**Item 5**

**Report to the Executive Advisory Group**

**Improvement East** **21 January 2009**

**Subject: Year 2 Delivery Plan and Priorities**
**Report by: Secretariat**

**Purpose**

**To consider the framework and the priorities for the Year 2 Delivery Plan**

**Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the EAG agrees the framework and approach for the Delivery Plan and identifies the key priorities for the Partnership in its second year.**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In June 2008 Improvement East agreed a Year One Delivery Plan. This was a 'high level' document setting out the major areas for investment and the priorities for the first year of the Partnership

1.2 It is proposed that a similar 'high level' document is prepared for Year Two and this paper sets out some key issues and the process for agreeing the Delivery Plan

## 2. Issues for discussion

2.1 Priorities

2.1.1 The economic down turn has and will have an enormous impact on local authorities in the East of England. The Partnership is developing its efficiency programme but does there need to be a greater push from the Partnership in terms of:-

- An invest-to-save fund of up to £1.5m for the regional authorities to 'borrow against' for efficiency projects? This approach is already being taken forward by the East Midlands RIEP.
- A large scale regional project on procurement? Ideas include a Regional Procurement Hub or a Procurement Task Force. Capital Ambition has put in place an Efficiency Peer Challenge process in London.

2.1.2 The ten Local Area Agreements in the region have identified three areas where working together will make a difference:-

- Climate change
- Community Empowerment, engagement and cohesion
- Skills and Worklessness

Two of these themes already have regional partnerships in place but to make a real difference these need more support and leadership from the Sector. Is this an area that the Partnership would wish to prioritise in Year Two?

2.1.3 The Fire and Rescue Services have not been a major player in the first year delivery plan. Should the Partnership be proactive in working with the Fire and Rescue Services to commission a programme for improvement and efficiency? A recent Audit Commission report highlights the need to accelerate improvement in the Fire and Rescue Service.[1]

2.2 Funding

At the end of December less than half of the Year One budget was committed to programmes. It is anticipated that this figure will rise to approximately half by the end of the financial year leaving £4m unallocated. One option would be to continue to allocate in line with the year One Delivery Plan. An alternative way forward would be to add the unallocated sum to the Year Two funding which is likely to be £7m. This would provide the Partnership with a budget of approximately £11m for 2009/2010

2.3 Regional Commissioning

In the first year of the Partnership a robust method of regional commissioning has developed in some areas; for example the model adopted by Adult Social Care and Children's Services. This model has been rolled out by the Secretariat and partners to other priority areas, and it is intended that all programmes should be signed off at the April Member Panel meeting. Some of the finer details may still need to be agreed and one way to do this would be through the regular Cluster meetings.

2.4 Cross Cutting Issues

One of the great strengths of the Partnership is the ability of the sector to look across a range of activities and identify where it can add the most value. In November the Member Panel identified a few key areas where the Partnership could develop its distinctiveness and these could be built upon in Year Two.

These key areas included:-

- Innovative models to support and build capacity for authorities undergoing major change, eg LGR

- Working across the sector to build the skills and capacity to manage growth in the future and the impact of the economic down turn now.

[1] Audit Commission, "Rising to the challenge: Improving fire service efficiency", Community safety National report, December 2008

## 3. Process

3.1 The outcome of the discussion of this meeting will feed into a draft Year Two Delivery Plan

3.2 It is proposed that this Draft Plan is taken to the cluster groups and that a cluster group for the areas of Skills and Capacity is established. A table showing the latest position on the membership of the clusters is attached for information.

3.3 The Draft Year Two Delivery Plan and Annual Report forms the basis of the agenda for the Joint EAG/Member Panel meeting on 4 March 2009.

3.4 That both documents are signed off in April at the respective meetings of the Executive Advisory Group and the Member Panel.

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| Outcome | Theme | Member Champions | CEO Champions | Improvement East Partners | Lead Secretariat Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Performance** | Individual Authorities<br>Children's Services<br>Adult Services<br>Use of Resources<br>Equalities | **Mac McGuire**<br>Lynne Faulkner<br>Chris Millington | **Caroline Tapster**<br>Kevin Crompton<br>Gillian Beasley<br>Rob Hammond<br>David White | IDeA<br>Audit Commission<br>GO | Jane Sullivan |
| **LAA** | LAA/LSP/MAA<br>Comprehensive Area Assessment | **Jane Storey**<br>Christopher Arnold<br>David Jenkins<br>Robin Harris | **Gillian Beasley**<br>Joanne Killian | IDeA<br>Audit Commission<br>GO | Jane Sullivan |
| **Efficiency** | Smarter Procurement and Transformation of Services | **Tony Williams**<br>Terry Hone<br>Michael Lager | **Malcolm Morley**<br>Rob Tinlin<br>Nick Bell (Deputy CEX Essex CC) | IDeA<br>Audit Commission<br>GO | David Ellis |
| **Skills & Capacity** | Workforce Planning & Member Development<br>Community Empowerment<br>Economic Dev<br>Growth<br>Unitaries | *Workforce Planning*<br>Michelle Monck<br>*Member Development:*<br>Penny Otton<br>*Community Empowerment:*<br>Theresa Higgins<br>*Growth:*<br>_____<br>*Economic Development:*<br>Mike Carver<br>*LGR*<br>Alan Melton | *Workforce Planning & Member Development:*<br>Andrew Good<br>*Community Empowerment:*<br>Richard Elliot<br>*Growth:*<br>Rob Hammond<br>*Unitaries:*<br>Mark Lloyd<br>Martin Reeves<br>*Economic Development:*<br>Martin Reeves | IDeA<br>Audit Commission<br>GO<br>EERA<br>PPMA<br>EEDA | Cecilia Tredget |