

Community First Narrative – rationale for ward selection

Objective

1. The prime objective was to identify neighbourhoods subject to significant deprivation and low social capital and to invite them to become part of Community First.

Step one: Identify areas with significant deprivation

2. The 2011 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) was used to identify the 30% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA, for a definition of Super Output Areas please follow this link <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/glossary/glossary-s.html>). This identified 9,744 potentially eligible LSOAs.
3. As a proxy measure for low social capital, Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimant data was used as this may indicate communities at risk of increased social stress, where there has been a significant rise in claimant numbers. The list of 9,744 LSOAs was cross cut with Job Centre Plus (JCP) benefit data between May 2009 – 2010. This identified LSOAs who have had a 10% increase in benefit claimants. After ensuring that the first 50 Big Local Trust areas were not duplicated, this identified 2,124 potentially eligible LSOAs (Big Local is another community based programme, for more information on this go to <http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/biglocal>).

Step two: Grouping LSOAs into wards

4. Given that ward boundaries are more significant at the local level than LSOAs, eligible LSOAs were grouped wherever practical into ward areas. Wards which contained clusters of eligible LSOAs were selected for each Top Tier Local Authority (TTLA, these cover shire counties, unitary authorities, metropolitan counties and Greater London boroughs, for further information on local authorities go to http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/Localgovernment/DG_073310). The number of eligible LSOAs was then reduced from 2,124 to 1,705. Eligibility was based on wards with multiple LSOA thus demonstrating deprivation.

5. There were 36 TTLAs without multiple LSOAs in any one ward:
Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bedford Borough Council, London Borough of Bexley, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, London Borough of Camden, Central Bedfordshire Council, Darlington Borough Council, Dorset County Council, London Borough of Greenwich, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London Borough of Harrow, Herefordshire Council, London Borough of Hounslow, Isle of Wight, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Leicestershire County Council, City of London, London Borough of Merton, Northumberland County Council, Poole Borough Council, Redbridge, Royal Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Rutland County Council, Shropshire Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Southampton City Council, Surrey County Council, London Borough of Wandsworth, West Berkshire Council, City of Westminster, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Wiltshire Council, Wokingham Borough Council, City of York Council.
6. Based on the rationale that the £30 million Neighbourhood Match Fund is a new approach to funding for communities, and is seen as a significant change from previous grant funding programmes, it was decided that all Top Tier Local Authorities (TTLA) should have at least one Community First ward. For these areas, the most deprived LSOA was selected.
7. Isles of Scilly were dealt with separately as according to the 2011 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), it contains one Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), which ranks 16,037 out of the 32,482 LSOAs in England. A decision was therefore taken that given the low levels of deprivation in Isles of Scilly; the expected outcomes of the neighbourhood grant programme are less applicable to the community.

Step four: Funding Allocation

8. Funding was allocated for each eligible ward.
9. The total amount of funding available was divided by the total number of eligible LSOAs, 1,741. This makes the basic allocation £16,955 (this figure is rounded down by £0.77 to make grant monitoring easier) for the term of the programme.

10. The ward allocation was based on the number of eligible LSOAs within a ward. All allocations are therefore multiples of £16,955.

Number of eligible LSOA	Funding Allocation	Number of eligible LSOA	Funding Allocation
1	£16,955	8	£135,640
2	£33,910	9	£152,595
3	£50,965	10	£169,550
4	£67,820	11	£186,505
5	£84,775	12	£203,460
6	£101,730	13	£220,415
7	£118,685	14	£237,370

11. LSOA data as at July 2011.

12. Ward data as at May 2011.