

Local Partnerships

Purpose of report?

To provide background information for the presentation from Judith Armit the Chief Executive of Local Partnerships, on the current work of Local Partnerships.

Summary

LP exists to work for Local Government and for the public sector more widely; and this report gives some background information on the work of Local Partnerships and the benefits for Local Government and for individual authorities.

Recommendation

This report is for information.

Action

Officers to take action arising out of any discussion, as directed by members.

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Local Partnerships

Background

Origins of Local Partnerships

1. Local Partnerships (LP) is a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) of which the LGA owns 50 per cent. It was created in August 2009 by the amalgamation of the former 4ps (Public Private Partnerships Programme) founded in 1995 by the LGA, and Partnerships UK, which put its locally focused business into the new company. With the absorption of Partnerships UK into the Treasury in 2010 and the emergence of Infrastructure UK as a result, LP's owners became HM Treasury and the LGA. Each owns a half share and is represented on the Board of the company.

The Purpose of Local Partnerships

2. LP's strap line is "Commercial Expertise driving value and efficiency in local public services" and the organisation exists to help delivery of infrastructure and service change at local level. It deploys skills in financing and in complex projects, for public benefit, acting as a commercial agent. Its business model is to:
 - 2.1. work for central and local government;
 - 2.2. entirely for and within the public sector;
 - 2.3. sharing its intellectual capital freely with local government;
 - 2.4. acting as a source of commercial expertise, building capacity and capability in the sector;
 - 2.5. operating on a cost recovery basis, paid through fees/grant or similar mechanisms except where work of benefit to the local government sector as a whole is funded by RSG;
 - 2.6. providing additionality, i.e. not doing things which can be done more efficiently by another organisation; and
 - 2.7. deploying a small core of staff supplemented by a wide range of associates and short term contractors from whom it gains flexibility and a range of skills on a cost effective basis.
3. In 2012-13 Local Partnerships worked with 65% of local authorities, including all the core cities, 30 of the London boroughs and 25 out of 27 of the counties. LP has worked with councils in every region of England, and in Wales.

Current Projects

4. LP are involved in a wide range of programmes including :
 - 4.1 **The Waste Infrastructure Development programme**-assisting almost all local authorities in England procure new waste infrastructure (e.g. incinerators or anaerobic digestion systems)
 - 4.2 **Operational PFI projects**- Reviews of existing operational PFI projects to make savings, as encouraged by HM Treasury. The work is paid for by a range of government departments (including DCLG, DEFRA and the Home Office) but local authorities are able to retain the savings.
 - 4.3 **Broadband in the UK**- LP was asked by the Government in Autumn 2010 to support the developing programme. A number of LP staff working with Broadband UK for over 2 years have acted as Project Directors for the 42 Local Authorities and 3 Devolved Bodies delivering broadband across the UK
 - 4.4 **Thames Tunnel** - The Thames Tideway Tunnel is a major new sewer that will help tackle the problem of overflows from the capital's victorian sewers and protect the River Thames from increasing pollution for at least the next 100 years. LP is providing commercial support to the public sector stakeholders in the development of one of the world's largest and most complex civil engineering projects.
 - 4.5 **Social Investment** - LP has been actively working in the social investment space since 2009. The work currently includes fund management (the Department of Health's £100m Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) with The Social Investment Business), fund development, supporting new investment models and facilitating networks.
 - 4.6 **Assurance Reviews**- A LP Gateway Review is a peer review process applied to a project / programme at key decision points in its life cycle. It is designed to provide fully independent external quality assurance and develop project and programme management expertise within the public sector community.
5. Further information on LP is available on their website:
<http://www.localpartnerships.org.uk/>

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this report,