

Share It!

North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Transformation Programme

April 2008
Issue 8

Strategy finalized

THE final North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Strategy was sent to CLG at the beginning of March.

The plan covers the full three-year programme for the breadth of the partnership's work to be delivered in the region and includes projects on efficiency, transformation, member and workforce development and improvement.

The strategy is available [here](#).

The document has a section showing the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership's allocation of funding. This clearly identifies £4.2 million (approximately 60%) being ring-fenced so that the sub-regions can implement transformational strategies.

Letters were issued in the week commencing March 24, 2008 asking for submissions from the sub-regions that will explain on what they intend to spend their ring-fenced funding. Responses will be due for return by May 10, 2008. This will allow for the completion of the transformation strategies - funded by the North West Shared Services Programme and developed by the sub-regions - which are due for submission at the end of April. The Partnership Management Board will then be meeting on May 20, 2008 to approve the funding strategies. The interim director of the NWIEP, Steven Pleasant, has said: "We cannot afford any delays in this first year."

There is a further allocation of £950,000 to be used at a regional level to support the implementation of these strategies.

For progress on the sub-regional strategies, please see the highlight reports for each sub region or, if you prefer the overview for the programme, [click here](#).

For a useful overview of all the recent CLG documents covering how they see the future for efficiency and improvement please see [Efficiency News Issue 15](#).

All change for shared services!

OVER the last year, the scope of the North West Shared Services Programme has widened.

As a result, a new programme, called the NWIEP Transformation Programme, has been established from April 1, 2008 and will take up where the North West Shared Services Programme left off. Along with a new NWIEP Transformation Board, the programme will oversee the work of the sub-regions in implementing their strategies and achieving results.

The final meeting of the Shared Services Board will take place on May 12, 2008 and will also be marked with a hand-over meeting to the new NWIEP Transformation Board. The new Board will operate at a strategic level and will be made up of senior people with the fullest understanding of what is happening in their sub-region. It will be underpinned by a network group of programme managers.

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The meeting in May will be the first time representatives get together following the writing of the strategies. Representatives will have the chance to gain a clear understanding of what each sub-region is working on and to ensure that there is no project duplication. Additionally, representatives will be able to see where opportunities can be gained from sub-regional clustering of projects.

The Big 5 trail steps up

The next 'What's in it for us?' event - 'Bagging the Big 5' - is on May 13, 2008 and is at Wigan Investment Centre. At this event we will hear from the sub-regions about their finalised strategies, and from the Board about any resulting cluster or regional arrangements. Furthermore, we will also be hearing presentations from colleagues who have 'worn the T-shirt'.

[Click here](#) for further information.

The 'What's in it for us?' event 'Tracking the Big 5' took place at Wigan Investment Centre on March 4, 2008. Numbers were lower than hoped but included officers at all levels, a councillor and more than one chief executive. Those who did attend have said that it was an excellent event that allowed them to find out more about what is happening in their own sub-region, in addition to the others.

CUPID takes flight

A NEW database to bring collaborators together has been launched by the NWIEP Transformation Programme Board.

The CUPID database, based on the Yorkshire and Humber model, is a match-making tool to help councils collaborate on projects. It will be a mine of useful information about existing collaborations, a source of data for joining collaborations and a tool for prompting further collaborations.

On April 11, 2008, the survey will be launched on your behalf to gather all the necessary information to populate CUPID. We will start by contacting you, the programme stakeholders, in each authority.

In addition, any officer with a.gov.uk email address can supply relevant data to CUPID but it's vital that, as a start-point, our stakeholders supply theirs. As well as being a knowledge-base for collaboration, CUPID will also hold a raft of information, such as CPA scores and systems used.

[Click here](#) to access the survey.

Carry on Collaborating

A ROADSHOW – 'Carry on Collaborating' – is to take place in each sub-region for chief executives and councillors in June or July 2008. The aim is to show what the sub-regions are trying to achieve through their transformational strategies, how that fits in regionally and how collaboration can play a major part in helping deliver results. Carry on Collaborating will also overcome hurdles, explode myths, gain understanding of the content and context of transformation and obtain genuine support for these strategies at chief executive and councillor level. This follows feedback from you that you need the back-up and understanding from your councillors.

Try out mietool

A NEW tool has been developed by RSE Consulting for CLG to support projects to identify their return on investment and benefits realisation. Free, one-day training sessions have been organised in the region to show finance directors how mietool can help assess the efficiency and improvements of potential projects and establish the financial, non-financial, cashable and non-cashable gains.

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Mietool is also designed to help plan and cost projects and allows users to measure improvement, both to the organisation and to the community at large, against all 198, new National Performance Indicators.

Feedback from pilot sessions of mietool has been overwhelmingly positive and the majority of delegates said that using mietool would benefit their council

To register on the mietool training, contact Rahela Aziz on 0161 342 4080 or email rahela.aziz@tameside.gov.uk.

Double delight

TWO more councils have taken up the challenge to beat the countdown for free places on the BPI training courses.

Trafford MBC and Wyre BC have now registered interest in the training and are looking to take almost 60 places between them.

The free training offers an NVQ Level 2 and saves, on average, £6,600 per annum, per participant. Training lasts 12 to 16 weeks and takes place at the officers' own place of work - provided sufficient number of officers from the authority are taking part. Otherwise, individuals may be asked to join with a nearby authorities' training sessions.

The latest phase of training started in January 2008 and, although the funding is due to end in the summer, councils can still apply for training places simply by contacting rosemary.ramirez@tameside.gov.uk

External Events

Front Office Shared Services: joining up local services around citizens
May 7 and 8, 2008
Victoria Park Plaza Hotel, London

THE IDeA is running the second [Front Office Shared Services National Conference](#) (FOSS).

The two-day conference will showcase excellent practice where local public sector organisations are working together to commission and deliver more effective and efficient services for citizens and businesses.

It will also feature a range of keynote speakers, panel sessions and workshops that will emphasise cutting edge transformation such as engaging citizens in transforming services, achieving transformation in two-tier areas, exploiting customer insight and partnering successfully for transformation.

The two-day conference will be chaired by Janet Callender, Chief Executive and is a key event for all those involved in the design and delivery of local services to engage with and meet the needs of citizens and business.

For more information and to register, visit the [conference website](#).