

Community Budgets Update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper reports on action by the LGA since the last Executive meeting in support of the four whole-place Community Budgets pilots.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note and comment on the update.

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

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Community Budgets Update

1. The Executive has asked for an update at each of its meetings on the LGA's support to the member councils involved in the four whole-place Community Budget pilots.
2. The pilots areas themselves – Cheshire West and Chester, Essex, Greater Manchester and West London – are finalising outline business cases for reforming public services, promoting growth and engaging citizens in service delivery for meetings between Leaders from the pilot areas and Ministers on 17 July, and separately Chief Executives and Permanent Secretaries on 11 July.
3. LGA continue to liaise closely at senior level with the whole-place areas, and the Chairman and Leaders from the four areas are meeting regularly.
4. The following broad priorities for LGA support have been agreed:
 - 4.1. influencing at national level, including media and other communications support;
 - 4.2. convening a shared story about the ambition and scope of the pilots;
 - 4.3. providing support to combine the financial evidence from the four places into a
 - 4.4. national-level business case that would allow the Community Budgets model to be applied more widely;
 - 4.5. supporting a “Challenge and Learning Network” of other councils with an interest in taking a whole-place approach.
5. The table attached in **Appendix A** reports on progress to date.
6. The Executive is invited to take note and comment.

Financial Implications

7. This work has been budgeted for within the 2012-13 workplan.

Item 1

Appendix A

WHOLE PLACE COMMUNITY BUDGETS – LGA PROGRESS REPORT – July 2012

Work-strand	Action	Progress
Scope and ambition	No outstanding actions.	Representatives from the pilot areas set out the scope and ambition at a plenary session on community budgets at the LGA conference in July.
Ministerial engagement	The LGA to prepare brief and paper for the meeting of leaders with the Secretary of State and Ministers.	A meeting has been arranged for 17 July. Leaders discussed the presentation on 3 July and will meet again on 13 July.
Influencing	<p>Development of a shared narrative.</p> <p>Development of an influencing strategy would circulate and would include influencing decision makers in the health service and other areas outside local government and Whitehall.</p>	<p>Final version agreed by leaders.</p> <p>Influencing strategy to be reviewed following the July meetings with Permanent Secretaries and Ministers.</p>
Financial modelling and evidence	LGA to join Treasury Technical Analysis Group.	<p>Treasury Technical Analysis Group involving pilot areas and LGA met 18 June.</p> <p>Ernst and Young appointed to support the financial case and are meeting the pilot areas to discuss their outline business cases and support needs.</p>

Item 1

<p>Challenge and Learning Network</p>	<p>A “challenge” session would be arranged in Cheshire West and Cheshire.</p> <p>Proposals to galvanise the network.</p>	<p>Way forward discussed with Cheshire West and Chester – agreeing review team and date.</p> <p>CEOs from Challenge & Learning network event met at LGA conference 26 June and agreed to a further meeting in September.</p>
<p>Networking</p>	<p>LGA to provide online networking.</p>	<p>Knowledge Hub groups launched 2 April.</p>
<p>Communications</p>	<p>LGA conference to promote whole place community budgets.</p>	<p>Plenary session held on the whole place pilots on 27 June and CEOs meeting on 26 June.</p> <p>Pilots covered in June First.</p>