

Item 4

Community Budgets update

Purpose of report

For discussion.

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 the update.

Action

LGA Officers to action as necessary.

Contact officer: Paul Raynes
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 020 7664 3037
E-mail: paul.raynes@local.gov.uk

Item 4

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 following broad priorities for LGA support have been agreed:
 - 2.1. influencing at national level, including media and other communications support;
 - 2.2. convening a shared story about the ambition and scope of the pilots;
 - 2.3. providing support to combine the financial evidence from the four places into a national-level business case that would allow the Community Budgets model to be applied more widely;
 - 2.4. supporting a "Challenge and Learning Network" of other councils with an interest in taking a whole-place approach.
3. The pilot areas themselves – Cheshire West and Chester, Essex, Greater Manchester and West London – are working on their whole place community budget operational plans to be submitted to government at the end of October.
4. Leaders from the pilot areas met Ministers on 17 July to discuss the progress of the pilot areas. A subsequent exchange of correspondence between the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the LGA Chairman recorded the meeting and agreed 4 blocks of work:
 - 4.1. a single conversation between the pilot areas and government on the barriers to community budgets (for example, NHS tariffs);
 - 4.2. the development of the 4 pilot areas' operational plan comprising an overarching plan and a set of business cases covering each of their proposals;
 - 4.3. the development of a "cookbook" that will capture the learning from the pilot areas and enable replication of their approaches;
 - 4.4. a strategic communications plan.
5. The LGA Chairman and leaders from the four areas are meeting regularly – they last spoke on 6 September and are meeting again on 21 September. The table in **Appendix A** reports on progress to date.
6. The Executive is invited to take note and comment.

Resource Implications

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

Item 4

Appendix A

Whole place community budgets – LGA progress report – September 2012

Work-strand	Action	Progress
Ministerial engagement	Leaders to discuss the next round of bi-lateral ministerial engagement.	LGA to set out a plan for leaders to discuss on 21 September.
Influencing	A draft script on the whole place pilots is being developed for the party conference season alongside a targeted influencing plan.	Leaders have a first draft and will discuss again on 21 September.
Financial modelling and evidence	Ernst and Young have developed an aggregation model.	The model will be populated with data from the pilot areas in mid-September to assess the national impact of the pilots' proposals.
Challenge and Learning (C&L) Network	<p>A "challenge" session has been arranged in Cheshire West and Cheshire.</p> <p>The LGA will co-ordinate the development of a "cookbook" to enable other places to adopt a whole place community budget approach drawing on the learning from the pilot areas.</p>	<p>A team to provide the challenge has been agreed and dates for the challenge sessions.</p> <p>CEOs from C&L network met at the LGA conference 26 June and are meeting again on 26 September.</p> <p>Leaders have asked for details of the proposed cookbook for their meeting on 21 September.</p>
Networking	LGA to provide online networking	Knowledge Hub groups launched 2 April
Communications	Community budget conference	The LGA is working with CLG to provide a community budget conference in November.