

# Share It!

## North West Shared Services Programme News Update

December 2007  
Issue 7

### What's in it for us? event – Tracking the Big 5

THE next What's in it for us? event – **Tracking the Big 5** – is to be held on January 23, 2008 at Wigan Investment Centre. At our last event, representatives from each sub-region updated us on their planned activity and, this time, they have been asked back to track their progress since then.

We will also train our sights on the regional improvement and efficiency partnership - there'll be an update on the bid for funding that should, by January, have been issued.

[Download the agenda and book your place here.](#)

### Transformation on the agenda

AT THE last Shared Services Programme Board in November the board was consulted about its input into the forthcoming NWIEP bid. It was noted that draft strategies were no longer likely to be received by the end of December 2007 because the strategies themselves had been extended beyond the initial shared services agenda to the wider transformational agenda.

It was, therefore, agreed that, rather than establishing a response for an ongoing shared services programme to the NWIEP, a bid should be established looking at the 'transformational' agenda over the next three years. Furthermore, the sub-regional representatives made clear that they would like to see the bulk of the money received through the NWIEP being 'ring fenced' for the sub-regions to spend in line with their strategies, rather than being used on regional projects. But, they would also expect the funding to be effectively managed in a very similar way to the bidding, evaluation and monitoring process used for the recent shared services monies and for lessons learned, results and outcomes (good and bad), tools and guidance to be shared across the region.

Sub-regional representatives have agreed to send a suggestion of the transformational work to be undertaken in their sub-region, in place of the intended draft strategies, to the Shared Services Programme Manager.

Since the board meeting, the timetable for the regional bid has dictated that these should be with the Shared Services Programme Manager by December 14, 2007, at the latest.

[The minutes of the meeting are available here.](#)

The Programme Report December 13, 2007 is [available here](#), together with the risks log, the issues log and the monitoring overview.

Those wanting to monitor individual sub-regional progress may do so by [clicking here](#).

### Free BPI Training

MORE than 300 people have now registered on this training which is due to start early in January 2008. Don Burn from NA Consulting has been in touch with those who have registered to answer any remaining questions or to meet with groups of officers if this is preferred.

#### Frequently asked questions.

**Q.** What's the catch?

**A.** There isn't one. It really is free of charge.

**Q.** What do we get out of it?

**A.** In the north east, where this training has already taken place, average savings were £6,600 per person, per annum, for each officer taking part.

**Q.** What do the officers get out of it?

**A.** A recognised qualification NVQ 2, a more efficient way of working and the opportunity for trained personnel to transfer their training to other departments, if needed.

Q. Where does it take place?

A. At the officers' own place of work. (If enough officers from your authority are taking part. Otherwise, individuals may be asked to join with a nearby authorities training.)

Q. How long does it take?

A. 12 – 16 weeks.

Q. How many officers can I book on the course?

A. There isn't a limit. Our biggest reservation currently comes in at 60 for a small district council.

Q. What do I need to do?

A. Just send an email with your contact details and an indication of numbers or your enquiry to [Rosemary.cowgill@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:Rosemary.cowgill@tameside.gov.uk)

Q. Am I too late?

A. No!

## National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy

The National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy is the document intended to guide local authorities and RIEPs for the 2008 – 11 period and was due out by the end of November. However, although drafts have been in circulation, we have more recently been informed that there will be a delay in the issue of the final version.

Despite the delay in the guidance no similar delay has been granted for bid submission by the RIEPs which is still January 2008. Helen Platts from the IDeA will be co-ordinating the bid on behalf of the North West RIEP and NWCE, NWIN and NWeGG have been asked to respond to the consultation which also includes meeting with sub regions' Chief Executive Groups and written consultation with individual authorities Chief Executives.

Helen Platts has advised that she is looking for open consultation and that anyone wanting to track progress or add comment may do so by joining the website – [click here](#).

## Shared Services vs EU Procurement Debate

SEVERAL officers across the north west have asked for advice about what effect EU Procurement has on the ability of authorities to share services or lead service delivery for one or more other authorities. We can now share the results of our enquiries. [Clicking here](#) will take you to the EU section of our website where you can see the Teckal Test - a paper by the Cabinet Office - and some advice offered by Eversheds that has been written for two specific authorities but clearly sets out the position for the rest of us.

## South Ribble and Chorley Feasibility Study

South Ribble and Chorley Borough Councils have completed their feasibility study looking at the options, potential benefits challenges and risks of collaborating over their financial, asset management, internal audit and related services.

Approval has now been granted by both councils to proceed to the next stage, implementation planning and the appointment of two key joint new roles. The feasibility study, prepared by the councils and Price Waterhouse Cooper, will be available on the NWCE website in January 2008 and the case study will be available at the next "What's in it for us?" event on January 23, 2008.

## Swan takes flight

ON November 23, 2007, Phil Swan left the Shared Services Programme to enable him to focus on his work with Aperia and NWeGG and, in part, to avoid any conflicts of interest that may arise in the future between his shared services work and his role in Aperia.

Rosemary Cowgill will now take the lead on the Shared Services Programme.