

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	24th September 2014
3.	Title:	Transformation Challenge Award
4.	Directorate:	All

5. Summary

In late April the Government announced the availability of £105m Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) grant and a further £200m capital receipts flexibility.

Cabinet approved on 18th June 2014 that an Expression of Interest should be submitted to secure £0.7m of grant funding from the TCA programme.

Our Expression of Interest presented in July 2014 was well received and Rotherham has been invited to present a Final bid proposal by 1 October 2014.

It is proposed that a Final bid proposal from Rotherham is submitted to fund the development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) underpinned by the development of a Single view of a Child information dashboard

6. Recommendations

- i) Cabinet are asked to sign up to the principle of Rotherham submitting a Transformation Challenge Award bid and for this to be developed further for submission on the 1st October 2014.**

7. Proposals and Details

It is recognised that **local authorities face challenges** in delivering high quality services from a combination of demographic pressures, increasing user expectations, and fiscal consolidation.

To meet these local authorities **need to re-engineer their business and redesign** their services to make them sustainable over the long term. Key to achieving this is the coming together of different authorities and parts of the public sector to share staff, other resources including IT, and core services; joining with major partners in their area; and making the most of their assets. These kinds of **radical changes can require upfront funding**. The Transformation Challenge Award is available to provide this kind of funding, targeted at the best proposals which are likely to make the biggest difference across the country.

Source: CLG guidance on Transformation Challenge Award

The Transformation Challenge Award is a challenge fund which makes £120 million grant (£15 million in 2014 to 2015 and £105 million in 2015 to 2016) and a £200 million facility to use the capital receipts from asset sales flexibly to support transformation. The 2014/15 is predominantly (if not exclusively) for district councils to share chief executives and / or management teams.

The Government press release relating to the scheme stated the funding:

“is to be made available ... to areas with ambitious plans for improving services that could include integrating health and social care; getting the unemployed back to work; or early intervention to get children ready for school. At the heart of all these plans will be a renewed drive to redesign public services in a way that works for users, as well as efforts to reduce long-term costs to the taxpayer by making public bodies both more efficient and more effective”.

The critical criteria to be met for the scheme are:

- Savings must exceed the amount of grant / capital receipt flexibility sought.
- The bid must have a positive impact on service users.
- As a minimum, bids must be in partnership with at least one other partner. This could be another local authority, public authority, the Voluntary and Community Sector or a private sector partner.
- **For capital flexibility only**. That the value of the asset sale is genuinely additional to those disposals that would have happened anyway.

Background:

RMBC and its partners have committed to the development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The MASH will help to bring about positive outcomes for children and young people, their families and carers through a multi-agency approach to referral, decision making, assessment and the provision of services at the right time, in the right place and by the right person.

It will focus on safeguarding children and dealing with domestic abuse. The co-location will enable agencies working with children, young people, their families and carers to work collaboratively to offer a co-ordinated response to families. This will be carried out by agencies collectively assessing need and identifying services from the point of contact, through referral and decision making to the provision of services to safeguard children and support their families. The objective is to provide an improved 'journey' for the child or parent/carer with a greater emphasis on early intervention.

Single View of a Child

To underpin this work a "single view of a child" integrated data dashboard is proposed. The dashboard will provide an holistic view of performance across partners, underpinned by a single view of the child/family. This will provide the following benefits:

- Improve the accuracy of information shared.
- Enable partners to share information more effectively and timely.
- Provide one holistic view of the child created by the information held by partner agencies.
- Provide the most up to date information about the child and family.
- Enable visible identification of the child's and families journey and where they are in the process.
- Provide a tool for the collation of partner data and the ability to monitor and manage performance against this data

As part of the contract for the social care system with Northgate an infrastructure was purchased in 2013 which will be the basis for further developments around a single view of a child

It is envisaged however that this will be rolled out wider to include our Foundation Years Service and to support our Families for Change work (troubled families), it would be hoped that the IT development could then be shared (sold on) to other Local Authorities for use in their multi-agency teams.

Next steps:

The next steps and timescales providing the recommendation is approved by Cabinet are as follows:

- Formal signature from Partners – 29th September

- Expression of interest deadline - 01st October
- Winning bids announced – November

Partnership Commitment to this is critical and the project was discussed at the Children Young People and Families Partnership on the 21st May and partners gave their verbal commitment to supporting the bid.

The Final bid documentation is presented in a prescribed format in which our proposal is structured across five thematic cases (strategic, financial, economic, commercial and management). This presentation is based on the appraisal and evaluation methodology developed by HM Treasury (The Green Book) and includes a Cost Benefit Analysis. A draft of the Final Bid Proposal is appended to this report.

The final decision on which schemes will receive funding will be made by the Ministers based on an assessment of whether the bid meets the eligibility criteria, the value for money offered by the scheme, and whether it is viable and desirable.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications associated with the bid process, however if successful there could be a significant amount of investment in Rotherham to implement the MASH development which is underpinned by an IT solution for sharing information with partners.

It is anticipated that the project costs will total £1.2m to receive:

- £0.7m of external grant funding,
- £0.5m of additional funding through the sale of assets under the flexible use of capital receipts facility.

The aim of the flexible use of capital receipt policy is to allow local authorities flexibility to spend their capital receipts from new asset sales, which can normally be used for capital expenditure, on a one off revenue costs of service reform.

A large amount of these costs is related to the IT platform to support the single view of the child work. The project costs are still under review and the final figure may be reduced once project costs are confirmed with all service areas.

It is recognised that working in a more multi-agency way and intervening earlier where there are concerns about a child will reduce duplication and bureaucracy, increase productivity, result in a reduction in the number of inappropriate referrals and reduce the number of people accessing high cost services. These costs savings and fiscal benefits are anticipated to be close to £2.7m over ten years. This information will be presented in the Cost Benefit Analysis prepared for the bid. Thus the project will deliver on the objective that DCLG identifies for the transformation bid, by providing the evidence that savings much exceed the amount of grant / capital receipt flexibly sought.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is no risk associated with the bid process. Failure to bid leaves the Council with a missed opportunity to obtain potentially significant funding to support the selected transformation project. Project risks are in relation to Partner commitment, realisation of savings, ability to deliver IT solution, total costs exceeding grant investment, There may be ongoing revenue costs from 2016/17 not funded through the TCA, (for example £85k per year for ICT licences and maintenance), although these ought to be able to be offset by savings through reducing the costs of care and administration.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed project makes an important contribution to corporate priorities in relation to “protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence”.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Transformation Challenge Award documentation

12. Contact Names:

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