

RIEP Progress Update

RIEP Name: East Midlands IEP

Date Completed: 15.01.09

Update from: October 2008

To: December 2008

1 Headlines:

- Delivery plans now approved and being implemented across all 5 sub-regions in addition to the regional programmes that are in progress. Member champions are being identified for all programmes
- Continuing and targeted programme of support being provided to Rutland County Council
- Wide range of capacity building events underway covering all workstreams with focus on LAAs and partnership working
- Midlands Highways Alliance and East Midlands Property Alliance are continuing to secure savings across the region
- 200 individuals have completed the NVQ Level 2 in Business Improvement Techniques.
- Support for procurement 'clusters' established under the RCE regime continue to assist authorities obtain value for money

2 Partnership Update:

The East Midlands (EM) IEP is working to deliver the programmes outlined in the EM RIES and in November signed off the outstanding delivery plans for the sub regions. Delivery is underway for regional programmes and commencing in the sub-regions, with CLG and the LGA having announced release of the outstanding 1.3m of funding on 6th Jan 2009 as a result of satisfactory progress in the region. Currently and additional £2.06m has been channelled through the EM IEP for the JIP, children's services and climate change regional programmes. Full officer and member governance arrangements have been in place centrally for the EM IEP since May and have more recently been finalised within the 5 sub regions. The EM IEP has agreed a scheme of delegation in order to allow funding to be allocated responsively to need. The process of review of the RIES targets and annual business planning for 2009/10 is fully underway with forward priorities outlined through EM IEP members and having completed a consultation exercise with local authorities and local professional networks. The Officer Steering Group agreed on 15th Jan 2009 to recommend to members the creation of Member Champions, drawn from the Member Board and the sub-regional partnerships, for all regional programmes. As part of the RIES it was agreed that the East Midlands core CLG funding would be split with 30% of funding being delivered regionally and 70% being delivered on a sub-regional basis.

3 Programme level/ sub-regional update:

Nottinghamshire

The Nottinghamshire Improving Efficiency Group has now agreed Rushcliffe Borough Council as its accountable body and has a joint member and officer governance group in place with representatives from all authorities in the sub-region including from the FRS. The terms of reference and the delivery plan have been signed off with a focus on partnership working around shared services and joint procurement projects. 9 projects have been agreed for 2008/09.

Derbyshire

The Derbyshire Transformational Partnership has agreed its terms of reference and works with Derbyshire County Council as its accountable body. The Partnership Management Board is chaired by the leader of Derbyshire Dales District Council and a work programme of 12 projects including a number looking at: shared services, cohesion and community safety/engagement work.

Northamptonshire

The Northamptonshire Partnership's Public Service Board has formally agreed to take on the role of sub-regional partnership for Northamptonshire with the County Council taking the position as accountable body for the sub-region. The work programme has been agreed and focuses on 6 key programme areas: Procurement, Carbon management, Shared services, Capacity, Strategic improvement and shared assets.

Lincolnshire

The Lincolnshire Improvement and Efficiency Programme has signed a collaboration agreement between partners and is chaired on a rotational basis by the Leaders within the sub-region. North Kesteven District Council acts as the accountable body for the Partnership and a work programme of three key areas has been agreed. These areas are: Improve efficiency, Build capacity and Service improvement including response to CAA.

Leicestershire and Rutland

The Leicestershire and Rutland IEP, comprised of Leaders of all councils in the region, has agreed terms of reference and that Leicestershire County Council will act as the accountable body for the partnership. A work programme of 13 projects has now been approved with a focus on the three priority themes of; Capacity building, Improvement to services/LAA delivery and Efficiency gains.

Regional Programmes

Improvement and Partnerships

- As part of the region's Support to Councils in difficulty work programme, support has recently been provided to Rutland County Council to continue an ongoing programme of improvement looking specifically at: Equalities and achievement of the Equalities Standard, Cultural change programme and performance management work and additional support in improvement of the Housing Service
- The Adult Social Care programme funded to the tune of £112K in partnership with the JIP is providing leadership and project assistance on the personalisation workstream and around safeguarding and the development of support to carers. An additional £1.5m from DH and NHS has been channelled through the EM IEP to support the delivery of the JIP projects.
- The Climate Change programme steering group created and meeting on a bi-monthly basis. Outline programme now approved

Capacity Building

- £158K is designated to the capacity building workstream with a range of workshops, events and training underway. Events to date have included; Scrutiny and LAAs, Strategic Commissioning for LAA/CAA success, Improving Local Environmental Quality in the East Midlands and Implementing the empowerment agenda. To date 800 participants have attended 28 events across the region. A web-based knowledge bank has also been developed on the EM IEP website to co-ordinate, signpost and broker support for local authorities.
- A programme of targeted support for the delivery of the regions LAAs/MAAs is being delivered. This LAA programme is providing support for delivery planning; performance management and hard to crack indicators such as alcohol, obesity, worklessness
- A regional capacity building and support programme includes guidance and support to the sub-regions and to councils on SNR; skills training on third sector commissioning with the GO and channelling support from Nottingham Trent University Business School targeted at Health and Adult/Children's Services.

Efficiency

- EM IEP has continued funding the Midlands Highways Alliance. The Alliance is a partnership of 10 authorities which projects to achieve efficiencies of around £9m by 2011 as well as benefiting local communities by driving the improved design and delivery of large scale highways projects. Five highways contractors are signed up to the Midlands Schemes Works Framework and a number of procurement initiatives operated through the Alliance have delivered savings of up to 17% on commodities procurement. The East Midlands Property Alliance was launched in late March 2008 and receives continuing support from the EM IEP in influencing construction spend. 15 authorities are signed up to the alliance and benefiting from framework contracts to release efficiency savings and provide long term benefits, £6m savings secured to date.
- The Children's Services programme is being developed, currently £86k has been committed to the programme with an additional £41k being channelled through the EM IEP from the DCfS

Innovation and Transformation

- Business Transformation programme of £400K is currently centring around the free NVQ level 2 in Business Improvement Techniques course which has been completed by over 200 local authority staff to date with 55 currently in the programme (across 14 local authorities)
- In addition a number of business improvement projects have been commissioned embracing lean systems thinking and using technology to improve working environments. Both ICT and HR transformation networks have been established to promote innovation and transformation of these business critical functions in local authorities

4 Thematic involvement/ Leads:

The EM IEP is strongly involved in cross-sector group activity with designated representatives for the themes in their work programme. The EM IEP is also involved in the Midlands Highways partnership which works to gain efficiency benefits across both the East and West Midlands.

Risks and issues:

- The complexities of organising the sub-regional partnership model, driven through member governance arrangements, has caused some delay in getting sub-regional investments and delivery underway
- The late release of £1.3M of the RIEP's funding will provide some challenge in extent of delivery prior to the end of the RIEP's first year.

Next period:

- Support has been and will continue to be provided to the sub-regions. Strong performance management arrangements are in place centrally to ensure that all projects are on track regionally and sub-regionally and release of funding is related to delivery of outcome milestones
- Funding has now been released and sub-regional plans have been signed off, this will allow delivery of work to progress as planned.
- Agreement with the EM RIEP Board on the revised RIES targets, will form part of the Annual Report arrangements