

WMRIEP BOARD MEETING ON 23rd APRIL, 2 – 4PM

ROOMS 1&2, REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

Agenda

1. Minutes of January Board Meeting and matters arising	For Information
2. Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Final CPA and UoR Scores (handout for information) – Efficiency – regional NIS indicators - oral – Waste (handout for information) – Procurement - Roots Review – oral – One Place/Counting Cumbria - oral – People & Leadership - overview of progress across the region 	(40 minutes) Sue Banks Sue Banks Nina Dawes/Keith Gordon Glyn Evans/Keith Gordon Andy Hancox Bev Messinger/Rebecca Davis
3. WMRIEP Annual Report & Year 2 Delivery Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Year 2 Programme & Focus (paper 1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council Package (paper 1a) • Safeguarding (paper 1b) • Capital & Efficiency Fund (paper 1c) 	(50 minutes) Andy Hancox Sue Banks Mark Rogers/Andrew Worrall Ged Bowles
4. Financial Overview/Project Approvals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Finance Report and Project Approvals (paper 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoke Support Package • Herefordshire Transformation Project • Walsall Transformation Project • Procurement (Category Mgt & E-Auctions) • Future Leaders Programme – Updated Workstream Delivery Plan (paper 2a) 	(20 minutes) Andy Hancox

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF BOARD MEETING – 23RD APRIL 2009

INTRODUCTION

Nina Dawes, the Chief Executive of Lichfield District Council, opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to the Regional Partnership Centre.

1. MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as a true record with no matters arising.

2. UPDATES

- **National Meetings** - Councillor Norman Davies fed back from the national RIEP Member Forum. To date two meetings have been held to share information about progress within the regions. Norman expressed that WMRIEP were considered to be amongst the top 2 performing RIEPs in the country and commended the RIEP team on their efforts to date.

Nina Dawes also highlighted two key issues from the Chief Executives Task Force meeting held in March:

- All RIEPs have submitted their annual reports and a collective report on all RIEP programmes will be produced shortly. The report will be circulated to the Board when available.
- Work is ongoing to assess performance across the regions and particularly to ensure consistency and clarity when reporting efficiencies etc.
- **CPA Update** – Phil Jones from the Audit Commission referred to the handout on CPA results; overall the results demonstrated a story of positive improvement across the region with significant improvements at Coventry and Walsall in particular. However, there were also some key issues for the region including the need to improve Children's Services and support 2 Star authorities.

Nina Dawes congratulated those authorities demonstrating progress and recognised that the region was in a good position moving forward into CAA.

- **NI 179 Efficiency Update** – Sue Banks provided an update and highlighted that the region was currently predicting to under-achieve against the Cost Efficiency target of 3% cashable savings. A recent consultation exercise had highlighted that authorities would welcome clarity and consistency in terms of reporting and also further guidance in terms of what could be included in the returns. A number of authorities are revisiting their targets as a result of our recent contact; although predicted performance is still short of the 3% target.

It was agreed that a series of workshops would be commissioned to share best practice and help address areas of concern.

- **Waste Update** – Keith Gordon referred to the Waste Programme handout and gave a progress update which was positively received. Keith will report back to the Board the outcomes of the meetings with Advantage West Midlands and the joint West Midlands Waste Alliance Meeting.
- **Procurement Update** – Keith Gordon gave a brief overview of the Procurement Programme and made reference to the Roots Review, highlighting that we are already responding to a number of the recommendations.

Glyn Evans commented that a more collaborative and strategic approach was needed across the region and as a result ten LA's would be signing up to work together to improve procurement processes.

Mike Barnes stated that in light of the economic downturn, aiming for lower prices was not always the answer but an important key factor was ensuring job security in the region.

Laura Rowley asked about the Food Project and highlighted the work that Shropshire have been doing in conjunction with AWM to focus on buying produce locally to stimulate the local economy.

- **Counting Cumbria** – Andy Hancox fed back on the announcement in the Budget to run a national pilot based on the Counting Cumbria model. 13 pilots were announced which include Worcestershire, Birmingham and Coventry. Andy stated that it seemed likely that funding would come through the RIEPs although details were sketchy at present. The Board will be updated as we learn more.

Birmingham has already completed some work to date which fed into the Treasury review. The Board discussed the need for consistency across the region and Glyn Evans agreed to circulate the Birmingham report/methodology to help determine whether the other pilots in the region should adopt the same methodology.

- **People & Leadership** - Bev Messinger and Rebecca Davis gave a presentation on the People and Leadership Work Programme, providing an overview of all of the key elements of the programme including the

Future Leaders programme which features as a project for approval in Paper 2 on the agenda.

Bev Messinger highlighted a set of issues in respect of both the sub-regional leadership allocations and the Talent Pool. The sub-regional allocations (£1.1M) were proving difficult to move forward in some cases and it was agreed that we would revisit them later in the year to decide if the funds would be better directed elsewhere, if there was no significant progress in the meantime.

In terms of the Talent Pool, authorities were asked if they supported the principal of releasing their top talent to other authorities as the scheme would only be successful if this were the case. All Board members were very supportive and it was recognised that authorities should be asked to give a commitment to offer people into the Talent Pool when they sign up to get involved.

3. WMRIEP ANNUAL REPORT & YEAR 2 DELIVERY PLAN

Hard Copies of the Annual Report were provided at the meeting.

Year 2 Programme & Focus - Andy Hancox introduced Paper 1 which set out progress during 2008-09 and the key priorities for Year 2. Andy highlighted that whilst there has been positive progress during Year 1, there is a lot to do in the year ahead, set in the context of considerable pressures on public services. Key priorities highlighted include:

- **Governance and Engagement** - Continuing to strengthen governance arrangements at both CEX and Member levels and further developing the IEWM Relationship Management model;
- **Supporting Efficiency** – the growing pressure to achieve efficiencies across partnerships and public services; this will be a key priority across all workstreams. The new Efficiency & Transformation funding will also support this;
- **Economic Leadership** - the key RIEP role will focus on sharing best practice; supporting capacity building; and supporting partnership working. In addition the DWP worklessness funding will provide additional useful resources in this area;
- **Partnership Working** - the need here is to ensure all our activities increasingly provide a combined package of support to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of partnership working;

In addition a number of **workstream priorities** were highlighted including:

- Firming up sub-regional Leadership allocations and developing the Talent Hub;
- Securing greater sector led ownership of the improvement agenda and also promoting innovation;

- Focusing L2D activity at the locality level and supporting key sectoral regional networks;
- Accelerating uptake of opportunities to improve efficiency and ensuring a strong focus on knowledge management;
- Supporting 1* authorities to improve Adult Services and improving Safeguarding in Children’s services.

Specific funding proposals were put forward for the following areas and these were recommended for approval in Paper 2 later on the agenda.

- **District Councils** – a package of £400K;
- **Safeguarding** – a package of £400K;
- **Emerging Priorities and the Economy** – £200K proposals.

Agreed

The Board agreed the priorities set out in paper 1 and discussed other emerging issues e.g. Adult Safeguarding and People with Learning Difficulties reaching older age. It was recognised that in agreeing proposals there needed to be clarity regarding the potential outcomes from the proposed investment.

CLG Improvement and Efficiency Fund - Ged Bowles presented Paper 1c and provided an overview of the funding received from CLG under the first phase of the Improvement and Efficiency Fund. Board approval was sought to release monies for the implementation of a number of recommended projects across the region. The Board was also asked to agree to the development of a regional Steering Group to oversee future allocations.

Agreed

All recommendations were agreed. In particular, approval in principle was given for the following projects:

• Solihull MBC (CRM Transfer)	£30,700:
• Herefordshire County Council	£100,000
• Staffordshire Moorlands/High Peak Alliance	£100,000
• Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils	£100,000
• Stratford on Avon District Council	£150,000
• Tamworth and Lichfield Councils	£200,000
• Walsall MBC	£200,000
• Worcestershire Councils (Two tier)	£200,000
• West Midlands Telecare (Regional)	£70,000
• Artemis (Regional)	£395,000

	£1,545,700

4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW/PROJECT APPROVALS

Andy Hancox gave an overview of Paper 2. The report primarily set out the WMRIEP CSR07 programme and associated budgets and highlighted a number of projects requiring approval.

The Board discussed the proposed Transformation packages and suggested that these could feature at a future meeting to highlight the potential opportunities to other authorities. The RIEP has a key role to play in ensuring that the lessons learned from these projects are transferred effectively across the region.

Agreed

In terms of approvals, the following were agreed:

• District Council Package	£400,000
• Herefordshire Shared Services	£175,000
• Walsall Whole Organisation Transformation	£175,000
• Category Management	£100,000
• E-Auctions	£100,000
• Leadership Development Programme	£430,000
• Safeguarding	£400,000
• Stoke support package (delegated)	£300,000
• Warwickshire Transformation (delegated)	£350,000
• Birmingham Transformation (delegated)	£175,000

5. GOVERNANCE

Andy Hancox referred to Paper 3 and gave a general update on the Governance as follows:

Paul Sheehan would become the Chair for subsequent Board meetings. Nina Dawes would revert back to the Vice Chair role.

Currently two Board vacancies existed and it was suggested that interest should be sought from an additional County Chief Executive and an additional District Chief Executive. Work would also continue to strengthen Member involvement.

The Board agreed with the suggested proposals.

6. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The next Board Meeting would be an all day event on 23rd July. The Board expressed a desire for the day to be both challenging and mind stretching, focussing on key strategic challenges. Potential themes include:

- Sector Led Support – Derek Myers to be invited as a speaker
- Innovation
- Total Place – Efficiency across public services
- Social Networking

WMRIEP's Annual Conference will take place in September and be chaired by Michael Burton from the LGA. WMRIEP are looking to invite national and keynote speakers and the Board were requested to offer their thoughts and possible involvement in readiness.

7. A.O.B.

None discussed.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 23.7.09 All Day
- 29.10.09 2 – 4 PM

<p>5. Governance (paper 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair 2009/10 - CEX and Member Leads 	(5 minutes)
<p>6. Communications Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All day Board/Member Steering Group Meeting 23.7.09 – discussion re: agenda and focus - Planned RIEP Conference – September 2009 - discussion re: theme, speakers and agenda 	(5 minutes)
<p>7. A.O.B</p>	
<p>8. Dates of Future Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23rd July All Day - Joint with Mbr Steering Group - 29th October 2 - 4pm 	