Summary

1.1 The report gives details of the proposed New Cross Gate New Deal for Communities (NDC) Year Ten programme. Details of the programme are contained within the Year Ten Delivery Plan budget attached as appendix one.

1.2 As the accountable body for the New Cross Gate NDC programme the Council needs to be satisfied that the Delivery Plan is fit for purpose.

1.3 The current Year Ten Delivery Plan text is subject to final drafting amendments and therefore delegated approval is sought for the Executive Director of Regeneration to approve the final draft.

1.4 Further delegated approvals are sought as detailed within section four of this report to ensure that the programme can be delivered effectively.

Purpose of the report

2.1 This report provides details of the New Cross Gate New Deal for Communities Year Ten Delivery Plan with reference to previous approvals for delivery plans in earlier years.

2.2 The Government Office for London (GOL) requires all NDC’s to produce an annual delivery plan that sets out a breakdown of the funding required.

2.3 The London Borough of Lewisham is the accountable body for the New Cross Gate New Deal for Communities and as such it needs to ensure that the delivery plan is in accordance with NDC objectives and financial regulations that govern the NDC programme. It also needs to have confidence that the programme is well thought out and deliverable.
2.4 This report seeks approval for recommendations as detailed under paragraph four.

3 Policy Context

3.1 The purpose of the New Cross Gate NDC funding is to maximise inward investment and external funding to secure the physical, social, economic and environmental regeneration of the New Cross Gate area of the Borough.

The NDC seeks to work in partnership with the statutory, community, private and voluntary sector agencies to secure regeneration and neighbourhood renewal. In particular the objectives of the NDC help to fulfil a number of key policy objectives of the Council and its strategic partners with particular reference to:

Sustainable Community Strategy

*Ambitious and achieving*: where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential

*Empowered and responsible*: where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to tolerant, caring and supportive local communities

*Clean, green and liveable*: where people live in affordable, high quality and adaptable housing, have access to green spaces and take responsibility for their impact on the environment

*Healthy, active and enjoyable*: where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being, supported by high quality health and care services, leisure, culture and recreational activities

*Safer*: where people feel safe throughout the borough and are able to live lives free from crime, anti-social behaviour and abuse

*Dynamic and prosperous*: where people are part of vibrant and creative localities and town centres, well-connected to London and beyond

Council policy priorities

- community leadership and empowerment — developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community
- young people’s achievement and involvement — raising educational attainment and improving facilities for young people through partnership working
- clean, green and liveable — improving environmental management, the cleanliness and care for roads and pavements and promoting a sustainable environment
- safety, security and a visible presence — partnership working with the police and others and using the Council’s powers to combat anti-social behaviour
- strengthening the local economy — gaining resources to regenerate key localities, strengthen employment skills and promote public transport
- decent homes for all – investment in social and affordable housing to achieve the Decent Homes Standard, tackle homelessness and supply key worker housing
- active, healthy citizens – leisure, sporting, learning and creative activities for everyone

4 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

4.1 approves the submission of the New Cross Gate NDC Year Ten Delivery Plan to the Government Office for London (GOL);

4.2 delegates authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration to approve the final form of the delivery plan to be submitted to GOL;

4.3 delegates authority to the Executive Director for Resources to negotiate and approve, and for her and another senior officer to sign the resulting funding agreement with GOL if the submission is successful.

4.4 delegates authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration (on the advice of the Executive Director for Resources) where the amount of proposed expenditure exceeds £249,999 to approve projects, release of funding and other expenditure to be incurred in accordance with agreed delivery plans where the total amount of the proposed expenditure does not exceed £500,000;

4.5 notes the arrangements for the delivery of projects and the proposed arrangements for reporting to the Council on progress in year Ten.

5 Background

5.1 The NDC programme is a flagship government regeneration programme introduced in 1998 to tackle social exclusion and to take forward the ideas that are contained in the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal.

5.2 Lewisham was invited to prepare a bid for submission under the NDC programme in November 1999. The initial bid (Phase one) was submitted in April 2000. Phase one concentrated on selecting an appropriate neighbourhood (New Cross Gate) and identifying the key issues for that neighbourhood within the core NDC themes of tackling crime, health, educational attainment and worklessness. For New Cross Gate, an additional theme of transport, housing and the environment was included in the Phase one bid.

5.3 New Cross Gate was chosen as the most suitable area in Lewisham for NDC because in addition to its high deprivation scores, it is strongly
perceived by local people as an identifiable geographical neighbourhood with a high potential for improvement. The delivery plan proposes actions that together will help transform the physical neighbourhood of New Cross Gate into a proud, confident, tolerant, healthy, skilled, active, ambitious and safe community.

5.4 The Government approved the Phase one bid in June 2000 and Lewisham Challenge Partnership (LCP) was invited to work with the local community to develop the proposals into a full delivery plan, to be submitted by March 16 2001. Grant aid of £245,000 was made available to LCP by GOL to support Phase two of putting the Delivery Plan together.

5.5 Executive Committee on 21 February 2001 approved the submission of the Delivery Plan to GOL. GOL approved the Delivery Plan in October 2001 with grant funds of £45million over 10 years. During Phase two, the delivery team successfully established a Shadow Board.

5.6 The programme is designed to invest physically in the area, through a wide range of projects covering a variety of themes, but it is also intended to bring people together and to utilise the energy, enthusiasm, imagination and perseverance of local people. The neighbourhood is rich in ethnic and cultural diversity, and the local community is keen to influence and shape delivery of the programme and to develop a robust local neighbourhood management model.

5.7 The programme has also been designed to bend and further target mainstream spending in the New Cross Gate area by the end of the programme. The injection of NDC funding is seen as a means of raising personal aspirations, unlocking the hidden potential of the area and challenging traditional ways of delivering services.

6 Year Nine Programme

6.1 The year nine programme saw the NDC deliver a range of significant successes across the whole range of strategic objectives. New Cross Gate is rated as an ‘Excellent’ NDC, one of only three in the region (out of 10) to receive this grade.

6.2 The NDC Centre is the flagship project for the NDC programme and despite gaining planning permission and completing site assembly the project is not in delivery due to delays caused by the economic downturn.

6.3 However, progress is being made in negotiating a new development agreement with a new developer and this will be subject to a separate report to Mayor and Cabinet. The delay in the procurement of the NDC Centre is the only significant setback to the year nine NDC programme.
6.4 In addition to the delivery of the NDC grant funded programme year nine saw the NDC make significant steps towards the development and implementation of the NDC succession strategy. The strategy has been approved by Mayor and Cabinet and is awaiting final approval from the responsible Minister prior to full implementation.

7 Year Ten Programme

7.1 The key priorities for the year ten programme are split between the successful completion of the grant funded programme and the successful implementation of the NDC Succession Strategy.

7.2 In terms of the grant programme the NDC’s key priority will be the completion of the major and minor roads schemes which will help transform the new Cross Gate area as a place to live. Coupled with this the NDC will be making further improvements to retail premises in the main high street and continuing our efforts to secure an agreement to develop the NDC centre. These three projects form the core of the NDC’s major works programme and its strategy to improve the environment and local economy.

7.3 The NDC will also be publishing its end of programme review, currently being undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University who were the lead organisation for the national NDC programme evaluation due for publication shortly.

7.4 In terms of the succession strategy the NDC are awaiting final approval from the responsible Minister and are now concentrating on establishing clear policies and procedures for the successor body, the New Cross Gate Trust.

7.5 The NDC will be recruiting new staff for the Trust once final approval from the responsible Minister has been obtained. The NDC’s succession strategy is supported by five thematic strategies which set out what the Trust wants to achieve and how it intends to do it.

7.6 The NDC’s Delivery Plan sets out what it will be doing during the coming year and provides key information about its approach, its projects and its finances. It concentrates on what the NDC intends to do and how it will do it, rather than giving detailed information about performance and strategies.

7.7 Detailed information on the Year Nine Programme and an analysis of the NDC’s previous strategies and projects will be summarised in separate documents to be published in due course – the 2009/10 Annual Report and our 2009/10 Programme evaluation.
7.8 It should be noted that Year Ten is the final year of the NDC. Winding down arrangements are already in hand and full details of this process can be found within the NDC’s Succession Strategy.

8 Financial Implications

8.1 The London Borough of Lewisham (LBL) is acting in the capacity of the Accountable Body for the NDC Programme. The LBL undertakes to maintain effective arrangements for safeguarding public money, including the maintenance of a clear line of responsibility and accountability for receipt and payment of the associated funds. Income and expenditure will be managed through LBL’s financial management system and will be subject to the Council’s Constitution, including financial regulations and Contract Procedure Rules.

8.2 A robust project appraisal process ensures that proposed projects contribute to meeting the objectives and outcomes set out in the Delivery Plan, that there is clear and demonstrable accountability and that projects’ represent good value for money and protects the public interest.

8.3 The cost of the programme in 20010-11 is £1,387,622 and this cost will be entirely met from Government grant monies (capital & revenue). On an individual project basis there may be some matched funding, both cash and in kind, from existing LBL budgets but where agreed any match funding for individual projects will be contained within existing budgets.

8.4 The detailed budget for the Year Ten Delivery Plan is attached at Appendix one, which includes the financial aspects (Financial Summary and cash flow projections).

9 Legal Implications

9.1 The Council is the Accountable Body for the New Cross Gate NDC programme, which means that while the Council acts in that role on behalf of the NDC the legal liability remains that of the Council. As the Accountable Body, the Council is responsible for ensuring the proper use of NDC funds in accordance with the terms of grant and requirements of GOL. The Council has duties to ensure that there are in place robust project appraisal, financial, monitoring and other procedures.

9.2 As the Accountable Body, the Council has to enter into legally binding project agreements with the delivery agents, which will deliver the programme set out in the annual delivery plan. The delegation of authority sought in this report is intended to put in place administrative
arrangements to assist with this, subject to compliance with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules where these are applicable.

9.3 The Council’s powers to participate in the New Cross Gate NDC programme are primarily those contained in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. This power allows the Council to do anything considered likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of their area.

9.4 The NDC guidance requires consideration to be given by the NDC to the way in which their relationship to the Accountable Body is structured, and that structure would usually deal with issues such as voting rights, conflicts of interest and so on. These issues have been dealt with by the Terms and Reference which govern the NDC and which the Council as Accountable Body have previously agreed.

10 Crime and Disorder implications

10.1 The NDC ‘s Crime and Community Safety theme has a vision that by the year 2011, New Cross Gate will be a safer place to live, work and learn. People will have renewed confidence in their neighbourhood and in the services working to promote community safety. They will be empowered to ensure that those services work together to meet local needs.

10.2 This vision will be achieved by enabling residents and service providers to work together to develop a more coherent and relevant response to the needs of the community and ensure that key agencies co-ordinate their programmes to maximise their effect.

11 Equalities Implications

11.1 The main aims of the NDC programme are to address inequalities in service provision and amongst groups / individuals within the New Cross Gate area.

11.2 The NDC promotes equal opportunities and all organisations that work with the NDC must have policies and procedures in place that address equalities and diversity.

12 Environmental Implications

12.1 The NDC Programme under the Housing and Environment theme has a strategic priority to create safer, greener and cleaner public spaces.

12.2 All projects are assessed in light of energy / waste management systems or sustainable design and how any negative effects are
minimised. Projects under this theme complement or directly promote the Councils Environmental Objectives.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Delivery Plan Year Ten Budget is attached for information at Appendix one and any enquiries can be directed to Clive Wilson – Chief Executive of New Cross Gate NDC (Regeneration Directorate).

Report Author – Clive Wilson extension 43824.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix One</th>
<th>NDC Programme Budget</th>
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