

Revenue Support Grant (RSG) Bid - Briefing for Programme Boards

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report sets out a summary of the proposed outcomes in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) submission, following the agreement by the LG Group for top slice to be paid to a single specified body for a set of agreed high level outcomes. This will allow us to allocate funding and decide on the best means of delivery to achieve those outcomes.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider whether the outcomes set out in the report:

- reflect the overall priorities of local government, based on the experience of their own councils and more general feedback;
- are in line with the specific priorities identified by their Programme Board.

Action

Officers to feed Members' views into future activity.

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**Improvement Programme
Board**

9 September 2010

Item 5

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Background

1. The LG Group has reached agreement with CLG about funding that gets redirected, or 'top-sliced', by Whitehall from the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) that councils receive each year. At present, the government directs the funding to be received by each of the nine central organisations serving local government. In future, the total grant would not be ring-fenced but would be delegated to the designated local government body (LGA or LG Improvement and Development) -for a set of agreed high level outcomes, allowing us to allocate funding and decide on the best means of delivery to achieve those outcomes. In return we are bidding for RSG top slice of £31.5m - a 30% reduction. CLG is currently consulting councils on these proposals.
2. Over the summer, work has been underway across the LG Group on the RSG top slice bid, building on a consultation exercise with councils carried out in the Spring by Rob Whiteman, Managing Director of LG Improvement and Development, and further discussions with councils at the LG Group conference.
3. Programme Board members are invited to review the priorities in the draft submission prior to this being signed off by the LG Group Executive on 16 September - where Board Chairs will have the opportunity to feedback - and Resources Panel the following week. As well as forming the basis of the submission to CLG, these priorities will be central to the LG Group's strategy and business plan for 2011/12, which will be discussed further with Members over the autumn.
4. A summary of the proposed outcomes in the RSG submission is presented in the attached **Appendix A**. The full draft submission, which will also include information on the LG Group's offer to deliver those outcomes, will be available for circulation to Programme Board members on 7 September.

Conclusion and next steps

5. The bid will be discussed by the LG Group Executive on 16 September and by the Resources Panel on 24 September before submission to CLG.

Financial Implications

6. The financial implications for the LG Group are as set out in paragraph 1.