

The Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest programme has started in Hackney. This gives grants of between £50 and £5000 for projects that will improve the quality of life in the 88 most deprived areas in England. Hackney has been granted £215,000 to spend in 2002/3.

To qualify for a grant, your project must, be local, contribute to regeneration and give value for money. The Community Chest is for small groups, especially those from the most deprived neighbourhoods and people who are hard to reach such as, black and ethnic minority communities, young, older or disabled people, faith communities, travellers, refugees, lone parents.



- · childcare, so that parents and carers can take part in local activities
- a sports day or other community
- printing a community newsletter or hiring a room for a meeting
- IT equipment











- training or exchange visits to other projects or
- renovating disused premises or maintaining playgrounds.

These lists are only examples and you will have lots of other ideas

#### COMMUNITY CHEST UPDATE

Nearly 400 applications forms have been sent out to voluntary, community and residents' organisations in Hackney since January. So far HCVS has received 60 applications (on 12/2/02) totaling £259,158. The closing date for the first round of applications is 10 March 2002.

We are particularly interested in inviting applications for smaller amounts of money as the number of grants that will be given for larger sums (over £1000) is limited.



#### For an application pack or to get more details contact HCVS on 020 7923 1962

#### elcome to the first issue of Empowering Hackney, the bulletin about neighbourhood renewal in Hackney. It is aimed at providing you with the necessary information so that you all know what is happening in the borough in terms of:

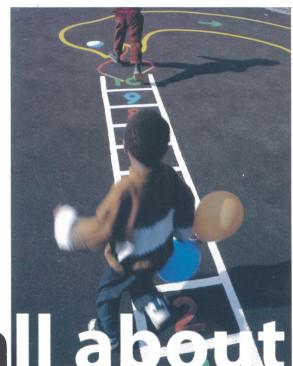
• the Local Strategic Partnership;

renewa

neighbourhoo

- the Community Empowerment Network;
- the Community Chest small grants for local voluntary, community groups, and residents; and
- also how you can get involved in what is happening over the next two years.

Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) is the umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector in Hackney.



## What it's a

In November 2001 at the Community Participation Conference we were voted as the organisation to administer the Community Empowerment Fund and the Community Chest programmes. This means that we are responsible for

over £1 million over the next two years. We want to make as much of this money available to all communities in Hackney through the Community Chest small grants programme [see advert opposite] and through commissioning local organisations to patricipate in the Community Empowerment programme [see pages 6 & 7].

We have had support from the highest levels in Government, Lord Falconer no less, for the work we are doing. In his letter of the 4th December he says:

"I am pleased that Hackney's community and voluntary groups are making good progress in engaging in the neighbourhood renewal agenda, and that the community conference you arranged was successful. I hope that the borough's community and voluntary sector will conintue to work together with the London Borough of Hackney, and other partners on the emerging local strategic partnership, to tackle some of the borough's very serious problems.'



We recognise that many people, groups and organisations face exclusion for a variety of reasons. We also recognise that many of you are facing severe financial difficulties at present which is why we are committed to ensuring that the systems we put in place to empower you are as fair and as transparent as we can make them. Having your say is crucial to this process and the only way we can collectively make a difference and renew our neighbourhoods.



Adiaha Antigha



Adiaha Antigha Director, HCVS

## Lord Falconer

### We need to be more involved

Need to know what people are saying about getting involved in local decision making? HCVS held a Community Empowerment conference for local residents and community groups to tell everyone what it planned to do with the **Community Empowerment Fund** and also to discuss the role of Hackney 2020 as the emerging LSP in neighbourhood renewal

he Community Empowerment Network recently held a public meeting to discuss the Community Empowerment Fund work plan and also whether Hackney 20202 should be accredited as the LSP for Hackney. The conference also addressed the issue of community representation to the LSP.

The event was very well attended (approximately 125 people over the day), there was a broad range of views held and discussed and a wide ranging debate about the history of Hackney 20/20, its role and its future. As you can imagine there was understandably also a lot of distress and frustration vented by people and groups affected by Hackney's financial crisis.



The following points were raised under the section discussing Community Representation on the LSP:

Adiaha Antigha, member of the CEN Planning Group, informed the meeting that a task group has been set up to "fundamentally review" the membership of Hackney 20/20, its sub groups and therefore the emerging LSP and that until this group has met, the number of reps and the structure they will operate in is not known. However it was agreed that the Planning Group still needed to discuss and agree a process for selecting reps and to make arrangements for representation in the interim period.

#### Issues around LSP and its · Number of community membership:

- · Clarity is needed re the accountability and structure of the LSP - no point spending the money without proper policing and research.
- · Concerns about role of private sector in LSP - it doesn't have democratic structures in place like community does. It was felt that they are most influential of all partners in the borough and therefore their role in LSP is also crucial to address.
- · Business sector and its accountability. What about corporate governance?
- · There needs to be support/resources available for local people to attend meetings and read documents in order to function fully
- · Frontline groups should also be present on LSP alongside umbrella organisations
- · Need for women's groups to be represented
- · How did Newham's LSP get 10 community reps on its LSP?
- · There was concern that funding never reaches those most in need, particularly the ethnic minorities such as the Somali communities.
- · There was frustration expressed about too much talk and not enough action
- Hackney 2020 doesn't represent the people of Hackney
- · What happens if LSP is not accredited?
- Replies/correspondence back from Central Government and GOL has been poor when small community groups have written to them with their concerns.
- · It will be difficult to represent all interests on LSP therefore need to be clear as a CEN how we want our views represented.

- reps need to be workable
- · Only interventions by private sector in Hackney have been disastrous.

itNET and Peabody take over of municipal housing. Undemocratic structures in the borough are to the detriment of local people.

· Are there other partnerships that have a role to play in Neighbourhood renewal and community participation?

#### **Community representation**

The conference was asked to decide which areas it felt that community representatives need to be elected to cover and therefore sit on the LSP and its sub groups. The conference decided on the following areas. HCVS and the Planning Group will feed this into the task group working on LSP membership:

- · Residents in the borough
- Race equality/diversity
- Disability
- · Umbrella groups/functions
- Regeneration & economic development
- Older people
- Children play plus childcare
- Refugees
- · Education
- · Training/Employment
- Neighbourhood representatives 1 rep for each of four neighbourhoods
- · Faith Groups at least three, Christian, Jewish Orthodox and Muslim

There was a lot of discussion about the process for community elections. Some of the issues covered included:



- · Professional help should be sought to money has been spent and what actual ensure that elections are conducted properly.
- · Should people be elected on a ward by Several members of the audience wanted
- · Is the publicity/marketing of events wide enough - at present only the community, voluntary sectors and residents groups are It was felt that it was highly likely that contacted. Future events and work programmes should be advertised as broadly as possible.
- · Self nomination how will it work?
- · Should existing community reps on the LSP keep their positions?

#### What next?

The conference voted overwhelmingly that the existing CEN Planning Group remains in place to administer the election process and will continue to represent the network until new representatives are elected. Any places that become available on the LSP will be taken up by them, as a temporary measure and appropriate to their skills and

It was decided that the planning group would liaise with GOL and the task group, devise an election process utilising outside expertise where possible and report back to the wider CEN with a view to holding elections around April 2002.

#### LSP accreditation

There was a lot of concern expressed by people wishing to make their comments heard about Hackney 2020 and its ability to conduct itself in an fair and transparent manner, not only in terms of its membership but also in terms of how

improvements it will bring to local people's

to pass a motion to ensure that Hackney 2020 is reconstituted and made accountable and open.

Hackney 2020 would be accredited but as far as the conference was concerned it wanted to ensure that certain provisos be put in place.

A member of Hackney Tree Wardens asked the conference to pass the following motion as an expression of the community's concern over Hackney 2020 role as the LSP. It was seconded by a member of Hackney's Council for Older

"This meeting of the CEN passes a motion of no confidence in the Hackney 2020 Partnership seeking accreditation as the LSP until it has been reconstituted as an open and accountable body in line with the democratic intentions of the LSP initiatives."

The motion was passed. The CEN conference delegates asked the CEN planning group to deal with their concerns and report back to the members of the wider CEN on the progress they have had in making their views known to GOL and Hackney 2020. They also noted that, in electing a new chair of Hackney 2020, that this person should be someone who is conversant with Hackney's diverse community at a grassroots level.

#### **EMPOWERING** Hackney spring2002

#### **HAVING YOUR SAY**

Everyone at the conference had a chance to speak. These are some of the things you had to say about the Local Strategic Partnership.

"Hackney 2020 needs redefining, with a code for governance. A resolution should be passed for ensuring fair representation on it."

"What will happen operationally if H2020 fails to be accredited by the Government Office for London."

"Hackney's involvement with the private sector had been a disaster to date, with ITNet and private contracting for housing being best examples. I have concerns about the private sector involvement in the Local Strategic Partnership."

"Is H2020 the only player in neighbourhood renewal, or are there other players."

"I hope that minorities with little capacity will not be excluded from NRF as has been the case in the past."

"It will be difficult to represent all interests on LSP therefore need to be clear as a CEN how we want our views represented. The number of community reps need to be workable and also we need to limit number of council officers on LSP."

## What is the Community Empowerment Fund?



HCVS is adminstering the Community Empowerment Fund. Our aim is to create a Hackney Community Empowerment Network that will attract and engage voluntary, community and residents' organisations with the Local Strategic Partnership. A work plan has been developed and we want your comments and involvement with it.

This article explains things in more detail.

he Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) has been set up to support community and voluntary sector involvement in the Hackney Local Strategic Partnership. The CEF is part of the Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal to tackle problems in deprived neighbourhoods. It provides support for voluntary and community organisations and residents' groups to get involved in Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). The Government has recognised that for the community and voluntary sectors to participate in Local Strategic Partnerships on an equal footing with other partners, they will need financial support. The CEF has been created for this purpose - that is, to increase and enhance community and voluntary sector involvement in Local Strategic Partnerships.

A key aim is to establish an effective Hackney Community Empowerment Network, which will enable different community and voluntary sector organisations and residents' groups to work together so that the diverse range of local people can contribute to decisions and plans for better local services that will improve the quality of life for all.

This Community Empowerment Network will have the following responsibilities to enable local participation and involvement in the Hackney Local Strategic Partnership:

Acting as a place where voluntary and community organisation and

residents' groups can talk about their issues and develop their ideas.

- Supporting the voluntary and community sector to choose community representatives onto the Hackney LSP.
- Providing two-way communication between Hackney LSP and the voluntary and community sectors.
- Agreeing a working relationship between Hackney LSP and local voluntary and community organisations and residents groups.
- Deciding how to use the local Community Empowerment Fund.

#### WHAT IS THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

Local Strategic Partnerships aim to bring together different sectors - public, private, voluntary and community - to work at the local level to identify the key issues facing an area and develop solutions. LSPs are intended to improve local public services by bringing those who deliver or commission different services together with those for whom the services are provided.

It is vital that local residents, voluntary and community organisations are represented on the Hackney LSP. They know best what their neighbourhoods' strengths and weaknesses are, and LSP will only work if the voluntary and community organisations participate as equal partners.

#### SETTING UP THE HACKNEY COMMUNITY NETWORK

#### **A) SET-UP PHASE**

Hackney Council for Voluntary Services (HCVS) has been contracted by Government Office London (GOL) to bring local voluntary and community organisations together to discuss the development of a network.

Initially the role of HCEN Planning Group is to prepare a Development Plan outlining how it plans to establish the Hackney Community Empowerment Network. Up to 50% of the first year's fund allocation i.e., £97,342 can be used for this.

#### **B) DEVELOPMENT PHASE**

This phase will be based on an agreed Development Plan that will be agreed by the voluntary and community sector and subsequently approved by GOL. It should have two outputs:

- 1. A network support plan, based on research of and consultation with the local community and voluntary sectors including hard to reach and marginalized communities setting out how local organisations will develop and support the community network.
- 2. Interim arrangements for community and voluntary sector involvement with the emerging Hackney LSP, prior to the development of the Community Network, i.e. Hackney CEN Planning Group.

#### **C) NETWORK SUPPORT PHASE**

In the final phase, Hackney Community Network will be developed and supported along the lines set out in the network support plan.

The Government has put £36 million into the CEF over the next three years in the 88 most deprived areas of England. In Hackney, Hackney CVS is the lead body responsible for administering the CEF and will be accountable to GOL. Regular monitoring and evaluation reports will be produced.

#### WHAT WILL HACKNEY COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT NETWORK DO?

The Hackney Community Empowerment Network will provide a link between the LSP and the community and voluntary sectors and community members and residents. It will do this in the following ways:

Making communities aware that their involvement in Hackney LSP is vital to its success – particularly socially excluded sections of the community.

- Enabling two-way communication between the voluntary and community sectors and the LSP;
- Facilitating the selection of community and voluntary sector members of the LSP;
- Providing the various strands of the voluntary and community sectors with opportunities to discuss the problems and issues they face;
- Offering community members and residents a way of accessing the LSP, ensuring that hard-to-reach groups have the same opportunities to be involved.
- Encouraging and providing opportunities for communication and networking between groups. This should include disseminating information and advice about training, skills and good practice.



The Hackney Community
Empowerment Network will also draw
up a plan for using the local
Community Empowerment in future
years. This will take into account the
needs of the most deprived
neighbourhoods and marginalized
communities and priorities for action as
identified via outreach, consultation
and community participation.

#### WHAT CAN THE CEF BE USED FOR?

There are a range of activities that the CEF could be used to pay for. Here are some examples:

- Outreach work to raise awareness of opportunities for participation
- Research to enable proper analysis of initiatives and options
- Consultation with local community and voluntary sector groups, e.g. community meetings
- Communications (bulletins, website)
- Community surveys
- Developing mechanisms for electing and supporting accountable representatives
- Expenses of representatives (e.g. substitution costs, childcare, dependents care) and access to appropriate training, seminars and conferences.
- An office with access to communications technology (phone, fax, internet, photocopier)
- Administrative and co-ordination support.

#### WHAT CAN'T THE CEF BE USED FOR?

- Cost of work that there is a statutory duty to provide
- Political or exclusively religious activities
- Overheads apportioned in excess of those used for any similar work carried out by the organisation
- Construction or purchase a building
- Activities outside Hackney
- Interest charges
- Contingencies
- Redundancy payments
- Depreciation
- Payments into private pension schemes
- Entertainment costing more than £20 per person.

#### Interested?

HCVS wants to engage with you in the following six areas:

- · Outreach;
- · Research;
- Information;
- Training;
- Community Representation;
- · Network development.

If you think you have the expertise to deliver in any one or more of these areas, then contact HCVS to register your interest on 020 7923 1962

## need to use the library?

HCVS has a lot of Government documents that you can use, especially if you haven't got access to the Web. Just give us a call and we can post them off to you or drop in to see what we have. Here is a list of the main government documents that you need to be aware of





Local Strategic Partnerships: Government Guidance October 2001

Neighbourhood Renewal

Community Chests: a Gran

Programme Supporting Community

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, DTLR

Involvement in Neighbourhood



Faiths, Hope and Participation Celebrating Faith Groups' Role in Neighbourhood Renewal New Economics Foundation and Church Urban Fund September 2001

A guide to the Tenant

DTLR

March 2000

Empowerment Programme



Compact

of some

documents.

Community Groups: a Code of Good Practice NCVO, 2000



Local Compact Guidelines: Getting Local Relationships Right Together Local Government Association



Preparing Community Strategies: Government Guidance to Local Authorities Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, DTLR December 2000

Accreditation Guidance for

Local Strategic Partnerships

Community Empowerment

(Also available in Gujerati, Urdu,

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, DTLR

October 2001

Fund guidance

June 2001

Bengali and Punjabi)

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, DTLR



Compact on Relations between Sector



Government and the Voluntary NCVO. 2000



Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Organisations: a Code of Good Practice NCVO 2000



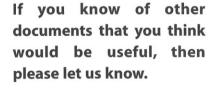
Consultation & Appraisal: a Code of Good Practice



NCVO 2000



Funding: a Code of Good Practice NCVO. 2000



Dont forget - you can pop

in to HCVS anytime and get application forms for the

main funders, look at the

programmes or get copies

of new funding

of

these



8

**Visit the Neighbourhood Renewal website at:** www.neighbourhood.dtlr.gov.uk/

or visit the Active Communities Unit (Home Office) web page at: www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu/index.htm



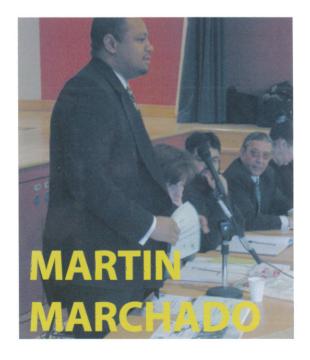
# MASON

arika has worked with HCVS on several projects, the most recent being running the PQASSO workshops (quality standards for voluntary and community groups). She has helped to draft the Community Empowerment Network work programme and talked at the CEF conference about the ins and outs of the Community Empowerment Fund. Marika, who works on many projects nationally, is well versed and experienced in all aspects of community regeneration and empowerment. She is a well known asset in the borough and has a history of bringing funds and resources into

**EMPOWERING** 

Hackney spring2002

## meet the community development consultants



artin is a Hackney resident who works with the Chamber of Commerce and has a long history of community development in the borough. Martin is helping HCVS with the outreach aspects of the Community Chest and Community Empowerment work programmes. You may well see him present details about both of these programmes as he will be travelling around the borough presenting seminars to your networks. Please get in touch with HCVS if you want him to talk with a group of you about the Community Chest or Community Empowerment Fund in more detail.

f you are a council tenant, the Government wants you to have a proper say in how your home and estate are managed. Getting involved makes for better local services ands string communities. You can help create a brighter future for your neighbourhood.

Tenants and councils working together will produce a written agreement setting out how tenants will be involved in decisions that affect them. This is called a 'tenant participation compact'. They will also need to involve tenants in reviewing how well their whole housing service operates, under a new duty call 'best

You may want to look at ways you can improve your involvement in the decisions that affect your homes and lives, or to develop skills and knowledge to carry out local community projects that will make a real difference to your neighbourhood. So the Government has developed a programme of 'tenant empowerment



#### FREEPHONE 0500 844111

There are also national courses

The National Tenant Training Programme is

a collection ofd short training courses held

across the country. It is run through courses

offered by TPAS and Priority Estates Project

(PEP). These courses are for established

groups as well as those just getting started.

The National Tenant Resource Centre

(NTRC) based at Trafford Hall near

Chester, manages a programme of

residential courses called the 'capacity

If tenants want an-in depth look at the local

housing issues on their estate and to work

out in detail the best way to help tackle

them, then an 'options study' may help. You

may be able to get a grant to pay for

independent advice and support. Contact

the DLTR general enquiries for more

After considering options, tenants may want

to look at taking over the management of

their estate. (1994 regulations make this

possible). If so, the group may be able to get

a grant to explore this option further and set

up a tenant management organisation.

Contact the DLTR general enquiries for

building programme'.

information.

Tenant management

more information.

Working out the options

grants' to help pay for you to get for which the Government pays part of the independent advice and information. cost under the tenat empowerment grant

#### Helpline

The Tenants Participation Advisory Service has a helpline you can ring for help and information (see number above)

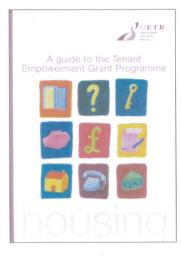
#### Training

There are lots of useful course for tenant to learn or develop skills, for example in dealing with outside agencies, negotiating local agreements, or setting up local initiatives. If you are interested, you should speak to the Council's Tenant Participation Officer:

Marie Price

Tenant Participation Officer LB Hackney Christopher Addison House

72 Wilton Way London E8 1DJ 020 8356 2149



#### New ideas

If you or your group have a really new idea that might benefit other tenants groups too, you may want to get a grant under the Innovation into Action programme. This manage by the Chartered Institute of Housing. See contact list for details.

#### useful contacts

Tenant Empowerment Grant programme Katie Haime or Jerome John Tel: 020 7944 3484/3488 Fax: 020 7944 3489 Email: tp@dtlr.gsi.gov.uk

**Tenant Participation Compacts Len Britton or Evonne Hopwood** Tel: 020 7944 5644/3485 Email: evonne\_hopwood@dtlr.gsi.gov.uk

**Tenants Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Broad Street** Salford M6 5BZ

Tel: 0161 745 7904 Fax: 0161 745 9259 Email: info@tpas.org.uk Website: www.tpas.org.uk

**Priority Estates Project (PEP)** 2 Albert Mews **Albert Road London N4 3RD** Tel: 020 7281 3178 Fax: 020 7281 3587 Email: admin@pepltd.demon.co.uk Website: www.pep.org.uk

**Chartered Institute of Housing Tenant Participation Manager** 9 White Lion Street **London N1 9XL** Tel: 020 7837 4280 Fax: 020 7278 2705 Email: helen.coull@cih.org

#### **Local Strategic Partnership** (LSP)- currently Hackney 2020

Overarching strategic body responsible for the spending plans of the £26m neighbourhood renewal fund in Hackney. It is hoped that LSPs are the body that bring together, at a local level, the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together. Renaisi manage the finance on behalf of Hackney 2020. The LSP has seven themed subgroups that work on specific areas and allocate funding reporting back to the main LSP.

#### **Current membership of Hackney 2020**

#### **PUBLIC AGENCIES**

**PRIVATE SECTOR** 

Labour Group Councillor Jules Pipe Labour Group Labour Group Councillor Ian Peacock Labour Group Councillor Fran Pearson Labour Group Liberal Democrat Group [currently vacant] **Conservative Group** City & Hackney Primary Care Trust Laura Sharpe Metropolitan Police Service London East LSC Steve Crow Hackney Community College Ian Ashman **Employment Service Graham Houghton** Hackney Headteachers Forum Cheryl Day

**UBS** Warburg **ING Barings** Reeve Hepburn

Hackney Chamber of Commerce **COMMUNITY SECTOR** 

Hackney Agency for Volunteering Arts Network **HTEN** Hackney Play Association **Tenants and Residents Convention** Hackney Action for Racial Equality Shoreditch New Deal Trust

**PARTNERSHIP AGENCIES** 

**HCVS** 

Renaisi

**Business Link** East London Business Alliance **HBV** Enterprise **Hackney Education Business Partnership** Hackney Housing Forum **Groundwork Hackney** 

Secretary **LBH Chief Executive** LBH Head of Corporate Policy Councillor Guy Nicholson Councillor Jamie Carswell Councillor Christopher O'Leary Chief Supt. Peter Robbins

Who's who then...?

Nick Wright **David Robins David Willetts Denzal Cummings** 

Janice Rafael Chris Bowler Roger Turner Mick Conway Terry Edwards Joanne Appavoo Michael Pyner Adiaha Antigha

Laurie Hull Rose Albrow (Chair) Sally Agass

**Gary Davies** Brendan Sarsfield Tim Bissett Kevin Sugrue **Brian Bell** Max Caller Tal Michael

#### **Community Empowerment Network** (CEN)



This is the network of over 300 voluntary and community organisations that have come together through a series of local conferences on community participation in neighbourhood renewal and is open to everyone. Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) manage the Community Empowerment Fund and Community Chest programme on behalf of the CEN. The CEN is guided by an informal planning group of 15 representatives from a variety of local organisations. Elections will be held soon to decide who should represent the community and voluntary sectors on the LSP.

#### **Current membership of the CEN Planning Group**

African Development Agency Dr Adu Serie-Wurie Age Concern Hackney Lyn Groves Disability Hackney Sanusie Sesay Adiaha Antigha Hackney Action for Racial Equality Joanne Appavoo Roger Turner Hackney Society Andre Joseph **Hackney Cooperative Development** Adam Hart Interlink Foundation Melanie Denan LVSTC Les Moore North London Muslim Community Ismail Amaan Shoreditch Our Way Patricia Young Social Action for Health Ferhat Cinar Tenants and Residents Convention Dave Mackey

Contact: Jake Ferguson, Assistant Director, HCVS 020 7923 1962

Contact: Peter Fidderman, Interim Regeneration Manager LB Hackney 020 8356 3009

# want to have a say in your community's future?