

Agenda item No: 11

EAST MIDLANDS IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING: 3rd February 2009

Report of the Director

Response from the LGA to the Progress Review of the EM IEP

1. Purpose of the report
 - 1.1 To advise the Board that the LGA Improvement Board has recommended that the retained grant (£1.3m) should be released by the CLG.

2. Background
 - 2.1 At the meeting on 15th January 09 the EM IEP Officer Steering Group welcomed the attached report and verbal update on the presentation from Councillor Hill at the meeting held in Grantham on 1st December 08, concerning governance arrangements now in place for the EM IEP. The Presentation was followed by questions from the LGA delegation concerning Member involvement in the EMIEP and aspects related to local authority performance in the East Midlands.
 - 2.2 The letter **attached** to the report from the Chair of the LGA Improvement Board (Councillor David Parsons) to John Healey MP, Minister of State for the CLG, recommends the release of the retained £1.6m for 2008/09. It should be noted for the purpose of this report that the retained grant was in fact £1.3m.
 - 2.3 The Director of the EM IEP has been contacted by the CLG officials requesting some additional information. The Director will provide a verbal update on progress at this meeting.

3. Recommendation
 - 3.1 That the action taken by the Chair of the LGA Improvement Board be noted.

Chris Allison
Director EM IEP

**EAST MIDLANDS IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP
OFFICER STEERING GROUP MEETING: 15th JANUARY 2009**

Report of the Director

Grant Funding 2008/09

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To advise the Steering Group that the LGA Improvement Board has recommended that the retained grant (£1.3m) should be released by the CLG.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Steering Group will be aware that in signing off the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for the East Midlands, the LGA suggested that £1.3m of the £5.3m 2008/09 grant be retained until robust governance arrangements were embedded. Thus grant received from the CLG for the current year was £4.0m.

- 2.2 A meeting on the 1st December 2008 was held involving Councillor Martin Hill, Chair of the EMIEP Board, Councillor John Stocks Board Member and Vice Chair and also representing the Nottinghamshire Sub Regional Partnerships, and Councillor Robin Brown, Board Member and representing the Northamptonshire Sub Regional Partnership, together with members of the LGA Improvement Board. The Chair of the Steering Group and colleagues from the GOEM, IDeA and the EMIEP Support Team were also in attendance.

- 2.3 A presentation from Councillor Hill on the governance arrangements now in place for the EMIEP was followed by questions from the LGA delegation concerning Member involvement in the EMIEP and aspects related to local authority performance in the East Midlands. The view was conveyed to the EM delegation that the LGA were satisfied that progress in the East Midlands RIEP was sufficient to justify release of the retained grant.

- 2.4 The letter **attached** in Appendix 1 from the Chair of the LGA Improvement Board (Councillor David Parsons) to John Healey MP, Minister of State for the CLG, confirms this position.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That the action taken by the Chair of the LGA Improvement Board be noted.

Chris Allison

Director

East Midlands Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

RIEP/RIEP Board meetings/agenda item 12 – grant funding.doc



John Healey MP
Minister of State
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

11 December 2008

Dear John,

East Midlands RIEP - request to release funding

On 1 December 2008 in my role as Chairman of the LGA Improvement Board, I led a delegation of senior LGA Improvement Board members, Councillor Dame Sally Powell and Councillor Sir David Williams to the East Midlands, to hear a presentation from the Chairman of the RIEP, Councillor Martin Hill and other RIEP lead members.

We had originally recommended that not all of the RIEP funding was released for year one (£4m of the £5.6m bid), and that funding was withheld from the East Midlands RIEP pending evidence of satisfactory governance arrangements being in place. The East Midlands had been through a period of transition, resolving staffing issues, member governance and changes to the Chief Executive. We wanted to see further development before we were reassured of their capacity to deliver.

Following that meeting I am confident in recommending to you that the remaining funding for 2008-09 should be released. The East Midlands have put in place strong arrangements that I am sure will guarantee the success of the Partnership. I have set out in annex A the key elements of the new arrangements and membership of the Member Board.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr David Parsons
Chair of the LGA Improvement Board

Copies: Cllr Hill East Midlands RIEP, LGA lead Improvement Board members

Annex A

Governance and performance management arrangements

Governance

- The East Midlands RIEP is embedded within the governance structure of the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA). The RIEP member board (12 members), which meets on a quarterly basis, reports to and is accountable to the EMRA Executive Board and to the Full Assembly.
- The member board is supported by a RIEP officer board which meets monthly and is chaired by Nick Hodgson, Derbyshire CC. The Board consists of 15 voting representatives (9 counties/unitary, 5 districts and 1 representative from FRS)
- Each sub regional partnership is represented by a member 'champion' on the RIEP board and chairs of SRPs who are not full board members attend the board meetings to observe.
- The RIEP operates on a strong sub regional basis. The five sub regional partnerships are member led and report to the officer steering group which meets monthly
- Performance management arrangements see a rolling system where highlight and exception is recorded for all projects (both regional and sub-regional) against key milestones. Budgetary recording is built into this process and funding is drawn down by the sub-regions in relation to completion of milestones
- Full performance reporting on all projects is provided on a six-monthly basis to both the RIEP Member Board and the Officer Board. This is supported by quarterly reporting including highlight and exception reports to both boards.

East Midlands RIEP Member Board

Name	Council
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
Cllr John Stocks	Nottinghamshire CC
Cllr Fiona Martin	East Lindsey DC
Cllr Marion Brighton OBE	North Kesteven DC
Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland CC
Cllr Robin Brown	Northamptonshire CC
Cllr Jeremy Webb	East Lindsey DC
Cllr Tony Woods	Northampton BC
Cllr David Parsons	Leicestershire CC
Cllr Roy Mayhew	Northamptonshire CC
Cllr Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
Cllr Ross Willmott	Leicester City
Cllr Lewis Rose OBE *	Derbyshire Dales DC
Cllr Jim Harker *	Northamptonshire CC
Cllr Neil Clarke *	Rushcliffe DC

* Attend RIEP Board meetings as an observer on behalf of sub regional partnership