

OXFORDSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD – 18 FEBRUARY 2009

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2006-2009. REWARD GRANT BIDS

Purpose of this report

The Public Service Board invited partners to submit applications for reward grant by 23rd January 2008. This report provides a summary of the bids received and sets out the next steps of the process for deciding which projects shall be allocated funds.

Background

Oxfordshire's first Local Area Agreement (LAA) comes to an end on 31st March 2009. The Government will pay reward grant for targets in the agreement that are met, and in some cases, partly met.

In 2007 the Public Service Board agreed that

1. 50% of reward to be held by the Public Service Board for allocation through a bidding process. **See Annex 1 : summary of reward grant bids.**
2. 50% of reward achieved would go back to the partnerships responsible for successful delivery. **See Annex 2 : summary of LAA reward grant plans.**

If all the targets are fully met the maximum amount of grant would be £16.3M.

Based on current performance we anticipate achieving half of our targets and about £8m in reward grant – about £4M direct to partnerships responsible for successful delivery and £4M for bids.

This is a one-off reward. 50% must be spent on revenue and 50% on capital items. The final amount of reward grant available will not be known until the completion of the Local area Agreement on 31st March. 50% of the reward grant due will be paid towards the end of financial year 2009/10 and the remainder in financial year 2010/11. Reward grant will be paid to Oxfordshire County Council (as the accountable body) following submission of audited data. The deadline for audited data returns is anticipated to be December 2009.

Applications for Reward Grant

The Public Service Board agreed a process and criteria for bidding and partners were invited to bid from early December 2008. The deadline for bids was 23rd January. Over forty bids were received by the deadline.

Bids were submitted from thematic partnerships, other partnership groups and individual organisations across the public and voluntary and community sectors.

Summary of bids

All the bids received are summarised at **Annex 1**.

The bids amount to a total of more than £20M. The “pot” will be about £4M.

Bidders were asked to propose projects which furthered the aims of Oxfordshire 2030 – meeting strategic objectives, pledges or specific targets.

No bids were received for the following priorities in Oxfordshire 2030 :

- Congestion & Transport.
- Access to services.
- Specific projects for Children and Older People.
- Preventing extremism from developing in communities.
- Flooding (countywide).

There are three bids for ‘grant pots’ for organisations/groups to bid into :

- voluntary and community sector projects
- community-led projects in market towns and the city,
- projects to promote thriving economies in market towns.

There are a number of high value bids around skills and the economy.

There are several bids around healthy and active lifestyles. Some of these are geographically specific.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Public Service Board may wish to consider the following :

1. **That they form a view about the purpose, number and scale of bids that should go forward for a second stage of development.**
2. **That the criteria for the second stage shall be :**
*Reward Grant will only be allocated for projects which contribute to the delivery of Oxfordshire 2030. We will consider all bids which meet this criteria **but priority will be given to proposals which :***
 1. **support the local economy** - in particular initiatives which support growth and innovation, or address obstacles to business development
 2. have a clear impact on the root causes of **deprivation and inequality** in our most deprived areas
 3. produce **outcomes which the community will recognise** e.g. a building, site or facility, an apprenticeship scheme, a self contained capital or revenue project e.g. piloting a new approach to service access
 4. address a **major public concern** e.g. flooding or anti-social behaviour,
 5. **lever in resources** from third parties - including local community initiatives.
 6. are **sustainable** and which do not create new or ongoing funding pressures
 7. can be **started in 2009 and delivered by 2011.**

Reward Grant will not be used to support extensions to, or the reshaping of existing service delivery arrangements. We expect these changes to be delivered using existing resources.

- 3 **That they delegate to the Local Area Agreement Steering Group** the responsibility for working with bidders through the second stage and recommending successful bids to the PSB meeting in June. The Steering Group includes senior officers from the county and district councils, the police and the PCT. **It is further proposed** that the Chairman of the Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development partnership be asked to join this group.
- 4 **That the timetable for this second stage be as follows ;**
 1. 20 February – bidders are advised of the criteria, process and timetable for the second stage.
 2. LAA Steering Group shall :
 - review the bids against the agreed criteria,
 - ensure that there is no duplication between bids and the plans of partners for the use of the 50% of reward grant allocated directly to those partners,
 - issue information about the final outturn of the Local Area Agreement (how much reward will be received) to partners and the PSB by 30 April,
 - recommend a list of successful bids to the PSB by 30 April,
 - May – further consultation.
 3. Public Service Board agree the successful bids at the June meeting.
 4. Public Service Board receive final performance report on LAA1 and assessment of how much reward achieved.

See Annex 2

summary of LAA reward grant plans.**How partners plan to spend the 50% reward grant allocated directly to them.**

Outcome	Indicator	Planned allocations	Reward expected
Increasing the Gross Value added of the Oxon economy by providing skills to those without qualifications	720 adults achieve NVQ1 or higher (or equivalent) by August 2009	Area Programme Board takes on any PRG awarded with the commitment to fund projects addressing adult skills in areas of urban deprivation in Oxfordshire [The body with oversight of this is now the Learning and Skills Partnership]	Currently uncertain due to definition issues
Improved achievement at GCSE A*-C	5 GCSEs A-C (including English and Maths)	80% secondary schools which achieve their targets 20% Educational Effectiveness Service	No reward expected
	Leaving Care: 1 GCSE A-G	60% Early Years and Family Support Service, 20% Children & Young People's Service, 20% Schools (those with a looked after child in the LAA cohort)/Young People	Some reward expected
	In Care: 5 GCSEs A-G		No reward expected
Reduction in offending by young people	Number of new entrants to criminal justice system aged 10-17 years	40% Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service, 20% Thames Valley Police, 20% OCC Children, Young People & Families, 20% CDRPs	Reward expected
	Rate of reconviction of young offenders aged 10-17 years.		
Reduce domestic violence	Increase in the number of incidents of domestic violence reported annually directly to the police	Thames Valley Police 50%, Oxfordshire Domestic Violence Strategy Group 25%, CDRPs (allocation to each to be determined) 25%	Reward expected
	Increase in the number of incidents of domestic violence which result in sanction detections		No reward expected

Reduce the rate of reoffending by adult and juvenile PPOs by March 2009	Reduce the rate of reoffending (using convictions resulting from charges for BCS comparator crimes) by adult and juvenile PPOs by March 2009.	30% Thames Valley Police, 20% Thames Valley National Probation Service, 20% Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service, 30% CDRPs (allocation to each to be determined)	
Improved local and global environment through the reduction of waste sent to landfill	4,875 extra tonnes of non-biodegradable waste to be recycled between 2006/07 and 2008/09 inclusive	Council leaders have agreed that it should be frozen for the time being so it can be used towards any new OWP financial arrangements that might be agreed. Work on these arrangements is in hand	Reward expected
Improve the overall cleanliness of Oxon	Reduce by 9% (from 2004/05 Oxfordshire average of 20%) the proportion of relevant land and highways assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus falling below an acceptable standard	To be spent on further partnership projects to improve the cleanliness of the County under the aegis of the governance group chaired by David Buckle [Responsibility of this target now held by Waste Partnership]	No reward expected
	People who express satisfaction with cleanliness standards in their area increased to 69.58% by March 2009		
Reduce number of falls among older people living in care homes	By March 2009 reduce the number of falls within the care homes in Oxfordshire by 20% which means a reduction of 1600 falls per year from an estimated 8000 falls per year	100% to the PCT as no other partner is involved directly in actions for achieving the targets	Currently uncertain due to definition issues
Increase the number of people supported to live in their own home	Increase by March 2009 the number of those supported intensively to live at home from 883 in 2004/5 to 1150	100% to OCC Social and Community Services on the condition that decisions on how it should be used will be agreed by the Oxfordshire Commissioning Board, or any successor body which includes PCT Chief Executive and the director of Social and Community Care	Some reward expected

Deliver affordable homes within sustainable communities across Oxfordshire	Deliver 256 additional affordable homes within sustainable communities across Oxfordshire between 2006/07 and 2008/09, of which 70% will be social rented housing and 30% will be low cost home ownership units.	TBC	Some reward expected
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