



Thursday, 19 March January 2009

Item 3: 2006 – 2009 LAA Reward Grant

Worcestershire is expecting to receive a LAA Reward Grant of around £7 - £8 million for achievement of the 13 stretch targets in its first Local Area Agreement (2006-2009). This will be paid in two parts, with the first half expected in November 2009.

The Worcestershire Partnership Board has agreed that part of the Reward Grant will be top-sliced to place the funding of the Worcestershire Partnership Team on a sustainable basis from 2009/10. It is also considering a contribution towards the staffing support costs of district LSPs, which is still to be confirmed, but is likely to be £20K a year per district for five years. I would like to see at least part of this go towards increased support for the Community Plan Core Group, which as our district-wide LSP has an increasingly important role and needs a greater degree of support than we've previously provided.

The Worcestershire Partnership Management Group and Board have agreed to take a targeted approach to tackling deprivation and exclusion across the county by delivering the LAA in areas of highest need. It has, therefore, been agreed that following the top slicing of the Reward Grant, the balance will be used towards funding project proposals in each district. The following criteria for allocating the remainder of the Reward Grant (approximately £6 million) have been set:

Primary criteria

- Funding for projects and initiatives that address the priorities of the new LAA 2008 to 2011, especially agreed targets.
- To continue funding for schemes to deliver the LAA 2006 to 2009 priorities, where they have been successful and continue to be a local priority.

Secondary criteria

Where one or more of the primary criteria can be met:

- Funding should be provided in the areas of highest deprivation, where the particular services are identified as a priority within the LAA
- Allocation of LAA Reward Grant should take account of public priorities.
- Priority should be given to those projects that can attract significant amounts of match funding.

District LSPs, in our case the Community Plan Core Group, have been invited to identify one or more specific geographical areas in their district in which a project proposal can be developed to target the needs of that area. Whilst the majority of these are likely to come from Super Output areas within wards (see Appendix A), in rural areas LSPs may identify a cluster of smaller pockets of deprivation as the proposed focus. We've asked the County Council's Research and Intelligence Unit to do some work for us to help us identify smaller areas of deprivation in Wychavon. I'm hoping the results will be available to present at the Core Group meeting on 19 March.

A Task Group has been established to take forward work on delivering the LAA in areas of highest need and determine the process for allocating the Reward Grant. Audrey Steel and I are on the Task Group. The Task Group will consider all project proposals, and accompanying comments from the Theme Groups and partner organisations. It will

recommend projects to be taken forward, for consideration by the Management Group. There is an expectation that partner organisations will need to use/redirect mainstream funding in the targeted areas if the projects are to have a significant impact. At the Task Group meeting we heard some examples of where this has already happened in other parts of the county.

The timetable for this work is set out below:

March	Proposal template to be circulated. District LSPs to identify areas of deprivation and develop draft project proposals.
Early April	Task Group to consider emerging proposals.
Mid May	District LSPs revise proposals.
End July	Deadline for feedback from Worcestershire Partnership Theme Groups.
End September	Final proposals produced.
October	Worcestershire Partnership Board to sign off proposals.
November onwards	Start delivering projects. LSPs may wish to consider starting approved projects before this, by using pump priming finance and claiming back the funding when it is paid.

What this means for us

- Potentially up to £0.5 million of funding available (over 3 – 5 years) to deliver new initiatives that benefit Wychavon communities in areas of the highest need and help deliver our LAA targets.
- Work to identify our areas of highest need, which will provide us with information that will also be useful in other areas of our work now and in the future.
- A key role for the Core Group in agreeing one or more geographical areas to focus on and developing project proposals.
- Work to support the Core Group over the next few months in developing robust, high quality project proposals that are likely to get approval.
- Reviewing our service provision and mainstream funding with partners in the geographical areas chosen to maximise impact.
- Providing support and challenge on proposals from other district LSPs through the Task Group.

Cherrie Mansfield

Strategy & Performance Manager
Wychavon District Council

Appendix A: Identifying areas of highest need

The Worcestershire Partnership Management has identified two main approaches to identify areas of deprivation in the county. The first is to use the 56 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the county in the top 30% most deprived areas nationally. The second is to take the top 10 most deprived SOAs in each district (i.e. a total of 60 across the county, albeit not necessarily the 60 most deprived for the county as a whole). The English Indices of Deprivation (ID 2007) uses the same basic methodology and structure that has been applied in the past:

- They apply primarily to Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), of which there are 32,482 nationally, and 361 in Worcestershire;
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 is a measure of multiple deprivation based upon seven domains, each of which also has a separate index:
 - ❖ Income deprivation;
 - ❖ Employment deprivation;
 - ❖ Health deprivation and disability;
 - ❖ Education, skills and training deprivation;
 - ❖ Barriers to housing and services;
 - ❖ Living environment deprivation;
 - ❖ Crime.
 - ❖ Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI);
 - ❖ Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI);

The data indicates that Worcestershire is not a highly deprived county, but pockets of deprivation do exist, and Worcestershire is relatively more deprived now than it was at the time of ID 2004. It does not necessarily follow that conditions have worsened within Worcestershire. Other areas could have improved at a faster rate.

Using the first option, the areas of highest deprivation in Wychavon are:

- Droitwich West
- Evesham North
- Harvington and Norton

This option identifies more deprived areas within Redditch, Worcester and Wyre Forest than in Worcester City, Wychavon and Bromsgrove.

The second option considers the most deprived LSOAs within each district. This would give an equal number of areas within each district, but would not necessarily target all of the most deprived LSOAs across the county. Using this option, the areas of highest deprivation in Wychavon are:

- Bengeworth
- Droitwich Central
- Droitwich South West
- Droitwich West
- Evesham North
- Evesham South
- Harvington and Norton
- Pershore

Worcestershire County Council's Research and Intelligence Unit is currently doing some work for us to identify smaller areas of need/deprivation in Wychavon. We are also investigating a model used by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion to identify deprivation in rural areas.