

RIEP developments - update

Summary

The report updates the Board on the latest RIEP developments, including securing funding for 2010-11.

Recommendations

The report is for information.

Contact Officer: Keith Beaumont
Phone No: 0207 296 6828
Email: keith.beaumont@idea.gov.uk

RIEP developments

Background

Securing Year three funding for the RIEP programme

1. The report to the Board's January meeting described the process for securing RIEP funding for 2010-11, an important component of which was the production of individual RIEP interim reports summarising progress to date. These reports were submitted to CLG on 4 February together with a summary report of key achievements containing a foreword jointly signed by the Chairman and Joyce Redfearn, Chief Executive of Wigan council and Chair of the Chief Executives' Task Group (CEXTG).

2. The summary report has been sent to Improvement Board members for information. The key messages highlighted in that report were:

- RIEPs are part of local government and operate under **strong member leadership**.
- RIEPs have enabled local authorities to deliver **£286 million** efficiencies to date¹ and will deliver up to **£950 million** savings by March 2011.
- RIEPs have **embraced partnership working across the public sector**
- RIEPs' have **invested almost £10 million²** in supporting authorities to **improve performance under Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)**
- RIEPs are providing a range of support to help local authorities **deal with the impact of the recession** including tackling worklessness.
- On receipt of year three funding, RIEPs will help authorities to deliver up to **£664 million** further efficiencies (by March 2011), **support continuous improvement, 'mainstream' the principles behind Total Place**, build on their existing focus for **innovative procurement** and support the learning from **'Putting the Frontline First'**
- In the next spending review period, RIEPs will evolve to meet emerging challenges and further develop a **'place based' approach** to providing improvement and efficiency support.

3. It is hoped that by the time of the Board's meeting, Ministerial decisions on year three funding will be known. CLG officials have indicated that decisions could be announced at the Chief Executives Task Group on 11 March. We will alert members to any decisions as soon as they are known.

¹ As at end December 2009

² Investment to date (as at Jan 2010) provided by individual RIEPs – includes commitments for CAA support where appropriate

Quarterly updates

4. At its last meeting the Board agreed that RIEP quarterly updates be circulated for information to Board members. The March 2010 quarterly updates were due for consideration by the Chief Executives' Task Group on 11 March. These will be circulated to members before the Board meeting.

Publications

5. Copies of the Efficiency Casebook were circulated to members of the Board and RIEP lead members on 9 February under cover of a letter from the Chairman. The final edition in the series of member procurement guides, on commissioning adult social care, was published in the 20 February edition of First magazine. The February edition of the RIEP member bulletin was circulated on 10 February.

Putting the Front Line First Task Force Report

6. On 1 March CLG published a report of the Putting the Frontline First Task Force, which had been commissioned by the Communities Secretary John Denham in December to develop proposals to identify how councils can be made more efficient and save money without adversely affecting the quality of frontline services. The Taskforce was jointly chaired by Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council and Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham. The report can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/puttingfrontlinefirst

7. The report is addressed to council leaders and is in two parts; the first asks a number of strategic questions around the two themes of "Do we know where our authority needs to be in five years time?" and "Do we know how our authority is performing currently"; the second part sets out a number of strategic challenges for local government and the actions tools and resources that councils may access in order to bring about radical change in the way they do their business. The RIEP Programme Office supported Joyce Redfearn in her role on the taskforce as theme lead for 'shared services', including contributing a considerable amount of information about existing activity led by authorities and RIEPs. The RIEPs are positively identified throughout the report as a key resource for local authorities' seeking support.

Follow up to RIEP Member Forum

8. Following the last meeting of the RIEP Member Forum on 13 January which was attended for the first time by IDeA national and regional peers, the Chairman wrote to RIEP Lead Members on 1 February suggesting ways in which links might be strengthened between RIEPs and lead peers. The suggestions included inviting a lead peer to attend RIEP member board meetings as an observer and widening RIEP member communications to include lead peers. In addition the Chairman has proposed inviting IDeA national and regional peers to future RIEP Member Forum meetings.

Financial Implications

9. There are no direct financial implications for LGA arising from this report but the report addresses improvement and efficiency policy issues that are central to authorities' current programmes to deliver efficiency savings and improved services.

Implications for Wales

The report applies to England only.

Contact Officer: Keith Beaumont
Phone No: 0207 296 6828
Email: keith.beaumont@idea.gov.uk