

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

15 April 2010

Financial Planning for the Future

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek partners' views on the best means of sharing plans on financial savings so as to: -

- maximise opportunities for collaboration
- minimise impacts on partners / localities
- consider communications issues.

2 Background

2.1 All public sector organisations are already feeling the effects of the recession. It is clear that any financial pain will then be heightened with effect from 2011/12 and beyond.

2.2 Each organisation will have made its own assumptions about future funding deficits and will have plans, at varying stages of readiness, to deal with any predicted shortfalls. Given the various inter-relationships between partner organisations and the customers they serve, there is a real risk that savings to one organisation are simply visited upon another partner organisation. There is therefore a need to ensure that there is on-going dialogue to minimise such possibilities.

2.3 The Total Place initiative encourages partner organisations to work together so that changes can be made to services without regard to organisational boundaries. Such an approach may help in identifying areas for possible collaboration, some of which may be able to deliver savings for individual or collective partners.

3 Future Actions

3.1 In order to avoid the above risks, it is suggested that a set of principles are agreed amongst partners -

- All partners seek to share any plans for financial savings at the earliest possible opportunity, even if this is a high level outline initially.
- Partners commit to avoiding impacts on partner organisations wherever possible and, at the very least, hold early dialogue with those organisations likely to be affected.

- Partners identify potential impacts on particular geographic areas and share this information with other organisations that deliver services in those areas.
- Partners continue to look for opportunities to collaborate and explore such possibilities where there is a net benefit to the wider NYSP family. These opportunities can include 'sharing' of services and more fundamental reviews in line with Total Place thinking.

3.2 There are numerous ways by which the above can be pursued. Suggestions include –

- a) An item on the NYSP Executive meeting of 24 June where each partner organisation gives a high level outline of potential areas for future savings.
- b) High level information collected and shared amongst partners over the next month or so which can be shared subsequently.
- c) A separate meeting or meetings being held for partners to hold such discussions.
- d) Similar agenda item on each NYSP Executive agenda for the foreseeable future to advise of any significant changes / developments.

Clearly the above list is not exhaustive and suggestions are not mutually exclusive. It is also recognised that there may be sensitivities in holding such discussions in a semi-public forum such as the NYSP Executive.

3.3 Current predictions suggest that the scale of savings required will hit some areas hard. Whilst this may be unavoidable, there is good reason for the wider public sector in North Yorkshire to work together closely given the commonality of the drivers behind savings initiatives and of customers and communities. On-going dialogue between partners may identify opportunities for better managing the way in which consultation and communication is carried out with customers through this difficult period.

4 Recommendations

4.1 The NYSP Executive is asked to consider this report and set out how it would wish to progress collaborative financial planning.

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