

Agenda item No: 5

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP MEMBER BOARD MEETING: 29th May 2008

Report of the Director

East Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Strategy (RIES)

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The EMRIEP Officer Board on the 30th April 2008 considered the attached report. The Purpose of the report was:-

- a) To present the final RIES document (version 9) which was approved by government and the LGA in March.

2. Background

2.1 The EMRIEP Officer Board:-

- a) Received the RIES final version signed off by the LGA in March 2008.
- b) Considered and noted the stretch targets for the region set out on pages 15-16.
- c) Acknowledged the outline work programmes set out in Section 7 as the basis for the construction of the business delivery plan and the overall direction for the sub regional partnerships.
- d) Acknowledged the grant retention placed upon the East Midlands, which is subject to governance arrangements being in place by October 2008

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Member Board is asked to note that the LGA has signed off the EM RIES

3.2 The Member Board note that the stretch targets and outline work programme contained within the RIES form the basis of the Business Delivery Plan

Chris Allison

Director

East Midlands Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP OFFICER BOARD MEETING: 30 APRIL 2008

Report of the Director

East Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Strategy (RIES)

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To present the final RIES document (version 9) which was approved by government and the LGA in March.

2. Background

- 2.1 Colleagues will recall that development work for the production of the RIES was compressed into a short time frame, as a result of late notification of process issues by the LGA.
- 2.2 Effectively the RIES document had to be developed to criteria established by the LGA/CLG, conditioned by the requirements of the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy and the Comprehensive Spending Review 07 delivery plan. These documents were published in December 2007 and October 2007 respectively.
- 2.3 The process agreed and rolled out for the East Midlands included a series of workshops which included all local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, the Peak District National Park authority and police service representatives during the period November 2007 to January 2008. The workshops involved over 160 officer and members and approximately 50% of all chief executives within the region.
- 2.4 The draft RIES document underwent many changes following the first draft presented to the EMIP Officer Group and the Members Steering Group meetings in January. Consultation with all local authorities and discussions/challenges from the LGA also shaped the final document.
- 2.5 In signing off the RIES the LGA commented that more clarity on the delivery of programmes and the linkages to the sub regional partnerships was necessary. This is covered in the business plan. Appendix 1 contains the letter from John Healey to Sir Simon Milton which effectively signed off all 9 RIES documents.
- 2.6 As the governance arrangements had not been agreed at the time the RIES document was submitted to the LGA/CLG, a retention of £1.30m of our grant allocation in 2008/09 has been made. This is covered in the report on governance and in the report concerning the business delivery plan.

2.7 A printed and bound volume of the RIES will be available for each member of the EM RIEP Officer and Member Boards. This will be tabled at the meetings.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The EM RIES final document be received.

3.2 The stretch targets for the region set out on pages 15-16 be noted.

3.3 The outline work programmes set out in Section 7 be acknowledged as the basis for the construction of the business delivery plan and the overall direction for the sub regional partnerships.

Chris Allison
Director
East Midlands Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

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31 March 2008

RECEIVED
10 APR 2008

Dear Simon

Thank you for your email of 17 March recommending the sign-off of the nine regional strategies submitted by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships.

The timescale we set the RIEPs to prepare their regional strategies was very challenging, I was therefore impressed by their level of ambition and the alignment in their strategies with emerging LAA priorities and the efficiency agenda. This is due, in no small part, to the hard work of the LGA and your personal commitment and leadership. I'm sure you will agree that the approval of the strategies and the announcement of the resources to support them takes us a big step closer to achieving our vision for a joint local and central government approach to supporting excellence.

We are now embarking on potentially the most difficult phase of work. Implementation of these strategies will be a huge test for these new bodies. However, with continuing support and challenge I am confident that the RIEPs will be able to deliver on their aspirations for their region. A key area of work will be to build strong governance arrangements to ensure effective leadership by Councils and partners. I am reassured that most are considering how to strengthen political accountability to ensure strong member leadership of improvement and efficiency. I am also pleased to hear that the LGA is working up proposals for closer engagement of RIEP political leaders at a national level.

I will be expecting my officials to be closely involved in the implementation phase. especially in these early stages, I therefore welcome the establishment of the Chief Executive's Task Force, Directors' Advisory Network and the proposed programme board to monitor performance. These will be important mechanisms for ensuring close co-operation and co-ordination of local and central government improvement and efficiency agendas. I look forward to receiving regular updates on progress, in particular in the East Midlands.

With good wishes
Yours sincerely
J Healey
JOHN HEALEY MP