

HARROW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Community Budgets

7th December 2011

Introduction

The Government recently invited expressions of interest from local authorities who wanted to participate in pilots for Neighbourhood Budgets. There were two pilot opportunities –one for a Whole Place Community Budget and the other for a Neighbourhood Community Budget.

After discussion at Harrow Chief Executives and in response to a very short timescale, the Council submitted a Whole Place expression of interest. The expression of interest document is attached. This sets out how Harrow - the Council and Partners – could exploit the financial freedoms available to pilot authorities to commission around the client rather than around the budget and to integrate further customer access, assessment and support, and the public sector estate.

In the event, the Harrow ‘bid’ was not short-listed but, at their next meeting, Harrow Chief Executives intend to consider how much of the envisaged programme could be pursued even without pilot status. At the same time, the Council has submitted an offer to join a learning and support network helping the pilot authorities who are yet to be identified to develop their bids so as to be in a good opposition to bid for any further Community Budget proposals.

Proposed Action

While Partner organisations expressed their support in principle for the proposals in the expression of interest, it would be helpful in advance of the Harrow Chief Executives meeting to get an idea from Board Members of the extent to which they feel the direction articulated in the expression of interest could and should be pursued now.

What are you asking the Partnership Board to do

Provide views on whether and how far the ideas in the expression of interest could and should be pursued without the benefit of Community Budget pilot status..