

Date of Meeting	5 th October 2006
Title of Report	LIFT South West- A Regional Quality Improvement Strategy and Programme
Portfolio	Democracy & Governance
Link to Corporate Priorities	No specific links but underpins much of the Council's work
Key Decision	NO
Executive Workplan Ref	B299
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

LIFT South West (LIFT SW) is a concept and programme devised to ensure ambition is raised, performance improves and collaboration increases, to provide public services of higher quality across the South West. It was set up following a regional improvement event in December 2005.

The Chief Executive is a member of the LIFT SW Executive Group which will take decisions on the allocation of regional resources to support performance improvements across the South West.

Officer Recommendations

- 1. To note the progress made in establishing LIFT SW as an improvement programme for the South West.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make decisions on the allocation of regional resources as part of the LIFT SW Executive Group.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 LIFT South West (LIFT SW) is a concept and programme devised to ensure ambition is raised, performance improves and collaboration increases, to provide public services of higher quality across the South West. It was set up following a regional improvement event in December 2005.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 Option 1: Note the progress made on establishing LIFT SW and agree delegated authority to the Chief Executive to enable him to play a full role on the LIFT SW Executive Group. This is the preferred option.
- 2.2 Option 2: Note the progress made on establishing LIFT SW and do not agree delegated authority to the Chief Executive.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Evidence from Comprehensive Performance Assessment has shown that, whilst there are some good examples of excellence in public services in the South West, there is a general picture of under-performance in comparison to other English regions. There are a number of agencies and initiatives operating in the South West who are focusing on improving performance. LIFT SW will aim to ensure a noticeable, measurable improvement in the overall quality of services provided and to ensure that the regional agencies supporting local authorities are better co-ordinated, more focused and are providing better value for money in their combined activity.
- 3.2 A small group with representatives from GOSW (Government Office for the South West), the Regional Centre of Excellence, I&DeA (Improvement & Development Agency) and the South West Regional Secretariat (that supports the South West Regional Assembly, the South West Employers' Organisation and the South West Local Government Association) developed the LIFT SW concept and have tested it with – amongst others – the Chief Executives South West Group (G51).
- 3.3 LIFT SW is based on the premise that with stronger support and a shared sense of purpose, determination and pride individual authorities will achieve more, although prime responsibility for improving performance clearly lies with individual authorities.
- 3.4 LIFT SW has been formally endorsed by the national LGA/DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) steering group that has delegated to the LIFT SW Board £3.6 million of capacity building funding to be administered over the next 2 years. A Delivery Plan is being prepared to set out the actions and activity necessary to deliver a successful programme, recording milestones, responsibility and setting out how progress will be measured e.g. through key performance indicators, inspection reports and national programmes recognising quality.
- 3.5 The governance structure of LIFT SW is complex and involves elected members and officers from local authorities and regional associations and agencies. It has 3 distinct levels:

- 3.5.1 The **South West Local Government Association Executive Committee** will provide the member governance, receiving progress reports at each of their meetings and providing the vision, leadership and drive to challenge the LIFT SW Management Board to ensure achievements are made.
- 3.5.2 The **LIFT SW Management Board** will have overall responsibility for developing the strategy and ensuring the programme delivers in line with the strategy. The Management Board will include representation from the Chief Executives of 6 County Councils, 3 Unitary Councils and 4 District Councils in the South West. Keith Robinson, Chief Executive of Wiltshire County Council represents the Wiltshire authorities on this Board. In addition, there will be 4 members (selected by the SWLGA) and representatives from regional support agencies including: Government Office for the South West; South West Regional Secretariat; Improvement & Development Agency; and the Regional Centre of Excellence.
- 3.5.3 The **LIFT SW Executive Group** will comprise senior representatives from local authorities – including Delwyn Burbidge for the Wiltshire authorities - and representatives from regional support agencies to complement the Management Board. The Executive Group will be responsible for linking up the extensive regional network that is vital to delivery of the LIFT SW agenda.
- 3.5.4 The LIFT SW Executive Group will support the LIFT SW Management Board:
- Taking decisions on bids and allocation of resources in line with agreed delegations
 - Ensuring that the strategy is implemented
 - Managing the implementation of the delivery plan
 - Co-ordinating effort across the authorities and ensuring synergy between the various elements of the programme
 - Co-ordinating effort across the regional support agencies and ensuring synergy
 - Analysing specific bids and making recommendations to the Board
 - Monitoring progress and reviewing specific projects, reporting on performance to the Board
 - Capturing and disseminating notable practice
 - Developing a more co-ordinated communications approach to keep key stakeholders informed
 - Reviewing business plans of participating agencies to ensure that they support the strategy
- 3.5.5 In order that he may play a full role on the LIFT SW Executive Group, the Chief Executive will require delegated authority from this Council to assign regional resources that may, or may not, be allocated to support North Wiltshire District Council's work.
- 3.6 More information on the LIFT SW strategy and programme can be found in Appendix 1.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Members of the LIFT SW Executive Group will be asked to agree where regional resources should be allocated. This may result in North Wiltshire District Council receiving additional support in areas of weak or poor performance.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1 There is only a low risk in participating in the LIFT SW programme. The programme is designed to improve practice and performance.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1. LIFT SW Draft Regional Strategy and Programme
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
None		