

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 19 April 2007
Agenda Item:	10
Subject:	Additional Funding
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Purpose:	To outline options for additional funding

Introduction

This report outlines the options that may exist for additional funding, covering:

- Trust funding
- Partnership working

Recommendations

That the Steering Group agrees that:

1. The Project Officer should draw up a draft application to an appropriate Trust Fund and report to the next Steering Group meeting on June 27.
2. The Project Officer should explore partnership options for research, information provision and conferences and report back to the next Steering Group meeting.

Additional ideas and suggestions from the Steering Group would be welcome.

Background

NuLeAF currently relies on funding from its Members, DEFRA and NDA. As indicated in the Finance report (item 9), income is projected to be significantly less than expenditure in the financial year 07/08, highlighting the need to explore additional funding sources.

In addition, as demonstrated elsewhere on the agenda (items 4-7), policy, strategy and proposals for implementation are developing fast, and NuLeAF's work programme is expected to grow accordingly, with a need to enhance services to member authorities, including research, seminars/workshops, briefing material and policy advice.

This initial review of options for additional funding should be seen against this background.

Trust Funding

A review of 1000 Trust Funds has been undertaken with a view to identifying what possibilities exist for funding aspects of NuLeAF's work to develop the capacity of Local Authorities to engage with nuclear legacy issues in national and local (site-based) consultations/dialogues. This work includes:

- Provision of information and educational resources – web-site, briefing papers
- Holding conferences and seminars
- Commissioning and developing research projects
- Working in partnership with key organisations – attending liaison meetings

From the Funds examined, a small number have been identified that have aims and funding strategies that fit with those of NuLeAF, including the Baring Foundation, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the McDougall Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Recommend that the Steering Group agree to a draft application to one of these Funds being drawn up by the Project Officer for consideration at the June SG meeting.

Partnership working

There may also be options for developing aspects of NuLeAF's work with other organisations. This might provide opportunity to spread the workload by involving other relevant organisations while saving on costs. This approach may be applicable for research and conferences/workshops.

Research I: Collaborative projects ESRC/LARCI

The Local Authority Research Council Initiative (LARCI) - based in the Economic and Social Research Council - aims to bring local authorities and the Research Councils into closer partnership. It is hosted on the ESRC website. The Research Councils are major public investors in research in the UK, and fund a large amount of research relevant to local government policy and practice.

LARCI was established in 1997 in response to the growing demand on local authorities for evidence-based policymaking. Input from local authorities helps the Research Councils

ensure the projects they fund have practical applications; using Research Council-funded research helps local authorities ensure their policies are based on reliable information.

LARCI objectives are to:

- Respond to issues identified by local authorities by promoting relevant Council-funded research
- Help local authorities to meet their challenges through access to quality research
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between the Research Councils and local authorities
- Help the Research Councils, local authorities and representative organisations to develop strategic partnerships.

Note that LARCI canvasses input from local authorities on current research challenges and offers to locate research expertise that addresses relevant local authority issues. This is delivered through a variety of media including seminars, newsletters and a website.

Research II: NERC

NERC seeks to increase collaborative research in order to help the transfer of knowledge gained in research to users. The Partnership Research Grant scheme aims to facilitate and promote joint research activities between academic researchers and partners in public or private sector organisations.

The scheme will be implemented through a recently awarded LINK franchise which has EU State Aid approval and replaces the NERC Connect B scheme that previously supported collaborative research with the public sector only.

Project partners may be public sector organisations including local, regional and national authorities, regulators, non-departmental public bodies, non-governmental organisations and charities

NB: Project partners must be able to provide co-funding in cash, or in kind (or both) equal to the funds sought from NERC. Partnership Research Grants are for a minimum of £25,000 for Directly Incurred costs and usually provide funding for up to three years. NERC will pay the standard proportion of full economic costing.

The scheme will be managed through the NERC standard research grant mechanism with closing dates on 1 December and **1 July** each year.

Developing Research Proposals

The LARCI and NERC programmes may provide scope for:

- ensuring research is undertaken on nuclear legacy management issues, informed by the requirements of local authorities;
- establishing a working relationship with Universities that have programmes of research on radioactive waste management issues;
- developing collaboration with academics on specific research projects.

Recommend: Project Officer explores the potential for partnership working on research in more detail, reporting specific proposals to the next meeting of the Steering Group

Conferences and Seminars

It may also be possible to link up with the LARCI and present a meeting on particular issues (see similar approach adopted with the LGA, item 4).

LARCI's seminars publicise Research Council-funded research on issues relevant to local authorities, based on consultations with its members and representative organisations. Its seminars are intended to provide local government practitioners with a forum to discuss policy and research needs with researchers, explore practical applications of existing research and facilitate building bridges between different experiences and expertise.

Recommend: Project Officer explores the scope for collaborating with LARCI on the organisation of conferences and seminars and reports back to the SG.

Future Options

As work develops on the MRWS implementation framework, LLW strategy and nuclear decommissioning and clean-up, it is possible that further issues will arise which require project work that could be funded externally or worked on with partners:

- Future examples might include: Targetting **younger people** who will be implementing decisions made during the next 40 years as part of local consultation/engagement
- Reviewing **educational materials** available concerning Radioactive Waste Management
- Briefing LA **press officers and local media** networks on Radioactive Waste issues

There will be an ongoing need to look for funding opportunities. Ideas and suggestions from member authorities would be welcome.