

Agenda item No: 8

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

Report of the Director

Prospectus 2008: the guide to improvement and efficiency support

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 inform the Board that the LGA and CLG have jointly published Prospectus 2008 to assist local authority partnerships and RIEPs signpost support that is available from central government agencies.

2. Background
 - 2.1 The EMRIEP Officer Board:-
 - a) Received the national Prospectus 2008 brochure
 - b) Commissioned an EMRIEP support prospectus along the lines outlined in the report

3. Recommendations
 - 3.1 The Member Board receive the national Prospectus 2008 brochure and endorse the commissioning of an EMRIEP support prospectus

Chris Allison

Director

East Midlands Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

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

Report of the Director

Prospectus 2008: the guide to improvement and efficiency support

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To inform the Board that the LGA and CLG have jointly published Prospectus 2008 to assist local authority partnerships and RIEPs signpost support that is available from central government agencies.

2. Background

- 2.1 The National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy indicated that a national prospectus would be published detailing the support available to local authorities in achieving their improvement/efficiency targets. The prospectus was published in March 2008 and a printed copy will be available at the Board meeting.

2.2 Support available

This prospectus therefore includes practical offers of support to build strong local partnerships to deliver better local outcomes. It details the support available from the sector's own improvement bodies, along with support from central government, designed to help local authorities and their partners to achieve high standards of performance and deliver key national priorities. Alongside this, Regional Improvement and Efficiency strategies will set out support at a regional and sub regional level, distinctly reflecting local needs and priorities.

2.3 How to access support

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships, working closely with the IDeA, through Regional Associates and Government Offices (GOs), will form a hub linking together this extensive programme of support, making it easier for councils and their partners to access the right support at the right time. This should be the starting point for councils and their partners. As RIEPs gain experience and develop their role, they are expected to identify increasing opportunities to place them at the forefront of improvement in specific subjects.

2.4 Funding for support

Up to £185 million has been allocated to RIEPs. This is in addition to the £114 million of top-sliced Revenue Support Grant provided to the LGA central bodies to deliver programmes and tailored support to strengthen local leadership of improvement and value for money initiatives over the CSR period, and to embed this capacity for the future.

2.5 Supporting outcomes

It is recognised that central government support will still be needed in some service areas where the sector's national architecture and RIEPs need to build capacity and capability. The first section of the Prospectus provides a comprehensive summary of the support on offer from government departments and the sector's improvement bodies to help local authorities and partners.

It is also recognised that there are some important connections between these outcomes and the need for an integrated approach to ensure genuinely sustainable communities.

However, for ease of reference this section has been broken down into eight subsections, which highlight the support on offer from central and local government. The sections are as follows:

Part A: Stronger communities

Part B: Safer communities

Part C: Children and young people

Part D: Adult health and wellbeing

Part E: Tackling exclusion, and promoting equality

Part F: Local economy

Part G: Climate change and environmental leadership

Part H: Enablers

The second section of the Prospectus sets out the early steps that are being taken to simplify delivery support arrangements.

3. East Midlands context

3.1 The national prospectus is a very useful document to guide our LAA partnerships and/or sub regional improvement partnerships in terms of national and local support available. However, it is felt that a more localised version of the support and resources available from the EM RIEP could form the basis of an East Midlands support prospectus.

3.2 This would cover the priorities and programmes contained within the RIES and the business delivery plan, together with support available from our partner agencies i.e. GOEM and IDeA. It would also help communicate the EM RIEP 'offer' to constituent local authorities as a void currently exists in this respect.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The national Prospectus 2008 brochure be received.

4.2 The EM RIEP commission an East Midlands RIEP support prospectus along the lines outlined in the report.

4.3 The prospectus be presented to the first meeting of the new Member Board.

Chris Allison
Director
East Midlands Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

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