



East Midlands Councils
Phoenix House
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 OUL
Date: 8th July 2011

Dear Chief Executive

RE: EM IEP Support and Offers

The EM IEP have created a legacy programme budget of c£2.3m from under spending on both the EM IEP regional and SRP's 2008/11 work programmes, plus repayments due on previous invest to save projects. The investment into the programmes will be targeted at efficiency saving with the provision for sector led improvement also built into the 2011/13 Legacy Programme.

Below are details of the activities and support that are available to your council through the following regional programmes:

Regional Products and Offers Programme

The Products and Offers Programme provides the opportunity for your council to request a review / audit in the areas listed in bullet points below.

- Income Generation
- Accounts Payable Review
- Debt Recovery Review
- Empty Property Review
- Banking Review
- Utilities Audit
- Energy Efficiency Reviews

The Board have approved a grant allocation of £150k for this programme. The following criteria will be used when an application for a review / audit is received, to ensure equity and value for money:

- There should be Chief Executive and Political 'buy in' to the delivery of the review / audit recommendations

- If more than one review / audit is requested these should be in order of preference in case the programme is over subscribed

If your council is interested in undertaking any of the above reviews/audits please contact heather.parker@nottscc.gov.uk who will be able to provide you with more details of the grant conditions and process for requesting a review.

Regional Business Transformation and Sector Led Support Programmes

EMC / EM IEP have been provided with an opportunity to host workshops at the LGIDs 'Taking the Lead: a practical approach to self-regulation and improvement' events, on 20th July and 14th September, in Nottingham. ***The workshops will provide the opportunity for the delegates at the events to 'shape' the offers of support available through the EM IEP Business Transformation and Sector Led Support Programmes, using the framework for these programmes outlined below.***

- **Regional Business Transformation Programme**

The Business Transformation Programme will continue to provide a range of regional learning and development opportunities, either provided as a package or on a pick and choose basis. There will also be the opportunity for councils to access consultancy support for individual transformation projects such as shared management teams.

In addition to the above, at the meeting on 12th April the Board agreed that an investigation is commissioned of EM local authorities response to the reduction in grant funding. The aim of this review is to provide EM local authorities with information, ideas and measures to use as they take forward their efficiency programmes. ***The EM IEP partnership would value your input into this review when you are approached by Capita (Stephen Farrington) to share your council's response to this issue.***

The EM IEP will be providing a ***'New Ways of Working' event on the 29th November 2011.*** This event will be targeted at elected Members and Chief Executives from across the EM region. The aim of the event will be to disseminate the findings of the review outlined above and showcase good practice from across the EM in the areas of Collaboration; Back Office Transformation; Total Place and Community Budgets.

- **Regional Sector Led Support Programme**

The EM IEP sector led support programme is being developed to 'add value' to the LGID's core programme and to maximise EMC's offer to its members, which would avoid overlap and duplication of activity. The LGID's core

programme is comprised of 7 elements, which are listed below with bullet points of additional support that could be provided by EM IEP:

1. Local Accountability
 - Continued support for members and officers from EMC scrutiny network
 - Identification and support on specific scrutiny issues
2. Peer Challenge
 - To support delivery of improvement plans for councils identified as 'in difficulty' (each submission of support would be presented to the Board for approval, using the delegated decision route if necessary)
3. Peer Support
 - To support member development activity identified through the Peer Support offer
4. Knowledge Hub
 - Supporting the LGID's aim of identifying and promoting centres of excellence through knowledge transfer and signposting
5. Data & Transparency
 - Enabling the sharing of information and transparency of performance across the regions LAs
6. Leadership Support
 - Rolling out a programme of development opportunities for members and senior officers
 - Providing seminars for elected members and senior officers on the 'big/tricky' issues e.g. Localism
7. Learning & Support Networks
 - Continuing to provide support to the professional networks that have been established in areas such as business transformation

In addition the EM IEP Improvement and Efficiency Legacy Programme also includes the following:

Regional Joint Children's and Adults Services Collaborative Efficiency Programme

Rutland and Leicestershire CC are the accountable partners for this project. This regional collaborative efficiency project will complement local actions to reduce some of the costs of high cost placements. The regional groups of DCSs and DASSs have agreed that the project will focus on 14-25 year olds with complex needs and address the following common priorities:

- Priority One - Tackling the costs of existing commissioning
- Priority Two - Changing the prevailing commissioning culture and behaviours

Regional Procurement Programme

Sponsored by Derbyshire County Council. The EM IEP have previously supported the Heads of Procurement Group to deliver a number of collaborative procurement initiatives including Source Initiative, Regional E-Auctions licence, Consultancy Value Programme and numerous joint contracting initiatives. This project will support further delivery of the building blocks for long term collaboration as it will establish strategies, supporting systems and processes to initially identify and then by focused activity deliver procurement opportunities across all authorities and spend areas. In addition the systems envisaged will allow for other professional groups (Care, Highways Alliance etc) to access and manipulate spend data.

Sub Regional Efficiency Programme

Details of Sub Regional efficiency projects submitted and approved by the Board are available on the EM IEP website:

<http://www.eastmidlandsiep.gov.uk/legacy-programmes/>

Martin Hill.

Councillor Martin Hill
Chair EM IEP
Leader of Lincolnshire County Council.

cc Council Leaders