

The PtP 2009/11 Central Fund report

Introduction

This report summarises the activities supported by the Central Fund that LSPs will undertake this year and discusses how they link to the self assessment themes. The analysis of this report has been based on the content of the central fund applications received from LSPs. Analysis of the self assessments completed by LSPs has been completed and is available separately.

Last years fund was used predominantly to focus on communication initiatives and start up activities including website design and conferences, and to a lesser extent, Governance. This year the focus of the central fund activities has moved forward from funding basic communications strategies and 'start up' conferences, to activities which focus on delivering LAA and SCS targets.

At this stage we must issue a health warning. The activities discussed below reflect only the portion of work that will be carried out using Central Fund monies. It does not reflect LSP activity as a whole:

1. Overview

PtP offered two rounds of the central fund under the first contract:

- £6000 in 07/08
- £4000 in 08/09

Under the new contract PtP is distributing another round of the Central Fund. £6000 offered to each LSP in the South East region for the two year period 09/11. 90% (63 LSPs out of 70) successfully applied for funding. The total fund set aside for central fund applications was £444,000. The under claim was put aside so that the LSPs would be able to bid for extra funds up to and not exceeding £26,000. This has been called the supplementary fund. A summary of the awarded supplementary fund applications are detailed at the end of this report (in section 5). These were allocated by how the bids were seen to improve ratings of LAA targets and SCS objectives of individual partnerships' contribution to wider shared learning, and produce benefits for more than one LSP. Some LSPs pooled their central fund to enable them to undertake larger and more collaborative projects.

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Time frames for central fund activity are listed in Table 1 below:

Details of fund announced and promoted	July 2009
Self assessment deadline	End October 2009
Bid deadline 1 – outline bids	End January 2010
Bid deadline 2 – fully developed bids	End February 2010
Bid deadline 3 – deadline for supplementary bids	End February 2010
Deadline for claiming funds	31 July 2010
Final deadline for claiming funds (for staged activities)	24 December 2010
Reallocation of any unclaimed funds	Jan – Mar 2011

Table 1: Time frames for Central Fund Activity*

* LSPs have been allowed to draw down funds in advance of these deadlines once activities have been booked, provided the central fund applications have been approved by the Area Leads (ALs). LSPs have been made aware that receipts will be required and that updates of how central fund activities are developing (including any reports produced) will be requested in July.

2. How the central fund has been spent

2.1. The most popular activities supported with the fund were:

- *Developing improved communications – 15.1%*
- *Away days for partnerships to focus on capacity building/team building/buy-in/conferences – 13.4%*
- *SCS development and/or review – 13.4%*
- *Improved collaboration between LSPs – 7.1%*
- *Other – 7.1% (topics in this category included: training, environmental activities, climate change activities, opportunities to share best practice and media coverage)*

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Table 2 below provides a comparison between this year and previous years

Themes	2009/11	%	2008/09	%	2007/08	%
Developing improved communications	17	15.1%	18	19.6%	6	4.4%
Board member workshops	7	6.3%	15	16.3%	40	29.4%
Thematic partnership workshops	1	0.8%	11	12.0%	8	5.9%
Community development (physically putting something together)	5	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Consultation or research reports	7	6.3%	14	15.2%	11	8.1%
SCS development or review	15	13.4%	12	13.0%	12	8.8%
Community engagement and consultation	3	2.7%	6	6.5%	0	0.0%
LSP structure and/or governance review	7	6.3%	4	4.3%	11	8.1%
Improved collaboration between LSPs	8	7.1%	4	4.3%	4	2.9%
Skills development activities for partnership officers	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	10.3%
Performance management	5	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Away days for partners to focus on capacity building/team building/buy in/conferences	15	13.4%	5	5.4%	15	11.0%
Economic review	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Thematic Partnership training and development	6	5.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	8	7.1%	3	3.3%	15	11.0%
Number who did not apply	7	6.3%	Unknown		Unknown	
Total occurrence of themes*	112	100.0%	92	100.0%	136	100.0%

Table 2: Activities supported by the Central Fund over time

* The totals refer to the number of times a theme appears in an application, as in most applications multiple themes appeared.

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Although 15% of LSPs are using central fund allocations to improve communications (for example, they are working on the development of their own website rather than share the local authority's site), the data suggest that this is usually a small proportion (often around £400-£500) of their total bit. The data also suggests a new confidence among LSPs – a decreased need to discuss their role and objectives internally, and an increased need and inclination to communicate with the public and stakeholders. For example, community development activities are up 4.5%, and improved collaboration between LSPs has doubled to 7.1%. This demonstrates a greater outward focus and a greater emphasis on the delivery of outcomes.

3. Key themes

3.1. Performance Management initiatives

Analysis of central fund activity has shown a shift in direction as LSPs focus on the delivery, outcomes and shared learning for partnerships. Performance management is an emerging theme; it has not appeared in previous analyses and is now featured in 4.5% of bids. Some examples of performance management initiatives include:

- Basingstoke & Deane LSP will develop a performance management approach to the SCS. This will ensure that the county-wide LAA priorities that are most relevant in the borough, are integrated into a system of measuring progress, that will be underpinned by PtP's analysis of performance management across Hampshire
- The Reigate and Banstead Partnership are using performance management to report progress and engage a wider audience in action planning, to improve efficiency and effectiveness within the partnership area
- Dartford & Gravesham are developing a joint consultation management system. This will ensure that partners will be able to identify opportunities for joint consultation activity and consultations which have already been carried out, but which contain information useful to them. This will be used in the development of their individual Local Development Frameworks to improve efficiency in the use of resources
- Arun LSP is investigating the value of the partnership in adding value, by examining its impact on the local area and where it had made the most difference. There is an opportunity for a case study to work out the value of the partnership in £'s and the outcomes that would be beneficial to other LSPs

3.2 Improved collaboration between LSPs

Four clusters of LSPs pooled their resources in order to align and join activities, ensuring services better meet the needs of the users in the wider community, and to expand the possibility of shared learning between partnerships.

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Joint Bids	Individual	Total
Adur and Worthing LSP	£6000 x2	£12,000.00
Joint East Sussex	£1000K x5	£5,000.00
Joint Oxford and Vale	£6000 x2	£12,000.00
Joint Surrey County	From 9 LSPs	£26,000.00

*Themes for the joint applications have been included in table 2.

Table 3: Joint bids

- Joint Surrey County is pooling funds from Surrey’s LSPs for the provision of training their members to use a Local Information System (LIS) tool, sometimes known as a ‘data observatory’. The development of a data observatory for Surrey is one of the aims of Surrey’s Neighbourhood Engagement project
- South Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP) and Vale Partnership (VP) propose to work together to develop ‘place based working’ as a way of delivering added value through partnerships.
- Adur and Worthing have pooled their funds to offer training and learning regarding community development and neighbourhood action plans (NAPs). These two elements are crucial in the effective delivery of the SCS. Locally these are likely to be based on hearing the experience and good practice of areas where NAPs are already in place and successful. Facilitated workshops will then be put together to develop skills
- East Sussex pooled £1000 from five LSPs in the region: East Sussex Strategic Partnership, Eastbourne Strategic Partnership, Hastings & St Leonards Strategic Partnership, Rother Local Strategic Partnership and Wealden Local Strategic Partnership. This is to create the joint East Sussex application. The outcome of the application is to develop a strategy to facilitate delivery of local housing targets, in order to develop a clear and shared understanding of how LAA partners can work together to achieve this, and support the development of cross-sector relations and shared learning

3.3 Communications

Some LSPs have opted to use their allocation of the central fund to support a variety of communication developments. Some of the proposed development initiatives include, improved website design and upgrade, to promote enhanced service delivery and efficiencies, as well as using the funds available to demonstrate that the LSP is interacting more effectively with the public and/or other partners. Other LSPs have looked at different forms of communication e.g. electronic and hard copy newsletter distribution and the production of a DVD, to drive change, publicise their work, showcase good practice and improve efficiency.

PtP has seen a shift in attitudes from using the central fund allocation, to support basic communications strategies to LSPs, using the funds available to improve communication to

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promote the work of the LSP, and interact more effectively with partners and/or the wider community.

Examples of communications initiatives include:

- Aylesbury Vale will produce a dedicated website in order to increase awareness of the work the LSP are involved in, and increase the interaction between the LSP and the wider community. It will also produce a regular e-newsletter promoting its initiatives and achievements
- Bucks Strategic Partnership intends to use part of the £6000 for web development. Part of this web development is devoted to improving information sharing between partners even further, so that they have a common evidence base for information about Bucks communities
- The Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership will produce a newsletter in order to regularly update all partners and the general public on delivery of the SCS.
- Spelthorne Together will produce an insert into their winter bulletin in order to increase media coverage of LSP activities and move forward the communication plans that will improve efficiency
- Mole Valley Community Planning Group will produce a DVD to show case the work they have been involved with, as their IDeA Self Assessment and Area Assessment outlined the need for them to communicate more effectively with the wider community

4. Joint applications

Four LSPs pooled resources (see Table 3) in order to align and join activities ensuring services better meet the needs of the users in the wider community, and to expand the possibility of shared learning between partnerships.

Joint Bids	Individual	Total
Adur and Worthing LSP	£6000 x2	£12,000.00
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Table 3: Joint bids

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- Joint Surrey County is pooling funds from Surrey LSPs for the provision of training the members of the Surrey LSP to use a Local Information System (LIS) tool, sometimes known as a 'data observatory'. The development of a data observatory for Surrey is one of the aims of Surrey's Neighbourhood Engagement project
- South Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP) and Vale Partnership (VP) are working together to develop place based working as a way of delivering added value through partnerships. Specifically, they are looking to provide support to three communities who are experiencing unique challenges in the districts
- Adur and Worthing have pooled funds to offer training and learning in community development and neighbourhood action plans (NAPs). These two elements are crucial in the effective delivery of the SCS. Training sessions will focus on what works locally.
- East Sussex pooled £1000 from five LSPs in the region: East Sussex Strategic Partnership, Eastbourne Strategic Partnership, Hastings & St Leonards Strategic Partnership, Rother Local Strategic Partnership and Wealden Local Strategic Partnership. This is to create the joint East Sussex application. They will develop a strategy to facilitate delivery of local housing targets.

5. *Supplementary Fund*

The under claim from last years central fund was put aside so that the LSPs would be able to bid for extra funds up to, and not exceeding £26,000. This has been called the supplementary fund. A summary of the awarded supplementary fund applications are detailed below in table 4, and were allocated on how the bids were seen to contribute to LAA targets and SCS objectives, provide opportunities for wider learning, and demonstrate that the activities will benefit more than one LSP.

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LSP	Objectives of the application	Total funds awarded
Isle of Wight Partnership	To use the allocated funding to refresh the South East Sustainable Procurement Project. The project will address performance improvement, capacity building, LAAs and LSPs and sustainable communities. All of these are priorities of the Regional Improvement Strategy. They will develop a transferable model which can be used by LSP member agencies across the region	£10,000
Joint South Oxford and Vale Partnership	Will look to add value through developing place based working. This is specifically to support the creation of thriving sustainable communities in new housing developments, and will develop partnership working to support local community-led action plans. The project supports the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as well as contributing to the 2009 – 2026 SCS	£12,365
Portsmouth LSP	To undertake a programme of learning and action based around the concept of Total Place, in order to deliver improved outcomes for local people. Portsmouth propose to hold a series of events that will help other LSPs across PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire), develop a shared understanding of the Total Place agenda and allow them to move forward together	£8,000
Rushmoor LSP	To use the funds from PtP to develop a toolkit highlighting best practice, around ways to engage with older residents. Rushmoor LSP will work with external businesses, to improve general awareness of the variety of services and activities available. This supports the Hampshire Local Agreement, the Rushmoor Wellbeing Group and Hampshire County Council's Older Persons Strategy	£3860.00

Table 4: Supplementary fund bids