**Item 4**

**Report to Executive Advisory Group**

**Improvement East** **3rd September 2008**

**Subject:** **Making a difference – the two or three big wins where we can have the most impact**

**Report by:** **Secretariat**

**Purpose**

**Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the EAG**

**i) Considers the options for focus for the partnership in Year One**

**ii) Identifies the 2 or 3 areas where the partnership could make a real difference which is then recommended to the Member Panel on the 18th September 2008**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Improvement East is developing a comprehensive delivery plan to implement the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Strategy agreed in March 2008. There is a danger, however, that by developing programmes in silos we will miss the opportunity to really make a difference. This paper sets out some of the cross cutting areas we may wish to focus on in year one to make a big difference

## 2. Options

### 2.1 Growth

2.2 The impact of having three of the four national growth areas in the East of England is probably the biggest challenge for this region. A great deal of work is already going on in this area but it is clear that Improvement East could make a valuable contribution to this agenda through:-

- Building capacity
- Co-ordinating activity across the RIEPs
- Spreading best practice between the growth areas

### 2.3 Local Government Reorganisation

2.4 Three of the six county areas in the region are affected by local government reorganisation and the challenges that this presents. Improvement East has already committed to working with these authorities but an opportunity exists to do things differently and make a difference by:-

- Supporting the Bedfordshire authorities by levering capacity from other Councils and sharing learning
- Developing bespoke programmes to support Suffolk and Norfolk

## 2.5 Efficiency

2.6 There is an opportunity to revisit our approach to efficiency whilst building on the legacy of the Regional Centres of Excellence. Rather than fund a multiplicity of programmes it is worth taking stock and identifying a key focus for the partnership.

## 2.7 Economic development

2.8 The East of England is one of the few regions that make a net contribution to the national economy. Following SNR authorities will be required to work differently with their partners and Improvement East is currently working with authorities to assess the impact of this change. This area of work could be linked with growth as economic development is integral to this agenda.

## 3. Conclusions

3.1 Improvement East has the opportunity to add value by focusing on a few key areas where by working regionally we can make a real difference. From the research that has been carried out, and from the input we have received from partners, the areas outlined above would provide this focus.

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**Contact:** Cecilia Tredget 01284 729 464 Cecilia.tredget@eera.gov.uk