
REPORT TO: FINANCE & MANAGEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 10

DATE OF MEETING: 18TH April 2002

CATEGORY: DELEGATED/

REPORT FROM: CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: TERRY NEAVES (5800)

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apr 2002\invest to save bid
revenues & benefits.doc

SUBJECT: INVEST TO SAVE BID:
Revenues & Benefits

REF: TJN/CTS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM 10

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider the nomination of a Member to sit on the Joint Committee outlined in 3.7 below.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform Members of the Council's successful Invest to Save Bid for the introduction of a new Revenues & Benefits System.

3. Background

- 3.1 In July 2001, this Council submitted an initial Invest to Save Bid in partnership with four other local councils in Derbyshire (Bolsover, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, North East Derbyshire).
- 3.2 Over the last six months the partnership has been invited to develop the bid further prior to final submission.
- 3.3 In February 2002, the Government announced that the bid was successful: one of only 23 successful local council bids across the country and one of the few involving such wide partnership working.
- 3.4 The bid is worth a total of £1.3m between the five authorities over the next two financial years.

What will the bid provide?

- 3.5 The bid centres on providing all five partner councils with an up to date computer system to administer revenues and benefits totalling some £250m over the five authorities.

- 3.6 At the same time the new system will provide a platform for closer working between the councils to provide an even more efficient service to customers. For example to:-
- move work between authorities to deal with peaks and troughs in workload and maintain prompt payment of benefits and efficient collection of revenues
 - enable individual councils to develop expertise in particular areas and reduce the risk to small authorities of spreading their expertise too thinly
 - co-operate even more closely on the detection and prevention of fraud for claimants moving between councils.

Progress to date

- 3.7 Members will already be aware that the project will be managed and administered by a joint committee, which is being established currently. Each local council will be represented by one voting Member. Members may wish to consider who they wish to nominate to this joint committee, which will be established during the next two months.
- 3.8 An advert has already been placed in the European Journal and expressions of interest are being received from a range of potential providers.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 At this stage the final cost will depend on the quotes submitted by potential suppliers. The projections within the invest to save bid indicate that authorities will achieve savings from year 2 onwards. This has been reported previously to Finance & Management.

5. Conclusions

The bid and consortium provide a sound basis for developing the revenues and benefits service.