

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C-046-2016/17
Date of meeting: 1 December 2016



Portfolio: Finance

Subject: External Partnership and delivering better Taxpayer value for money

Responsible Officer: Glen Chipp (01992 564080)

Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) That members agree a DDF allocation of £100,000 to support work to integrate and increase efficiency in the delivery of public services.**

Executive Summary:

Delivering increased value for money is a core principal of the council. Many public services overlap in their responsibilities to deliver services that residents of the district rely on. New ways of working that reduce duplication, and combine and enhance joint working amongst the many bodies that serve local need, is increasingly identified as offering the best opportunity for service efficiency and improvement to mitigate increased pressure on taxpayer funded services. Public bodies such as Essex County Council, the west Essex CCG and other key partners are looking at how a new approach for delivery can be secured in delivering a better, more efficient, joined up service to residents. This allocation will enable Epping Forest District Council to respond effectively and potentially invest in the future in new initiatives and opportunities for joint working.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To help support innovation in joined up services within and across organisational and geographic boundaries that support more efficient and effective service delivery and value for money.

Other Options for Action:

The council could continue to pursue its efficiency programme through focus solely on its own internal mechanisms and approaches, rather than looking at its service delivery as part of a wider mosaic of taxpayer funded services.

Report:

- Public services in Epping Forest District are provided through a myriad of different organisations, many tasked with organisation and provision of connecting and overlapping services. With constraint in public budgets, innovations in technology and drives to enhance services to residents and consumers, public bodies are looking at new ways of working more effectively together, and are looking at a range of match funded initiatives.

2. The council is already in discussion with a number of partners around innovations and more integrated working. A number of areas have initially been identified for potential further investigation for example linked to infrastructure investment, the economy and developing better systems for joint delivery of public services, while a range of others are part of a project pipeline that is being reviewed and assessed.
3. The DDF allocation will enable the council to engage effectively in jointly bringing forward programmes around reform and value for money in partnership with the widest range of external partners as part of a structured plan.
4. Approval of new initiatives linked to this budget will be delegated to the Chief Executive, with funding over £5,000 to be approved by the Finance Portfolio Holder. Regular updates on expenditure and programmes will be submitted to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee.

Resource Implications:

The DDF currently has sufficient funds to allow an allocation of £100,000. The money will be managed as set out in paragraph 4 above.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council has the legal power to work in collaboration with partners and the proposed approval limits for the are within the existing delegated limits.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

The development of project pipelines will be focused on meeting the council's core objectives and policy priorities including a substantial focus on enhancing the impact of the Safer, Cleaner, Greener programme.

Consultation Undertaken:

Discussion around these proposals is ongoing with other local authorities around the District; key partners in the private and public sectors have participated in identifying issues and potential joint responses.

Background Papers:

None

Risk Management:

If funding is not available to participate in joint working the Council may fail to maximise efficiencies and deliver value for money

Due Regard Record

This page shows **which groups of people are affected** by the subject of this report. It sets out **how they are affected** and how any **discrimination** they experience can be eliminated. It also includes information about how **access to the service(s)** subject to this report can be improved for the different groups of people; and how they can be assisted to **understand each other better** as a result of the subject of this report.

Setting up the fund does not impact any of the groups or specific characteristics that the Council has a duty to protect. The equality impact of future funding allocations from the fund will be considered when the decision to allocate funds is made.