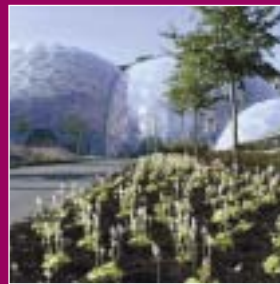




OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

REVIEW OF

AREA BASED INITIATIVES



Impacts and Outcomes
June 2003



ABI REVIEW: PROGRESS AND IMPACT

This report demonstrates the progress that has been made since publication of the ABI Review in October 2002, including the impact on those delivering programmes.

The Review, led by the Regional Co-ordination Unit (RCU), set out to streamline the delivery of initiatives, reduce complexity and produce a consistent and better co-ordinated set of arrangements in each area.

The Review also contained a commitment to significantly reduce the number of separate funding streams (without reducing the total amount of funding). This progress report delivers on that commitment by reducing the number of funding streams by almost a half. Some Departments have been able to go further in merging, simplifying and bringing to an end more of their schemes than was first envisaged, leading to a greater reduction in the bureaucratic burden on front line delivery partners.

With the Government Offices, the RCU will also continue to work closely with Departments to ensure that when new initiatives are introduced they fully comply with the RCU's guidance on the co-ordination of ABIs.

Initiatives reviewed	Key Recommendations (Oct 2002)	Impact & Outcomes (May 2003)
1. Health Inequalities		
Health Action Zones	To be mainstreamed and learning disseminated.	Resources for Health Action Zones have been allocated to Primary Care Trusts in the HAZ localities, with the aim that resources should be used to further the HAZ way of working, in particular to address health inequalities. The dissemination process will ensure that <u>all</u> PCTs are able to learn and adopt the best aspects of the HAZ way of working.
NOF's Healthy Living Centres	To be more closely co-ordinated with mainstream health services.	Mainstreaming, underpinned by a development and support contract, is taking place through regional networking events, to ensure closer co-ordination between HLCs and the mainstream.
2. Support for Community Groups		
Community Chests (incorporating Community Learning Chests)	Community Chests (inc. Community Learning Chests) and Community Empowerment Fund to be incorporated into a single Neighbourhood Renewal Unit funding channel.	The NRU is consulting externally on the proposal that the Community Empowerment Fund, Community Chests and Community Learning Chests should be brought together into a single community programme. This would enhance local flexibility, simplify the funding streams and contribute to improving the impact of the schemes. Common application form and monitoring and evaluation of small grants will simplify access and reduce red tape. By combining funds, the single pot pilot in Wolverhampton and Herefordshire will reduce bureaucracy, build community capacity in those areas and make it easier for voluntary and community organisations to access and administer small grants.
Community Empowerment Fund	Active Community Unit to lead work on defining purpose of providing support for community groups and to simplify access to community funding streams.	
Community Champions Fund	Pilot of single pot of 3 funds plus others in West Midlands.	

Initiatives reviewed	Key Recommendations (Oct 2002)	Impact & Outcomes (May 2003)
3. Public Space		
Home Zones	Not to be renewed as separate grant programme.	Future Home Zones will be funded using mainstream (local) resources, for example the Single Capital Pot.
Neighbourhood Wardens	To be merged into a single Neighbourhood Renewal Unit Wardens scheme funding channel.	The three wardens funding streams (including Street Crime Wardens) have been merged from April 2003.
Street Wardens		This has removed confusion at the local level about the variety of funding streams and simplified administration arrangements. As central funding draws to a close, NRU are disseminating best practice and delivering training and support to ensure as many of the effective schemes are mainstreamed as possible from April 2004 onwards.
Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities Initiative	To be more closely co-ordinated with mainstream and other "liveability" programmes.	Closer co-ordination between GOs and NOF award partners is ensuring greater coherence between related programmes on the ground.
4. Children's initiatives		
Sure Start	Structural change was considered through Children at Risk Cross Cutting Review and the Childcare Review. Steering Group recommended continuing as separate initiatives in the short term but also steps to join up planning and delivery and harmonised monitoring arrangements. Following the Childcare Review, the Government created a new unit with responsibility for Sure Start, Neighbourhood Nurseries and Early Excellence Centres. The new unit to set early target for mainstreaming Sure Start.	The first steps in streamlining finance and cutting bureaucracy have already taken place, with fewer, more focused targets for Local Authorities and half the number of ring fenced grants.
Neighbourhood Nurseries		The monitoring/reporting burdens on front line Sure Start local programme staff will be reduced by two thirds.
Early Excellence Centres		The Sure Start Unit and the Children and Young Peoples Unit are working closer together to ensure that there is consistency in the monitoring of the range of children's initiatives, leading to resource savings in staff time, development of IT systems and the ability to compare the impact and effectiveness of initiatives.
Children's Fund		
NOF's childcare and learning initiatives		
5. Education initiatives		
Education Action Zones (in the context of Excellence in Cities)	Action to disseminate lessons learned from EAZs, ensure smooth integration into Excellence in Cities and link the initiatives into wider local agendas through working with Government Offices and the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit.	DfES have removed the requirement to produce the Transformation Outline Plan twelve months before the statutory end of the EAZ. The guidance on the future of EIC Action Zones and Excellence Clusters has been significantly reduced.

Initiatives reviewed	Key Recommendations (Oct 2002)	Impact & Outcomes (May 2003)
6. Regeneration funding programmes		
New Deal for Communities	To be incorporated into the proposed new streamlined Neighbourhood Renewal Unit funding arrangements.	The NRU is streamlining bureaucratic processes — for example by establishing a single performance management process for all ongoing neighbourhood renewal activities, including NDC.
Neighbourhood Management Business Brokers	To be incorporated in one of the proposed new Neighbourhood Renewal Unit funding channels.	Have both been incorporated, along with the Wardens and Community Programmes (see above), within the NRU New Ventures Fund providing greater flexibility to switch resources between the strands in order to match the needs of those receiving funding.
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	To be incorporated into the proposed new streamlined Neighbourhood Renewal Unit funding arrangements.	Continuity of Neighbourhood Renewal funding has been confirmed to the 88 NRF areas, giving recipients certainty about the resources available to them to deliver local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies.
Coalfields	Delivery partners to co-ordinate with other funding streams.	Greater flexibility has been introduced for the EP coalfields programme allowing EP to fund projects that would benefit the coalfield communities in areas outside of the immediate site boundaries and to work more closely with other regeneration and renewal programmes.
European Regional Development Fund	Enhanced co-ordination by Government Office teams with other regeneration funds.	Closer working between European teams and regeneration and renewal teams within GOs has made access to funding easier and more streamlined, with a greater focus on outcomes rather than outputs.
Housing Market Renewal Fund (now known as the Market Renewal Pathfinder scheme)	To be assessed by RCU/Government Offices prior to detailed roll out.	<p>The RCU and Government Offices assessed the Market Renewal Pathfinder initiative. Input from the GOs contributed to it being designed and implemented in a way that gives flexibility to the local sub-regional areas.</p> <p>This allows pathfinders to develop governance and delivery arrangements that take account of their local context, and encourage co-ordination with related schemes in the pathfinder area.</p>
Single Regeneration Budget	Rationalised as part of the Regional Development Agency Single Pot.	<p>Rationalisation in the single pot has given local partnerships the freedom and flexibility to discuss with the RDAs how procedures, such as the appraisal of projects, can be better coordinated with other local initiatives.</p> <p>A significant reduction in the bureaucracy associated with SRB (the collection of output data) has also been agreed, and will free up local partnerships to concentrate on delivery.</p>

Initiatives reviewed	Key Recommendations (Oct 2002)	Impact & Outcomes (May 2003)
7. Employment initiatives		
Action Teams for Jobs Ethnic Minority Outreach Service Employment Zones	Best practice to be mainstreamed where appropriate.	Examples of best practice already mainstreamed include the <i>Advisor Discretionary Fund</i> and <i>Travel to Interview</i> funding, which give Jobcentre Plus personal advisers the flexibility they need to help a wider range of customers into work, for instance making more help with job search and interview costs available to more people.
StepUp	To be co-ordinated with other renewal initiatives.	DWP currently evaluating the effectiveness of this approach.
8. Crime Reduction initiatives		
Communities Against Drugs Safer Communities Initiative Partnership Development Fund	To be brought within a common funding framework.	Plans for bringing CAD, SCI and PDF into a single funding pot, allowing much greater flexibility to local partnerships on how to tackle crime in their area, will be announced by the Home Office on 10 June.
Small Retailers in Deprived Areas		Programme to be closed 2003/04, although local partnerships will have discretion to continue to spend resources on similar projects.
Recovered Assets Fund	Home Office to review operation of the fund.	Programme closed 2003. Impact is a reduction in the administrative burden, which should help to improve delivery of ongoing funding programmes.
Crime Reduction Programme	Programme ending, lessons to be disseminated.	Programme closed 2003. Lessons being disseminated to CDRPs and other partner agencies through the Crime Reduction College.
Youth Inclusion Programme	To work more closely with local crime reduction partnerships.	Closer links in place between crime reduction and Youth Justice Board funding.
Single Local Management Centres		
All funding streams	To identify and address the bureaucratic barriers to programme delivery from the bottom up, and to streamline management arrangements in each selected area.	A dozen local areas have been developing proposals for simplified management arrangements. The bureaucratic burdens associated with schemes including Sure Start and SRB have already been significantly reduced. More progress is expected soon.

For more information on area based initiatives go to
www.rcu.gov.uk/abi
or contact the ABI team on
020 7217 3186



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