



## Report to:

Northwards Housing Board

9<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## Item No:

# 8a

<b>Title:</b>	Area Panel "Pot of Gold" Funding		
<b>Date:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2008		
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<b>Confidential:</b>	No		
<b>For:</b> (Please tick action required)	<b>NOTING</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>APPROVAL</b> ✓
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>			
To summarise the decisions or progress by Area Panels in looking at their "Pot of Gold" funds from the Resource Pool.			
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>			
The Board are asked to approve authorising the Chair of the Board and the Chair of Resource & Audit Sub-Committee to make approve the budget variations as and when the Area Panel decisions are presented.			
<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>			
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity:</b>	A number of the requests directly impact on service delivery with equality and diversity implications		
<b>Financial:</b>	All the requests have a financial impact that needs to be assessed against value for money		
<b>Staffing:</b>	There should be no direct impact on staffing as permanent staffing proposals are not considered through this mechanism		
<b>Decency Target:</b>	Some requests may enhance the delivery of the Decent Homes Programme		
<b>Governance:</b>	The proper management of the Pool is a key part of governance		
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	There are no specific risk implications of the pool which is there for service enhancement.		

### Equality & Diversity Implications (Please tick where relevant):

BME	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elderly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol / Drug Mis-users	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Consultation/Consideration:

	Yes, No or N/A:	Name:	Date:
<b>Sub-Committees:</b>	No		
<b>Area Panel:</b>	Yes	Fourways Riverways Wilton	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2008 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2008 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
<b>Task Groups:</b>	No		
<b>Ward Councillors:</b>	N/A		

### **“Pot of Gold”**

1. As part of the Business Plan and Budget consultation event with the Area Panels and other tenants held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008, each Area Panel area was asked to consider what it would do with a sum of £30,000.
2. The brief for the discussion was set out as follows:  
  
*The criteria for ideas, projects and initiatives is that they must be for spending during 2008-09 ie the next twelve months and should improve services to tenants or enhance the community. They will also need to represent Value for Money. We can't spend the money on permanent staffing proposals or on things that have no lasting impact or which only benefit one individual.*
3. On the day, each of the Area Panels discussed a number and variety of initiatives but generally felt that spending the money to help work in the prevention of crime and disorder was their priority.
4. Since that meeting in February, the Area Panels have been working on their ideas and firming up their spending plans.

### **Wilton**

5. The Wilton Area Panel after some discussion and some different proposals has voted to spend their money on youth consultation activities and an associated community day.
6. The youth consultation event itself (£2,000) will be followed by a programme of activities (£5,000) and a community day (£3,000). There will be three events and days, one in each Ward of the Panel.
7. The approval for the Wilton Panel to proceed on this basis was given by the Board at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

### **Riverways**

8. The original ideas put together by the Riverways Area Panel did not quite meet the criteria and therefore work has been done by the Panel to reflect further on uses for the money.
9. A special meeting of the Area Panel was held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008 to further review suggestions and out of this meeting further ideas came forward which would be worked up into specific proposals.

10. There continues to be support for spending a large proportion of the money on communal gardens or on garden schemes for flats for the elderly.

### **Fourways**

11. The Fourways Area Panel has still to come forward with specific proposals for using their money.
12. It is clear in their discussions that they are looking at how they are using existing resources from the Environmental budgets and are seeking to compliment this with the "Pot of Gold" funds.

### **Process from Here**

13. Overall the Panel discussions have shown that the Area Panels and Officers are taking great care in deciding how the funds can be best used.
14. In order that progress can be made over the next couple of months and so they are no undue delays, the Board are asked to consider allowing the Chair of the Board and the Chair of Resource & Audit Sub-Committee to approve the proposals from the Fourways and Riverways Panels when they come forward if this is before the next Board meeting.
15. **Recommendation**
16. The Board are asked to approve authorising the Chair of the Board and the Chair of Resource & Audit Sub-Committee to make approve the budget variations as and when the Area Panel decisions are presented.