

## **Notes of meeting with John Healey 25 November 2008**

In attendance: John Healey, Cllr David Parsons (LGA), Paul Coen (LGA), Stephen Jones (LGA), Deborah Heenan (CLG) Annette Madden (LGA).

John Healey welcomed the opportunity to meet David Parsons to talk about RIEPs.

John is interested in seeing the RIEPs work - however he wants to see evidence of innovation, efficiency and political leadership. He questioned whether we had sufficient levers in place to ensure their success - and whether there was more that could be done.

The RIEPs' strategies were signed off, in most cases providing funding for the first year - John would like to see regular information on whether they were delivering.

David Parsons said he was challenging the RIEPs on;

- what they are doing in the current financial crisis
- what processes they have in place for authorities that run into trouble
- Procurement and how this can be developed further in light of the Roots Review

For him, the big question at the end of the first year will be, did the RIEPs do what they said they were going to do?

John Healey and David Parsons agreed that it would be useful to send a joint letter to the RIEPs as we approach the final quarter as a check /reminder for reporting prior to the end of year 1.

John Healey mentioned extra cash available from the DWP to put through the RIEPs.

David Parsons said that he has seen evidence of the performance management arrangements through the Improvement Board and that reporting was conducted at least quarterly within the RIEPs.

There had been concerns about the governance arrangements in the East Midlands which was why initial funding was withheld. The concerns are understood to have been resolved, with satisfactory arrangements now in place and David Parsons has arranged to visit the RIEP on 1 December 2008. David will provide John Healey with a report following the meeting.

**Two actions were agreed from the meeting;**

1. That there should be consolidation of reporting on performance, to a common standard, at more frequent than annual intervals (this is key if RIEPs are to continue to receive funding in future years)
2. John Healey and David Parsons will send the RIEP's a jointly signed letter setting out expectations for the RIEPs, and explaining what the reporting requirement would be.

Annette Madden  
25 November 2008