

NOW Projects

NOW has funded 35 projects since 1999. These are listed below, and a cross section of NOW projects are highlighted in greater detail on the following pages.

Vocational Training Initiative Skills A pre-vocational project which provided skills training in demand-growth employment sectors. The project included a customised reskilling programme and incorporated activity to improve access to employment opportunities at Stansted Airport. VTI placed 80 local residents into jobs and provided 2,583 training weeks.

Job Bank A neighbourhood access point for an integrated package of vocational advice or guidance, job preparation, brokering and placing services particularly for the long-term unemployed. The Job Bank placed 577 local residents into jobs.

Outset Centre Providing a much needed centre for the development and support of 'cultural industries', and assisting the engagement of young people in the James Street Ward of Walthamstow. This project improved the attainment of over 130 pupils and benefited over 250 young people.

Paths to Progress Providing intensive support to parents and academic support to their children when entering education and transferring between schools. Special support is provided to refugees and homeless families.

IT for Parents in Schools Provided access for parents in the community to school computers to improve ICT skills in the adult population.

Hoppa Bus to Argall Avenue This project opened up employment opportunities on industrial estates lacking in public transport through the provision of an extended Hoppa Bus route. The route also links ill-served residential areas to Walthamstow Town Centre. 14,178 people used this service to access employment. This service is now run by London Buses.

STEP into Construction Addressing a shortage of skilled labour for the construction industry, as well as dealing with high levels of low-skilled employment.

Fashion Design and Exhibition Centre [FDEC] FDEC's aims were to provide quality human resource development and training in the fashion and design sectors. FDEC supported 39 new businesses and advised a further 48 local businesses.

Job Opportunities and Brokerage Service Offered specialist outreach information, advice, support and guidance services to help unemployed clients to identify a structured pathway into sustainable employment or training.

Community Health & Wellbeing A project to increase local people's access to health activities through outreach health sessions and the provision of targeted programme exercise at Kelmscott Leisure Centre.

The Limes Children's Centre Development of a specialist play centre with equipment for children with disabilities.

Leisure Facilities SRB funds provided floodlights to five tennis courts and two outdoor cricket nets, as well as covering five tennis courts with synthetic grass at Low Hall sports ground.

Credit Union Aims to improve access to financial services for disadvantaged groups within Walthamstow.

Community Banking Initiatives A micro-credit project that specialises in providing business support, training and start-up finance to unemployed women and women on low incomes in Waltham Forest who are trying to establish their own enterprises.

Changing Perspectives, Changing Power Provides professional management advice and small grants to voluntary organisations.

Queens Road Community Centre Provision of a community centre for residents around the Boundary Road estate.

Community Forum Established a forum to ensure full community participation in NOW. The project distributed NOW funds via small grants.

Refugee Advice The project provides advice, welfare benefits information and outreach work targeted at the refugee community in order to increase the stability of local communities and build the capacity of local ethnic minority groups.

Amends A mediation service using volunteers from the community to allow offenders to make reparation to victims of their crimes. Amends benefited 584 young people and 736 local people benefited from community safety initiatives.

Safe & Warm A project to improve the health, comfort and wellbeing of vulnerable residents by enabling them to keep their homes secure from burglary, warm and free from damp.

Walthamstow Town Centre Management Ensuring the active involvement of a broad range of Walthamstow Town Centre interests in the future success of the economic heart of the NOW Partnership area. A dedicated Town Centre Manager helps to provide the Town Centre with a competitive edge, improves the management of the public realm and helps to satisfy the aspirations of all Town Centre users. The Town Centre Manager has advised 128 local businesses to date.

Shopmobility The project improves access for physical and sensory disability shoppers to increase independence and improve the quality of life for local people with a disability.

CCTV Improving the community safety of Walthamstow and Bakers Arms by provision of CCTV in key locations. These cameras improved the safety of over 19,000 residents.

Rail Access and Refurbishment The main objective of this scheme was to make the St James Street and Queens Road stations more accessible and improve their general environment. Over 2,000 people benefited as a result of safety improvements at these stations.

Town Centre Renewal Programme NOW funding has been used to transform the Town Square and Gardens, provide a striking new bus station and enhance the High Street.

Support to Cultural Businesses Provided training sessions and support to start up business through a resource centre. This project improved 368 square metres of commercial floor space.

Flats Above Shops Refurbishment of flats and shops in partnership with Registered Social Landlords to bring back into use empty properties and improve the physical environment in the town centre.

Shopfront Improvements This project sought to offer financially attractive terms to business owners to improve the ground floor retail frontages of their premises and thus improve the visual attractiveness of the central shopping location. This project provided 178 person weeks of construction employment.

Strategic Street Property Refurbishments Facilitating the refurbishment of strategic residential and commercial properties and the development of new build properties on a mixed tenure basis in the St James Conservation Area.

Town Centre and Key Capital Projects Enhancement of key capital projects in the programme via intensive project support and development.

Industrial Area Improvements - Business Grants An umbrella project of site, premises and environmental improvements to key industrial areas of Blackhorse Lane and Argall Avenue.

Argall Avenue Renewal (Roxwell Studios) Facilitated the redevelopment and refurbishment of Roxwell House into Roxwell Studios, a modern, themed, workspace for starter businesses, focussing on media and cultural businesses. This project provided 355 person weeks of construction employment.

Quality Streets Greening and improving the streetscape of Hoe Street and Lea Bridge Road to compliment the major town centre developments.

South Access Road- Road Closure The project had three key aims: to remove industrial traffic from a residential area; improve road safety in an area with a new primary school; enable the SRB supported Hoppa Bus to provide easier access to job opportunities. This project provided 150 person weeks of construction employment.

Uplands House The project was designed to create a new high tech training and education centre for local residents and workers on the Lea Valley Business Park and Industrial estate to develop the competitiveness of under-performing enterprises.