for a new programme of environmental improvements. A steering group comprising individuals from local voluntary, statutory and charitable organisations was formed to oversee the work.

The steering group needed to develop a number of projects and assistance was sought from the local community, voluntary sector, and Sandwell's six Town Teams (the Town Teams were developing their local Action Plans at the time). Three criteria were agreed as the focus for the programme's efforts. These were to:

- combat anti-social behaviour and rising crime
- encourage and improve access to facilities and services
- create things for young people to do.

Fifteen exciting, innovative and sometimes risky projects directly responding to community need were assembled. Projects include the creation of community gardens, installing fun park facilities and reinstating a Victorian canal towpath. Projects are located throughout Sandwell and are being delivered by statutory, voluntary and community based organisations. A total of £850,000 match funding has been secured. See case study on page 36.

West Midlands

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

The full allocation of £613,905 to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council was set aside for a number of discrete improvements to Meriden Park. The 11-hectare site forms part of a Green Corridor that stretches from the Birmingham boundary through to north Solihull, linking the local town centre to green space.

Within the park, Meriden Lake has been a long-standing problem for many years. The funding allows positive intervention in direct response to local community needs, as represented by the LSP, and will lift the environmental standard of the park, providing an excellent facility for all sectors of the community.

Improvements include lake restoration and reclamation, wildlife and habitat works, play provision and woodland restoration. Further funding is being sought to support the reclamation, including weir restoration, landscaping and reed planting.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council will undertake the maintenance of the lake and has wide reaching plans to promote the park as a premier focal point of community life. In partnership with Groundwork and the Council's own Green Scheme, innovative environmental education work will take place, raising awareness of environmental issues helping to sustain the park, its amenities and wildlife for the foreseeable future.

← Contact Details
Solihull Metropolitan
Borough Council

David O'Donnell
Best Value and
Procurement
Manager
Solihull Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 0121 704 6437
Email: dodonnell@
solihull.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Telford and Wrekin

Peter Jackson
Community
Development
Manager Borough of
Telford and Wrekin

Tel: 01952 202238
Email: Peter.Jackson
@telford.gov.uk

Telford and Wrekin

The Borough of Telford and Wrekin was allocated £299,538. Total project costs were £378,878, with partnership funding being provided by Wrekin Housing Trust, Single Regeneration Budget, Seed Challenge Funds and Home Office Capital Modernisation Fund.

Under the indices of multiple deprivation, the six most deprived neighbourhoods (comprising nine wards) in Telford were identified. Neighbourhood co-ordinators were appointed to work with Neighbourhood Action Teams (NAT's) in each of the wards. Working in consultation with the community and key agencies, the NAT has pulled together a local action planning process, reflecting important issues of concern and action being taken to address them. There are five theme groups addressing specific actions, including children and young people and community safety, housing and the environment.

Three specific projects were developed to address a range of local issues and concerns in each of the neighbourhoods. These included graffiti removal, removal of fly-tipped material, landscape improvements, security and safety measures and the provision of children's play facilities. The aim was to prevent deterioration of the environment and develop sustainable local facilities and improve the quality of life.

West Midlands

Case Study

Provision of skateboard park, Victoria Park – Tipton (Sandwell)

“Getting the skateboard park is the best thing that’s happened to me”, said Danny Gearing, a young Tipton resident, of the skateboard park on opening day in October 2004.

Young people in Tipton love wheels; whether it’s skateboards, BMX’s or in-line skates you’ll see them in action. The problem was, with no purpose-built facilities, the town centre had become an unofficial skate park causing upset to shoppers and shopkeepers alike.

Eventually local youths got together and presented a petition to the Tipton Town Committee asking for a skateboard park to be created in Victoria Park. They worked tirelessly with Town Team members, the Friends Group at Victoria Park and with council officers to draw up a project that could be considered for TYS funding.

Not only did TYS come up with £120,000, but Sandwell Council managed to add £35,000 to help pay for equipment and running costs.

With funding in place there was no holding back. Local youths helped to create detailed plans and select contractors, the construction phase was turned around quickly and the new facility was opened in October 2004. The atmosphere on the opening day is impossible to describe, but it was an experience that few will ever forget!

The skateboard park is more than just 13 ramps and a grind rail. It has changed peoples lives forever and is actively bringing together different sectors of the community. Long may it continue!





David Scarlett – also known as the 'Tipton Flip' – at the project launch.

Contact Details→
Walsall Metropolitan
Borough Council

Ms Kauser Agha
TYS Co-ordinator
Walsall Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 01922 652538
Email: AghaK@
walsall.gov.uk

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Walsall Council has been allocated £1,748,294 to back 14 projects that will raise the quality of life for citizens in disadvantaged communities and young people across the borough. The total cost of the projects is £2.7 million, with match funding coming a variety of sources, including the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Walsall Council.

Walsall's LSP approved the schemes: six district projects and eight initiatives benefiting disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Walsall's application targeted two distinct types of recipient. The LSP identified 11 priority areas, based on a neighbourhood needs analysis, while the second strand focussed on improving play and recreational facilities for the hard-to-reach group, under 19's across the borough.

People were consulted through a steering group and the council's district committees, as well as on-site consultations following press coverage and leafleting, Play Train (independent consultants), the Friends Group network and various other community groups and organisations.

Yorkshire & the Humber

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Barnsley received £1.3 million. The total project costs are £1,202,500 and match funding has been secured from various sources including the local authority and the Rural Target Fund. Other match funding opportunities are still being pursued.

Eight projects have been selected, of which five are urban park schemes. Three of these have fallen into disrepair and have suffered vandalism and misuse. The other two parks were chosen for their potential to become flagship parks for Barnsley, giving local people a taste of what urban public parks can provide for a local community. Friends Groups are seen as vital to the success and sustainability of the park projects and they are involved in every stage of the project.

Two projects involve community buildings in rural communities that are at risk of isolation from activities and services. One is a new Children's Centre; the second will renovate a community hall for local villagers.

Finally, the Biodiversity Scheme will implement aspects of Barnsley's Biodiversity Action Plan. This project is a mix of volunteer involvement, habitat improvements and survey work. It will also link with the urban parks projects to try and increase the biodiversity of park landscapes.

← Contact Details
Barnsley
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Samantha Robb-King
Transforming Your
Space Development
Officer
Barnsley
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 01226 773752
Email:
SamanthaRobb-King
@barnsley.gov.uk





Case Study

Worsbrough Dale Park (Barnsley)

Worsbrough Dale Park had been identified as the third worst park in Barnsley due to its lack of facilities and community involvement.

The park is in an ex-coal mining community, which is recovering from the loss of its main industry. Use of the park had slowly diminished as the last pieces of equipment were taken out due to health and safety issues.

A handful of local people recognised the park's potential to be at the heart of the community, providing a green space, opportunities for play and socialising and an attractive place that raises civic pride. Friends of Dale Park was formed in 2003.

The £125,000 TYS funding has given the Friends Group a focus and it has grown and developed over the last year, putting on successful community events and applying for grant funding to match the TYS funding.

The council is working in partnership with the Friends to deliver the TYS project. So far we have consulted the local community, prioritised the identified park improvements and created a brief for the landscape architect. As improvements start to be seen on site it will be essential to keep local people informed and to encourage people to come out of their houses to see the new park and make it their own.

Friends of Dale Park know that the TYS funding will not pay for all the improvements that local people have asked for. As part of the sustainability strategy for the TYS programme the TYS officers will be working with the Friends Group to write a five year management plan for the park that can be used to plan future phases of improvements and draw down additional funding.

Yorkshire & the Humber

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Doncaster Strategic Partnership was awarded just over £2.1 million.

The whole of Doncaster has suffered from the closure of all of its mines, the outer areas where men worked in the mines and centrally where people managed the industry.

The TYS programme will help the areas that lost community facilities by helping to replace them. The environment scarred by mining needs to be managed and turned into a community resource. Within the urban centre, communities that need support suffer because of the area's lack of resources to deal with all of the social and environmental deprivation across the borough.

An original list of 64 projects arose from Local Community Action Planning and research funded by SRB to assess the feasibility of proposed projects. A sub group of the Strategic Partnership, the Funding Co-ordination Group made up of representatives of Statutory Agencies and community representatives then reviewed the long list and recommended the final projects. The eight active projects have the potential to attract matching funds of around £6 million.

The aims of projects fall into three categories:

- coalfield communities reinvigoration
- rural renaissance
- neighbourhood rejuvenation.

← Contact Details
Doncaster
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Martin Kendall
External Funding &
Lottery Officer
Doncaster
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 01302 735773
Email:
Martin.Kendall@
doncaster.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Kingston upon Hull
City Council

David Brooks
Local Agenda 21
Policy Manager
Kingston upon Hull
City Council

Tel: 01482 613320
Email: Dave.Brooks
@hullcc.gov.uk

Kingston upon Hull City Council

Kingston upon Hull received a grant allocation of £1,841,715 and match funding currently stands at £1,985,217.

There are currently 11 projects: seven are well on track but four require details to be further worked up. Topic areas include: a heritage building upgrade for art purposes; a heritage trail in an estate built about 10 years ago; three wildlife/conservation projects looking to develop about 40 sites between them; the re-establishment of an adventure playground; the provision of a prestigious state of the art architectural centre; a project to revitalise an outer estate allotment site; a children's playground; the refurbishment of a leaking swimming pool for a canoe club.

One hundred expressions of interest were received, 36 bids were made and 11 projects were selected by the Environment Sub-Board of the LSP. The projects are situated across the city.

Members of the community have been involved from the beginning, have become more familiar with bid preparation and now with project delivery. Local people are targeted to benefit from the developments and these vary from communities of interest (e.g. canoeists and artists) to geographical communities.



Kirklees Metropolitan Council

Kirklees Metropolitan Council was allocated £734,017 for the following three priority projects, which are targeting communities in areas of Kirklees with high levels of deprivation.

1. Community Allotments for Health and Wellbeing – a group of selected community led projects centred on abandoned allotments and areas of disused open space.
2. River Corridor Greenways – improving the network of green spaces and greenways along river corridors.
3. A World in your Pocket – a demonstration project to develop a school ground at Ashbrow Infant and Nursery School, to be used as a model for environmental development across seven other schools in North Kirklees.

Partnership funding was soon secured from Environment Concern, Kirklees Council's Leisure and Recreation Department and the Landfill Tax credit scheme.

Community consultation was carried out at a TYS workshop, where 27 people from a wide range of community organisations came together to identify potential projects to address their area's needs. These were then submitted to the Kirklees Environment Partnership for further consultation and then onto the Local Strategic Partnership to ensure they were in line with the priorities of the community strategy.

← Contact Details
Kirklees Metropolitan Council

Kathy Cartwright
Environment Officer
(Partnerships)
Kirklees Metropolitan Council

Tel: 01484 223490

Email:
kathy.cartwright@kirklees.gov.uk

Contact Details →
North East Lincolnshire Council

Glenn Greetham
Neighbourhood Improvement Manager - Operations
North East Lincolnshire Council

Tel: 01472 325713

Email:
glenn.greetham@nelincs.gov.uk

North East Lincolnshire Council

North East Lincolnshire Council received £458,204 towards the costs of its Shaping The Environment programme. It aims to raise a further £200,000 in match funding from other sources including ERDF, Forestry Commission and the Liveability Fund.

The scheme aims to improve the quality of the environment by tackling derelict sites and improving open spaces in the North East, South and Marsh wards, the three most disadvantaged wards in the borough. The priorities were identified through consultation on the council's community strategy and were agreed by the LSP.

The scheme comprises 12 projects within two main themes. Neat Streets is being led by the council and aims to improve the street scene, open up overgrown and dangerous rights of way and public paths, and run anti-litter and fly-tipping campaigns. It will also upgrade parks and gardens, clean up the River Freshney and plant trees in urban areas linked to the Freshney Forest. CERT, a local community organisation, is responsible for Site Busters which aims to tackle highly visible sites that are areas of concern to local people. The projects enable the sites to be cleared and will develop new uses such as green gyms, pocket gardens and wildlife sites.

Ongoing community engagement and ownership are an underlying principle of the programme.

Yorkshire & the Humber

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council was allocated £900,050 and total project costs have been matched with further funding from a number of other sources.

Four project areas agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership target provision in green spaces across the borough, working in partnership with community groups.

The projects were identified as a result of demonstrable community need.

They are: 1) improving children's play, providing new play areas in six Neighbourhood Renewal Fund wards; 2) skateboard parks, providing a strategic network of five skate parks across the borough; 3) Coronation Park in Maltby, creating a range of facilities in the park; 4) Rosehill Hall in Rawmarsh, bringing a semi-derelict park hall into community use. Facilities in green spaces have suffered greatly over the past 20 years and this programme addresses some of the key areas of need.

A feature of this approach is partnership working. Three of the projects have steering groups, all of them have working groups in place. These are comprised of local representatives and other organisations. This has been backed up with consultation programmes as appropriate. Development rangers are in place in two parks and are reporting to their respective steering groups. Detached youth workers are assisting in problem areas.

← Contact Details

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Nick Barnes
Principal Project
Development Officer
Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Tel: 01709 823669
Email: nick.barnes@rotherham.gov.uk

Contact Details →
Wakefield
Metropolitan District
Council

Jonathan Hall
Head of Regeneration
& Economic
Development
Wakefield MDC

Tel: 01924 305827
Email: jhall@wakefield.gov.uk

Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Wakefield was allocated a total of £1,089,000. Match funding for the programme has come from a wide variety of sources, including: Children's Fund, SRB6, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, ERDF, Arts Council, WREN, Countryside Agency, Learning Skills Council and Wakefield District Council.

The TYS projects were based on the following themes identified during research undertaken for the District's emerging Green-space Strategy: 1) community play areas; 2) community parks; 3) community allotments; 4) urban green spaces.

Through community consultation, it was agreed that areas of deprivation were to be prioritised. Community groups were then supported to identify and submit projects to improve these run-down areas, around the four themes.

The resulting integrated programme of community initiatives in the most deprived neighbourhoods are:

- community play area initiatives in Havercroft, Ryhill and Lupset
- community parks initiative in Castleford
- community allotment initiatives in Agbrigg, Eastmoor and Lupset
- urban green space initiatives – in College Grove and at Castleford Waterfront.



The Future

As well as merging the work of the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund, the Big Lottery Fund will also take on the Millennium Commission's residuary responsibilities and role in supporting large scale regeneration projects. Overall, we will be responsible for distributing half the funding that the Lottery raises for good causes (about £500-£600 million a year between 2005-09). The broad themes and outcomes around which we will deliver our funding are: community learning and creating opportunity; promoting community safety and cohesion promoting well-being. These will give focus to our funding, but leave us plenty of scope and flexibility to add value and to develop appropriate and effective programmes, working closely with stakeholders. The themes will be underpinned by four key outcomes, one of which is enhanced rural and urban environments, that communities are better able to access and enjoy. We want everyone to be able to enjoy clean, safe, high quality and well maintained community facilities and public spaces wherever they live. We want to enable communities to take the initiative themselves in improving their public spaces and tackling local environmental problems we hope we can build on the achievements and lessons of Fair Share: Transforming Your Space to do this.

