

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Committee 26th January 2006

Report Title External Funding for Strategic Regeneration Initiatives

Summary This report updates Committee about the current range of strategic regeneration initiatives promoted through Advantage West Midlands and the European Structural Funds Programme and the Council's response to these opportunities.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? YesNo

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members Councillor P Barnes
Councillor R Hyde
Councillor M Jones
Councillor P Morris-Jones
Councillor Mrs J Tandy } for information.

Cabinet Member Councillor C Saint - for information.
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

- Legal I Marriott - comments incorporated.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee To receive a further report on the new (2007-2013) Structural Fund programme; the West Midlands' efforts to influence its development and Warwickshire's engagement in the process.
- To Council On recommendation of Cabinet, Council will be asked for formal approval to adjust the capital programme to include funding of specific regeneration schemes currently under development and outlined in this report.
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
26th January 2006**

External Funding for Strategic Regeneration Initiatives

**Report of the Strategic Director of
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That Members are asked:-

1. To note and endorse progress to date in helping maximise the impact of external funding opportunities in line with the Council's policy, in particular as outlined in the new Regeneration and Competitiveness Strategy (2006-2010).
2. Consider and outline a role for the Committee in helping shape the response to external funding opportunities over the coming years.

1. Background

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be familiar with strategic regeneration programmes promoted by Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and the European Structural Funds as part of the complex array of interconnected funding regimes available to support Council activities across our corporate 'regeneration' agenda. The purpose of this paper is to engage Committee in the changing opportunities for external funding that meets the Council's priorities for economic development and regeneration.
- 1.2 Grants secured through AWM or EU Structural Funds are usually:-
 - (i) Targeted spatially or thematically.
 - (ii) Secured via competitive bidding rounds.
 - (iii) Require partner and other match funding.
 - (iv) Require clear evidence of partnership working at strategic as well as local level.
- 1.3 In addition, Members should note that grants are usually made on a time limited basis which can bring its own challenges when external funding for staff or on-

going costs runs out and a longer term continuation or 'succession strategy' needs to be put in place. See Paragraph 4.8 for current examples.

- 1.4 Another key characteristic is the shifting nature of the programmes in terms of criteria the funding bodies themselves require projects to fit into, and what precisely can be eligible. Inevitably funders require applicants to undergo complex and lengthy processes for development, appraisal and approval. In our experience a piecemeal approach to developing and submitting bids has never been a particularly effective strategy and is increasingly unlikely to succeed in the future. It is thus critical we retain a strategic, co-ordinated, policy-driven overview and perspective if we are to optimise the opportunities they bring.
- 1.5 This report sets out the current arrangements and status of funding regimes for Warwickshire projects supported through Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and the European Structural Funds programmes (in particular Objectives 2 and 3). It also looks briefly to the future and – in particular - addresses the question of 'what next' after the completion of the current Structural Funds programme at the end of 2006 (with spend until 2008).

2. Strategic Context

2.1 Members will note that the strategic context for this activity is clearly set out in the new Regeneration and Competitiveness Strategy 2006 – 2010, under consideration by this Committee.

2.2 In particular, under Strategic Objective B

'Provides clear leadership within the regional and sub regional economy and exert influence with our partners by:-

- (i) Helping to shape regional and sub regional strategies and future funding programmes so as to help maximise external funding for County projects.
- (ii) Leading the County Council's engagement on European and International policy issues and specifically the development of a new (2007 – 2013) Structural Funds programme.
- (iii) Working with internal and external funding partners to shape programmes relevant for County needs.
- (iv) Securing maximum support through Advantage West Midlands and the European Union, as well as other funding opportunities.

3. Advantage West Midlands

3.1 AWM have published their latest Corporate Plan (2005-8). Apart from setting out a strategy for overseeing their new responsibilities for Business Links and Research and Development grants, it is not a significant departure from previous plans. As well as pump priming a small number of projects of regional significance, the Plan confirms the region's commitment to three key 'instruments' to target resources where they are needed most or will make the

most difference. All are of interest to parts of Warwickshire – albeit with geographic or business specific focii. They are set out below.

Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone

- 3.2 Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone (CNRZ) is one of six in the West Midlands. The principal purpose of Zones is to “help raise employment levels, increase business activity and improve the quality of life in the most deprived areas of the region by strengthening the links between areas of need and areas of opportunity” (AWM Corporate Plan).
- 3.3 The CNRZ covers most of North/Central Coventry and the A444 corridor northwards through Nuneaton and Bedworth (a resident population of approximately 200,000 of whom approximately 20% are within Warwickshire’s boundary). The Zone has been in operation since 2002/3 with the Partnership Board and Secretariat operating out of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnerships Ltd (CSWP).
- 3.4 In the last three years, £36.1 million AWM spend has been secured for the Zone - matched by others such as European Regional Development Funds (ERDF), private sector and public sector cash/in kind. CNRZ grant secured and spent by year is as follows:-

2002/3	£10,258,660
2003/4	£12,846,867
2004/5	£13,013,491

- 3.5 **Appendix A** shows the County Council schemes that have benefited from Zone and complementary funding sources. To date £14.5 million AWM resources have been allocated to Warwickshire County Council (WCC) led schemes. Other projects led by partners (e.g. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and CW Business Link) have also benefited the Warwickshire end of the Zone.
- 3.6 Members should note that the £36.1 million secured by the CNRZ for 2002/3 to 2004/5 inclusive is considerably more than was originally budgeted by AWM. This is because the Zone has been able to react quickly to bring forward additional project spend – for new or existing schemes – to take up under-spend in AWM’s budgets from other Zones and programmes.
- 3.7 Zone Implementation Plans set out the overall strategy, initiatives and projects to be delivered by each Zone over the next three years. To increase the impact of the CNRZ programme, we have introduced the concept of ‘Strategic Programme Areas’ or SPAs. Three are geographically based, including one focusing specifically on Nuneaton and Bedworth (the other two are in Coventry) and two thematic, around Entrepreneurship and Cluster Development. The idea is to identify critical gaps and key priorities for the SPAs that can be addressed in a more holistic and co-ordinated way than at present - a shift towards programmes of interlinked activities rather than single projects. AWM has endorsed the CNRZ approach. It clearly complements their intention for RZ focused schemes to contribute to high-impact, transformational change at sub-regional and regional level.

3.8 CNRZ outline budgets for the next three years are as follows:-

2005/6	£7.359 million
2006/7	£8 million
2007/8	£9 million

- 3.9 Whilst these sums are less than partners had anticipated when Zones were first set up, please note the comment in Paragraph 2.6 regarding our past performance in securing more by the year ends than originally budgeted. In the past, if we had robust schemes, endorsed by the Council and local partners, that were well worked up and 'appraisal' ready, then AWM was always keen to try to 'fast track' these through their usually lengthy approvals processes. Unfortunately, in the current financial year, we are likely to be heading for a significant under-spend even on existing budgets and realistically it's unlikely AWM can or will move projects along any faster than they are currently doing.
- 3.10 In addition because of financial constraints AWM are only able to release capital to new projects for the time being. This is causing considerable problems for many prospective schemes (eg. business support, community engagement, employment links) which rely on revenue support from external sources.
- 3.11 The Nuneaton and Bedworth SPA sub group has identified, and the RZ Board has endorsed, a number of schemes that are potential 'quick wins' (for 2005/6 and 2006/7 RZ budget headroom) and also longer term development opportunities. They are all at slightly different stages of development and are set out in detail in **Appendix B**.

Business Clusters

- 3.12 AWM's second key delivery vehicle for regeneration activity. Clusters are groups of companies with a similar technology or product linked by specialist supply chains and training, finance and research facilities. AWM have identified 10 priority Clusters and their aim is to facilitate business in each of these to collaborate (cluster) in exploring strategic opportunities.
- 3.13 The clusters are :-
- (i) **Established** : Transport Technologies; Building Technologies; Food and Drink; Tourism and Leisure; High value-added Consumer Products
 - (ii) **Growing** : Specialist Business and Professional Services; Information and Communication Technologies; Environmental Technologies.
 - (iii) **Embryonic** : Screen and New Media for Education and Entertainment; Medical Technologies.
- 3.14 Each Cluster Group has developed a three year Strategic Plan (2005/2008) with associated delivery and demand-led Action Plans. A number of shared themes run through them – increasing added value; design; embedding innovation; exploiting opportunities offered by sustainable consumption and production and public procurement. All the plans seek to exploit distinctive regional strengths.

- 3.15 Clusters are not intended to be geographically delineated but, inevitably, given the market-led nature of clustering, some regional priorities are beginning to emerge. Coventry and Warwickshire partners for instance have developed specific interests in the following: Motorsport; Tourism and Leisure; ICT; Medical Technologies and also (to a lesser extent) Environmental Technologies; Screen and New Media clusters.
- 3.16 AWM have allocated £51 million to Business Clusters over the next three years (supplemented by £13.5 million European Regional Development Fund monies). It is difficult at the moment to identify what a County or sub-regional 'share' of this might be.

High Technology Corridors

- 3.17 The three West Midlands High Technology Corridors focus on providing the necessary infrastructure, skills and business support to attract, develop and grow high-tech, high value-added businesses. The area covered by the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Corridor (Triangle) already has a strong high-tech business base and significant resources in terms of intellectual capital (two universities for example). Our primary aim is to build on and enhance these strengths through short term activities exploiting opportunities in ICT, medical and healthcare technologies and construction and by prioritising opportunities for longer term technology interface.
- 3.18 The Corridors programme clearly shares many characteristics of the Clusters programme – a key distinction being that Corridors funding is principally (though not exclusively) capital infrastructure driven, and Clusters have tended to prioritise research and development (revenue). Also – very simplistically, whilst steering group partnerships driving the development and delivery of the programme for Zones, Corridors and Clusters are inclusive of all relevant agencies and stakeholders, a rule of thumb suggests that Zone activity tends to have been Local Authority led, Corridors are driven by the Higher Education (especially University) sector and Clusters by the private sector.
- 3.19 As for the CNRZ, the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire (CSW) Corridor Partnership Board and Secretariat is based at CSWP. AWM have allocated £24.64 million over the next three years (2005/6 to 2007/8) for Corridor projects in the sub-region. WCC does not have a scheme of its own yet but is a strategic partner involved in many others.

Projects of Regional Significance

- 3.20 AWM allowed a number of their previous funding programmes to run their course and not be renewed, in particular the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) which was of considerable interest to the County especially in South Warwickshire which is outside what is normally regarded as our most disadvantaged area. SRB is now coming to an end and the future of other schemes, such as the Market Towns Initiative, are also uncertain.

3.21 The agency is instead intending to focus and target their funding on fewer - but possibly more 'impactful' - strategic programmes and projects, schemes they believe will deliver transformational change over the longer term. This embraces the Zone, Corridor and Cluster concepts and what are termed 'projects of regional significance'.

3.22 A number of these flagship projects are in Warwickshire:-

- (i) Stoneleigh Park Development. A figure of approximately £25m AWM investment has been mooted for some time. The pace of activity in bringing work forward to deliver the vision for the master plan will soon pick up – worries over delays in securing outline planning consents have dissipated and a Strategic Site Developer has now been appointed. WCC will be closely involved in many elements of the plan, in particular Highways infrastructure and the development of a Rural Innovation Centre. Members will be consulted on these in due course.
- (ii) £20m has been granted by AWM to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre redevelopment in Stratford-upon-Avon. Separate investment into the Waterfront development is also being progressed, led by WCC in partnership with Stratford on Avon District Council. A full bid for (Phase 1) waterfront proposals has been submitted, amounting to AWM grant of almost £5 million.
- (iii) The development of the (AWM owned) 100 acre site at Ansty as a possible Medipark or Medical Technologies Cluster is also high on their list of regional investment schemes. A Health Technologies Park Steering Group has been established, chaired by CSWP and with participation from lead partners : University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, the local authorities and Higher Education Sector. Detailed research and feasibility work is underway to enable early validation of the economic and social case for the development of the site. Again Members will be consulted further on these plans at an appropriate time in the future.

3.23 Overall AWM estimate that the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region should benefit by approximately £200 million share of their corporate resources over the period of their current Corporate Plan (2005-8). This comprises:-

- (i) Approved spend on projects in the current programmes (circa £51 million).
- (ii) Allocations from confirmed programmes (such as CNRZ, CSW Corridor and projects of regional significance) but which have not yet been formally contracted (circa £88 million).
- (iii) Our sub-regional share of other commitments such as Business Support, the Cluster Action Plan and (prorata) our share of the take-up of Selective Finance Initiative for England (circa £61 million).

- 3.24 Whilst these figures are only estimates, £200 million represents over a fifth of AWM's total 2005/8 budget for regeneration. Our sub region actually comprises just 16% of the region's population so if we were to secure more we'd be doing very well. AWM are clearly prepared to invest in 'opportunity' (wealth creation, inward investment and technology) and as well as 'need' (facilitating access to opportunity across the most disadvantaged areas). The CNRZ Board have asked AWM to provide occasional updates to track the progress and destination of their expenditure to this sub region.

4. European Structural Funds Programme

- 4.1 The other key driver for external regeneration funding over the past ten years has been through EU funding, in particular the Objective 2 and 3 programmes. As with AWM's programmes, Warwickshire and the broader sub-region has been particularly successful in securing a sizeable share of available resources.

Objective 2

- 4.2 Aims to support the economic and social cohesion of areas facing difficulty adjusting to economic change. Funding has been targeted to specific areas, in our case mainly wards in the north of the county (North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth area) with a couple of wards elsewhere as potential strategic investment opportunities – for example Ryton and Earl Craven (Peugeot site), Fosse (Ansty) and Stoneleigh.
- 4.3 The current 2000 – 2006 programme which is worth almost £600m EU grant to the West Midlands (plus another £2 billion triggered as match) must complete spending in 2008. Over 60 different schemes are running in the Coventry and Warwickshire Objective 2 area having secured almost £70 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) grant.
- 4.4 Amongst these are a number of County Council schemes – including The Hub at Bayton Road, Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Eliot Park Innovation Centre, Regeneration Zone Opportunities Centre, Abbey Green District Centre improvements and Pride in Camp Hill (Midland Quarry). These total £5.3m grant (see **Appendix A** for funding breakdown). Partners lead some other Objective 2 funded schemes of significant benefit to the County e.g. Strategic Business Support Package and Broadband technology (CW2000).
- 4.5 Members may have heard that Government Office West Midlands has recently announced a final bidding round for approximately £115 million identified through slippage on spend on existing project forecasts, claw-back from schemes perceived not to be performing to profile and agreement by strategic regional partners to over-commit the programme by 20% (on basis that there is always going to be under spend by the end of the programme).
- 4.6 There is a targeted call against specific criteria to fill gaps that are currently performing badly against target – it will mainly go to (Priority 1) business support initiatives, most of it channelled through the Business Link Network and AWM. There is also an opportunity for Priority 2, strategic site investment schemes to secure more money through a competitive bidding process. Schemes must be

perceived as having the capability of ‘turbo charging’ the local economy and should be virtually ready to go – with match funding in place, planning permissions secured etc.

Objective 3

- 4.7 This uses European Social Fund (ESF) and aims to improve economic and social cohesion by supporting initiatives which help the unemployed back into work, promote lifelong learning, support entrepreneurship, improve the position of women in the workforce and develop workforce skills. The funding is not confined to geographic areas.
- 4.8 ESF is now distributed through ‘co-financing’ partners in order to improve the ‘strategic impact’ of the funding. Nine West Midlands organisations have co-financing status and they set the priorities for their own (separate) funding programmes. In Warwickshire the 2 co-financing organisations are Job CentrePlus and the Learning and Skills Council for Coventry and Warwickshire.
- 4.9 A number of WCC projects have secured ESF through Objective 3. These include employment link initiatives such as Prologis Employment Partnership (PEP) Employment Partnership and Recruitment NoW, and Education Dept schemes for Employment Training Warwickshire, Adult and Community Learning and the 14-19 Development Section. As well as bidding direct, Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy, Regeneration Policy and Europe officers help partners maximise the impact locally of Objective 3, for instance we are a key strategic and technical adviser to the Heart of England Community Foundation in the management of their Global Grants programme – providing small grants to community organisations to improve the employability of people not yet in work.

Community Initiatives

- 4.10 WCC officers are closely engaged in a number of other European funding schemes such as EQUAL, INTERREG 3 and Leonardo de Vinci and in helping partners maximise funds from what is left in the current programmes. Examples include securing EQUAL funding to support our work life balance initiative amongst local employers; helping Warwickshire Probation Service develop and manage the delivery of the Arts Participation for Employability EQUAL project and most recently we’ve helped Coventry and Warwickshire Connexions and Community Education get approval for the pre-proposal for the Youth for Youth Work Leonardo idea. Staff also play an active role in delivering regional European projects and some of this effort is paid for through ERDF co-financing (technical assistance budgets).
- 4.11 Experience in projects requiring European co-operation and other funds requiring transnational partners will put the County Council in a particularly strong position once more details of the new post 2006 EU funded programmes are known.

5. Looking Ahead

- 5.1 As Members will be aware, the current 2000-2006 Structural Fund programme needs to be financially complete and outputs measured by the end of 2008. Members will also be aware of the negotiations on the new 2007-2013 Structural Fund programme and, in particular, the debate about the arrangements for and eligibility of regions in the old Member States.
- 5.2 EU heads of state and government reached agreement on the new EU budget at the European Council in Brussels on 15th-16th December. As part of this package, Member States agreed future Cohesion and Structural Fund spending. 81.9% of total funding will go towards the convergence of new Member States and other poorer regions (including Cornwall, West Wales and the Valleys and the Highlands and Islands). However, there will also be a new competitiveness and employment programme to replace the existing Objectives 2 and 3 (15.7%) and a new co-operation programme based on the current INTERREG programme (2.4%). The West Midlands will be eligible for both. Whilst the exact size as well as detailed thematic and any spatial priorities are still unknown, we do know it will be less than the current Objective 2 and 3 programmes, but significant nonetheless.
- 5.3 Alun Michael, DTI Minister for Industry and the Regions, made a written statement to Parliament on 20th December about the outcome of the Structural Fund negotiations for the UK. DTI estimate that the UK will receive approximately £4 billion in competitiveness and employment funding. Out of this South Yorkshire and Merseyside will receive the highest rates. It will be for the UK Government, in agreement with the European Commission, to decide how the remaining funding is allocated between its nations and regions. The Government plans to consult on the broad objectives for the new programme and the methodology for allocating the funding early in 2006. They must also decide about how it runs and manages the new programme. There is likely to be a key role here for the English Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in our case, Advantage West Midlands.
- 5.4 Officers and colleagues from a range of agencies, including ourselves, are working on behalf of the European and International Affairs Partnership of the West Midlands Regional Assembly to prepare a detailed submission of the West Midlands case for access to the new programme. This will go to both the UK Government and the European Commission setting out how the region would apply the key themes being proposed.
- 5.5 Members should, however, note that the Structural Funds are just part of the picture. The Commission has also proposed a range of other funding programmes of relevance to the County Council and our partner organisations. These include priorities such as education and vocational training, sustainable development, competitiveness and innovation, research and development and young people. These programmes will be finalised during 2006.
- 5.6 Of concern locally is that for the next few years, at least, there will be limited revenue available from AWM through either the CNRZ or CSW Corridors

programmes. EU funds through the current Objective 2 programme will be fully committed once the latest bidding round is finished and ESF through Objective 3 is tending to favour large scale, very targeted outcomes rather than more localised or generalist pre-employment support.

- 5.7 Despite parts of the county suffering many of the difficulties of multiple deprivation experienced by major urban areas, we are excluded from a range of funding initiatives available to such areas. This includes Neighbourhood Renewal Funds, New Deal for Communities and the new Local Enterprise Growth Initiative fund (LEGI) under the 4th Block of Local Area Agreements (LAA). It will not be until 2007 that Warwickshire has its first LAA.
- 5.8 Thus Warwickshire faces a potential shortage of alternative funding sources in the short term to support many of our traditional areas of regeneration activity – in particular (revenue) funds for principally social economic activity (eg jobs, training and employment link, business support, community engagement and empowerment).
- 5.9 A number of Warwickshire's social and economic regeneration projects are coming to the end of their current funding. These include Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) projects like South Warwickshire Promoting Inclusion and Enterprise (PIE), Camp Hill (some of the education and community empowerment schemes), Vital Villages and Regenesis, and others funded through EU Structural Funds and AWM's CNRZ such as Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods, the Regeneration Zone (RZ) Opportunities Centre, PEP Employment Partnership and The Hub at Bayton Road. Where we can, alternative external funding sources have been found for a number of these schemes and their future is secure for at least another year – others, like Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods and The Hub, are developing their own succession or continuation strategies. These will be reported to Members in due course.
- 5.10 In facing these challenges we need to maximise whatever opportunities that are available to augment our own budgets for economic and social regeneration activity. This may include Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme, landfill tax, National Lottery, Well-being funds, Section 106 Agreements etc. It will also include existing EU funding programmes from the mainstream core budgets or the new Competition programmes.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director of Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

16th January 2006

**Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

**External Funding Sources for Strategic Regeneration
Initiatives**

**Summary of Recent Externally Funded
Regeneration Activity (AWM and EU Structural Funds)**

WCC led schemes	Total Project Cost £	AWM	EU Structural Funds	Total Other (i)
Bayton Rd. Industrial Estate – the Hub	1,552,149	1,047,279	180,000 (Obj2)	324,870
Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods	2,889,372	1,577,000	806,372 (Obj2)	506,000
Eliot Park Innovation Centre	7,955,954	3,972,709 (ii)	2,876,617 (Obj2)	1,106,628
RZ Opps Centre (to end 2005/6) (iii)	558,589	361,770	0	196,819
Abbey Green – District Centre improvements	891,806	21,500	72,500 (Obj2)	797,806
Pride in Camp Hill (phase 1 and 2a)	18,022,000	7,183,236	0	10,838,764
Midland Quarry – infrastructure developments	7,340,797	1,406,000	1,372,765 (Obj2)	4,562,032
PEP Emp't Partnership/ R't NOW (merged) (to end 2005/6) (iii)	790,820	120,000 (RZ) 5,000 (Mkt towns)	255,000 (Obj3)	410,820
£	40,001,487	15,694,494	5,563,254	18,743,739

NOTE:

- (i) Figures shown as grants contracted from AWM, ERDF/ESF, the DTI, and Learning Skills Council are reflected in formal contracts. Match funding from WCC and other partners e.g. private / community sector are likely to vary a little depending at what point in time they are captured.
- (ii) EPIC – AWM capital grant to the project 'over-inflated' by £566,664 to enable equivalent proportion of WCC's input to be re-directed to support Chamber Business Link's CNRZ Strategic Business Support package.
- (iii) These 2 employment thinks schemes have secured continuation funding through income generation and other external funding sources for at least next 18 months.

Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

External Funding Sources for Strategic Regeneration Initiatives

Status of WCC projects under consideration for Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone funding (January 2006)

AWM fast-tracked approval as extension to an existing bid	
(1) <u>Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods in Nuneaton and Bedworth.</u> Range of capital based initiatives including: - Enhanced community based ICT/training provision - New neighbourhood business support and environmental programme - Community transport initiative - Brownfield derelict land reclamation	Total project cost £1,887,000 AWM resources approved £785,000 (WCC match secured £65,000)
AWM approval at outline, now being appraised as a full bid, still some final AWM queries to be resolved:	
(2) <u>Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centre Development Phase 1</u> - precursor to roll out of Masterplan proposals - Phase 1 includes land acquisition, town centre enhancements and District centre improvements (Queens Road)	Total project cost £2,015,625 AWM resources sought £1,207,500 (WCC match secured £285,000)
Projects endorsed by CNRZ Board and awaiting AWM outline approval, still some queries to be resolved	
(3) <u>Centenary Business Centre Phase 3</u> - Creating 10 new business units to satisfy demand for small, high quality workshops (under 1,000 sq ft) on relatively easy in /out terms.	Total project cost £1,250,000 AWM resources sought £434,000 (WCC match £816,000 already secured through prudential borrowing)
Scheme endorsed by CNRZ Board to progress through AWM (CPRG) approval processes and to return to Board for further endorsement, subject to budget consideration at a later date.	
(4) <u>Pride in Camp Hill Phases 2b) & 3 –</u> - to build on success of investment AWM (and others) already made in earlier phases. - Phases 2b) & 3 require AWM capital to complete Village Centre development and help us release developer revenue support for social/economic projects without which transformational change in Camp Hill would be incomplete. - The major AWM element, however, is for Phase 3 'two tier' Camp Hill (acquisition and redevelopment of housing from Edinburgh Road to Queen Elizabeth Road).	Total project cost £169m Public sector resources sought £15m Value for money AWM approval £6m AWM exceptional costs assessment £3.5m English Partnership (tbc) £3.75m WCC/NBBC gap £2m <i>(all figures approx)</i>

Other Nuneaton and Bedworth Strategic Programme Area Priority projects under development

(5) Nuneaton and Bedworth (Phase 2) Masterplan
 - roll out of priority site investments from Masterplan. Many will not require further public sector investment (ex AWM/WCC etc) but others will, eg. Projects 1& 2 Vicarage Street redevelopments and Church St/Cultural Area (including library)

(6) Engineering at the Hub
 - Whilst key partners (eg FE College) are very excited about possibility of a higher level manufacturing based training facility, utilising an empty site at the Hub, on Bayton Rd, market assessment and feasibility work is first required to establish demand and costs.
 - Consideration also being given to complementary bid to Business Incubation Fund for micro business facility, building on the Hub's current services – training, business advice, ICT and broadband access etc.

(7) Nuneaton Voluntary Sector Consortium Building
 - Led by N&B Voluntary Sector Consortium Trust. CNRZ Board endorsement sought for the proposal to build a resource building providing shared facilities and services for range of voluntary sector partners. A site has been identified within the Nuneaton ring road - granted a 125 year lease at peppercorn rent by WCC/NBBC. Construction costs will be c. £2.4m.
 - A bid for AWM capital funding was turned down last year but the application has been enhanced and re-submitted to AWM. Other parallel funding bids are being prepared (eg to Big Lottery Fund).
 - In the meantime WCC members has agreed to support the principle of a loan to the consortium subject to suitable terms and safeguards. Having a key public sector stakeholder such as WCC as part of the bid should enhance its status with agencies such as AWM.