

**Rural West Area Partnership Board Meeting
Friday 29th January 2010**

Decision Paper – Partnership Pooled Budget

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the establishment of a Rural West Area Partnership Board pooled budget.

2. Background

5 Area Partnership Boards (APBs) have been established across Cheshire West and Chester. Their key role is to help improve outcomes for local communities through:

- Identifying local priorities via the analysis of research and intelligence, and community engagement.
- Developing and implementing an area action plan to meet local priorities.
- Establishing, where appropriate, delivery vehicles to implement the area action plan.
- Commissioning services or where appropriate recommend to LSP thematic groups, services that should be commissioned to meet local priorities.
- Developing local services through consultation with the local strategic partnership, council or partner agencies.
- Responding to the needs of local communities, supporting community engagement through the community forums and other community engagement mechanisms.
- Performance managing commissioned interventions and national indicators for each area.
- Reducing inequalities.

3. Resources

To undertake the functions outlined above has a resource implication for partners. The majority of resources will come from mainstream budgets, external sources or government grants. However it is argued that there is still a need to have an APB pooled budget that allows the partnership to address unplanned issues and concerns that require a quick response.

There are also other costs incurred in the day to day functions of the APB such as partnership development and training, room hire, printing costs etc. that need to be considered.

To ensure that the APB is fit for purpose and in a position to effectively deliver its area working agenda, it is suggested that a partnership operational budget is established.

4. Recommendations

- a) Partners agree to establish a pooled budget
- b) Partners consider how much they can contribute towards an APB budget
- c) If partners are unable to contribute financially they consider what other resources they are able to contribute.
- d) Partners to report back at next meeting