



North West Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) funding update – July 2010

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide Members of the Improvement & Efficiency Commission with:

- an update on progress with the performance monitoring and financial returns for year 2 NWIEP investment;
- notify Elected Members of the progress with the programme for year 3 NWIEP monies;
- inform the Commission of the outcomes from the NWIEP “Dragon Factor” and “Dragon Factor Take II” funding processes to allocate the 2010 capital monies.
- Update Members on bids received for year 3 “NWIEP Funding for Shared Services & Total Place Projects”

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Commission are asked to note:

- the fact that AGMA are up-to-date with NWIEP monitoring arrangements and have claimed all of the year 2 monies (July 2009 – June 2010) from NWIEP (£1,321,000). A report on the outcomes from this investment is scheduled to go to the AGMA Executive Board on the 27 August 2010. This will be circulated to members of the Improvement & Efficiency Commission for comments and amendments prior to the meeting.
- The Greater Manchester proposal for NWIEP year 3 funding (July 2010 – June 2011) was approved by the NWIEP’s Strategic Forum (Elected Members and Chief Executives from across the North West public realm) and NWIEP Programme Office. I can confirm that £1,228,466.31 has been allocated to the AGMA Improvement & Efficiency Commission to manage on behalf of the AGMA Executive Board. An overview of the year 3 programme is outlined in section 4 of this report.
- Greater Manchester's impressive success in the highly competitive, “NWIEP Dragon Factor” round of capital funding. Overall nearly £3million of funding was

allocated across the North West public sector with Greater Manchester projects receiving a remarkable £1,290,000 of this total. This is indicative of the many innovative ideas originating from the sub region (list of successful projects included in section 5).

- Greater Manchester's receipt of £235,000 of funding from the "NWIEP Dragon Factor Take II" Innovation Fund. List of successful projects included in section 6.

3. OUTCOMES FROM NWIEP YEAR 2 FUNDING

Some key outcomes delivered by NWIEP funded projects in year 2 include:

Climate Change Consultation - this consultation exercise has been held up as an exemplar piece of work by Central Government and as a consequence of this work Greater Manchester has been named as a pilot area for £3 million investment by Communities and Local Government (CLG) to improve 'Metrics for all areas'. On top of that a £10m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) scheme is being developed as a result of the £60,000 NWIEP investment and Greater Manchester is applying to be a low carbon area for the built environment designation.

Collaborative Efficiency Programme and Strategic Procurement Hub – Both the Programme Office and Procurement Hub have been working extremely hard to develop their programmes. Updates on progress are to be presented at this Commission meeting.

AGMA Equalities and Human Rights Policy – This is a unique policy which no other conurbation has developed or made such a commitment to. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that equalities and human rights are integral to all new areas of work originating from the City Region.

This project has already achieved a number of positive outputs - the Equalities Charter, the launch event which included keynote speakers - Lord Peter Smith (Chair of AGMA), Chief Constable Peter Fahy (GM Police), Professor Ted Cattle, (Chair of Institute of Community Cohesion) and Vivienne Stone (Equalities and Human Rights Commission) and multi organisation case studies. Professor Ted Cattle was extremely impressed by the approach and work being done through this policy and stated that Greater Manchester was ahead of the game.

Worklessness Activity

9 areas developing Integrated Neighbourhood Pilots, with 10 Advancement Networks either created or currently under development.

Over 1000 frontline workers and their managers will have been trained on the importance of making effective cross-referrals.

E-recruitment

NWIEP funding was used to support the creation of the joint recruitment website and jobs portal www.yourcounciljobs.co.uk.

- 15,545 candidates registered to-date to use the website to search for council jobs.
- 5,856 applicants have completed online applications to-date.
- The website has received 132,641 unique visitors between 30th April – 14th June 2011.
- Reduced advertising and processing costs of authorities. There has been reduced expenditure by consortia of £805,000 in first year of implementation.

The website has been embedded with all councils' intranet sites. NWE0 and AGMA continue to forge new links. The project ensures that all our jobs go directly to Job Centre Plus and have been working on developing sites specifically around school, education and social care vacancies where advertising costs for recruitment are currently far too expensive.

4. YEAR 3 PROGRAMME FOR NWIEP MONIES

AGMA submitted a proposal to draw down NWIEP year 3 funding (July 2010 – June 2011).

This proposal and subsequent delivery plan was approved by the NWIEP's Strategic Forum (Elected Members and Chief Executives from across the North West public realm) and NWIEP Programme Office. £1,228,466.31 has been allocated to the AGMA Improvement & Efficiency Commission to manage on behalf of the AGMA Executive Board.

The programme aims to develop an ambitious and inclusive collaborative programme that collectively delivers value for money public services.

Projects in receipt of year 3 funding include:

Efficiency and Procurement – to build on and further develop Greater Manchester's Collaborative Efficiency Strategy (which includes police, fire and rescue, health and transport partners).

Public Sector Reform – effective evaluation of the City Region Pilot projects. Determining which interventions are most cost effective is essential to informing the effective commissioning and decommissioning of services. Without robust evaluation evidence we will not be able to determine which interventions to scale up and which to scale back.

Benchmarking – the exploration of the feasibility of progressing on a project with a group of like minded councils in Greater Manchester or the North West to try to harmonise accounting and data collection practices to facilitate more accurate and focussed comparisons.

There is an element of **capital funding** available through year 3's NWIEP resource in response to the discussions with Commission Members AGMA is proposing a number of capital options:

GM Winter Highway Resilience Project – will provide a substantial increase in winter road salt capacity for Greater Manchester. A new covered facility will directly serve two key authorities and will markedly increase overall capacity and resilience across Greater Manchester. The impacts of the very cold 2009 winter and substantial snow falls during January 2010 have shown that access to basic highway services for 2.5 million people was severely restricted.

Lessons learned are being put into place across AGMA and central to this is our reliance on salt replenishment in a 'hand to mouth' approach from the few salt providers. Prolonged inability to source and hold substantial stocks of salt had major impacts across the business community including major national & international business in the City of Manchester and Trafford Park. Meeting economic generators' needs are as essential as assuring a specified service to our residential communities.

The provision of a safe and efficient transport network was severely restricted for 3-4 weeks. This directly impacted the local economy, access to basic services especially health care, school exams. It also substantially restricted household waste collection and commensurate reduction in recyclables and loss of financial rewards for some councils.

Historical approaches to management and delivery of road salting operations will be transformed through the addition of a new facility at the heart of Greater Manchester. Stock levels are being increased and changes to management approaches in winter maintenance being developed through AGMA. GMADE - the Directors of Transport across the ten GM authorities (plus the PTE) have endorsed this approach as being central to increased resilience and stock management across and between districts.

The Creation of a 4,000 tonne dry collaborative storage facility for use by the GM authorities in times of extreme weather conditions is an important step to greater resilience. GM Engineers are keen to collaborate on maximising the effectiveness of this future resource.

The GM Engineers will research into which GM authorities use the same types of road salt and equipment so that authorities can joint procure where viable.

Additional funding of £100,000 from Trafford MBC has been allocated to this project.

Voltage Optimisation for GM properties - GM Police and GM Fire and Rescue Service have previously utilised NWIEP grant funding to save money on their energy bills and reduce carbon output via the installation of voltage optimisation devices in their properties. Building on this success AGMA is working with the Energy Manager from each GM authority to install voltage optimisation devices at a number of council owned properties. These devices lower the voltage of the supplied electricity and hence the consumption of energy from the grid / associated carbon emissions / electricity bills.

Installing of Voltage Optimisation devices will reduce energy consumption, as supplying at the correct voltage prevents energy from being wasted. With typical cost savings of 10% and a reduction in carbon output of 13% this will assist authorities in meeting both their efficiency goals and carbon management plans.

A full breakdown of NWIEP year 3 financial allocations per project is included as appendix A.

5. FEEDBACK ON RESULT OF NWIEP'S "DRAGON FACTOR" FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Overall nearly £3million was given out across the North West public sector with Greater Manchester projects receiving a remarkable £1,290,000 of this total. This is indicative of the many innovative ideas originating from the sub region.

Greater Manchester projects receiving NWIEP investment included:

- Saving Water, Saving Money - the collection of water, from the roof space of Council buildings, to divert it away from the United Utilities drainage systems, for re-cycling on site, or diversion into water courses.
- AGMA Community Equipment Services - a project is to stimulate greater collaboration between AGMA authorities in the provision of Community Equipment and Disability Aids;
- SwiTch - as part of a change management and transformational programme, Stockport, Wigan and Trafford Council's have been working in collaboration since September 2008 to exploit the efficiency savings of procuring a shared HR/Payroll system and what opportunities there are for HR/Payroll shared services.
- Voltage Optimisation of the GM Police - to install voltage optimisation devices at a number of sites. These devices lower the voltage of the supplied electricity and hence the consumption of energy from the grid / associated carbon emissions / electricity bills.

6. FEEDBACK ON "DRAGON FACTOR TAKE II" FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - GREATER MANCHESTER SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSIONS

A total of £1,081,850 was allocated to applicants from across the North West public sector. Greater Manchester projects received £235,000 of this NWIEP investment for the following projects:

- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service - "Voltage Power Optimisation Project" - £95,000.

- AGMA Procurement Hub - "AGMA Procurement HUB Spend Pro Enhancement Programme" - £140,000.

7. NWIEP FUNDING FOR SHARED SERVICES & TOTAL PLACE PROJECTS

Funding is currently available to support regional or sub-regional projects with regards to the shared services and Total Place agenda. £250,000 is available for shared services projects and £150,000 for Total Place projects. Potential projects are able to bid for up to £50,000.

To date Greater Manchester has submitted the following bids to this funding stream. The deadline for bids is the 22nd July.

- A project to commission Manchester Metropolitan University to evaluate the Sure Start Outreach Model for Ardwick and the wider family systems approach. The research will connect to the 'Think Family Strategy' which is based "upon the assumption that in Manchester, all partners delivering services from universal to targeted with either individual family members or groups of family members will expect their staff to adopt a whole family holistic approach to all of their customers".

- The Tameside Spotlight Project to cover costs of Non Statutory Offender case manager costs.

- A consistent approach to claims handling across the AGMA authorities. This project would initially involve the claims handling process for highways claims as the highest areas of overall cost of claims to authorities.

- A project that aims to deliver a single insurance framework for AGMA authorities. Currently, AGMA authorities procure their insurance provision from a different number of insurance and broker companies and through individual authority frameworks. Savings could be made via joint procurement.

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APPENDIX A - NWIEP YEAR 3 GREATER MANCHESTER FUNDING ALLOCATION

Project Costs			Spend Profile			
			Q1: July-Sept 2010	Q2: Sept-Dec 2010	Q3: Jan-March 2011	Q4: April-June 2011
AGMA Collaborative Efficiency Programme	NWIEP Revenue	£650,000.00	£132,500.00	£132,500.00	£192,500.00	£192,500.00
	NWIEP Capital	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	TOTAL	£650,000.00	£132,500.00	£132,500.00	£192,500.00	£192,500.00
GM Winter Highway Resilience Project	NWIEP Revenue	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	NWIEP Capital	£250,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250,000.00
	TOTAL	£250,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250,000.00
Voltage Optimisation	NWIEP Revenue	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	NWIEP Capital	£200,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
	TOTAL	£200,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
Evaluation of Public Service Innovation Pilots	NWIEP Revenue	£125,000.00	£31,250.00	£31,250.00	£31,250.00	£31,250.00
	NWIEP Capital	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	TOTAL	£125,000.00	£31,250.00	£31,250.00	£31,250.00	£31,250.00
Admin/contingency costs	TOTAL	£3,466.00	£866.50	£866.50	£866.50	£866.50
Programme Total	NWIEP Revenue	£778,466.00	£214,616.50	£214,616.50	£274,616.50	£274,616.50
	NWIEP Capital	£450,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£300,000.00
	TOTAL	£1,228,466.00	£264,616.50	£264,616.50	£324,616.50	£574,616.50