



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

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Local Authority Leaders

21 March 2013

Dear Colleagues,

**LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE TRANSFORMATION - SPREADING WHOLE-PLACE
COMMUNITY BUDGETS TO OTHER AREAS**

As announced at Budget, Government is encouraging all areas to develop their own reforms to local public services. To support areas in doing so, we are establishing a new network to spread the learning from the four Whole-Place Community Budget pilots and work directly with local areas to co-design practical reforms. I would welcome expressions of interest from areas for support from the network.

The Whole-Place Community Budget pilots produced radical and concrete reforms to deliver better outcomes at lower cost. While the proposals have been designed by those four specific areas, many of the tools and approaches will be replicable across the country.

The four pilots focused on reducing downstream demand on public services and boosting skills and growth. Their plans redesign public services to better tackle complex issues including health and social care integration, criminal justice, troubled families, and children and young people.

We know from the pilots' experience that this work is not easy. But the potential prize is significant - the pilots' own plans suggest savings of £800m over five years. Key to success is:

- Strong collaborative leadership and a clear vision for the area.
- Clear commitment from across local partners and a history of partnership working.
- A sustained track record of delivery.
- An appropriate scale to drive reforms and savings across an area.
- Each partner providing some dedicated capacity towards a single team that helps drive a system-wide approach.
- Commitment to identify money flows and benefits across partners within the area, underpinned by data on need and current services.

As announced in the Budget, the Government is establishing a new multi-agency network to support areas to transform local public services, and is removing policy barriers that hinder reform. The network will use the learning from the Whole-Place Community Budget pilots and What Works Centres and work with other places to redesign services, to support better outcomes for the public and boost growth.

The network will work across the public sector. For example, the Department of Health and the NHS Commissioning Board are working with national and local partners to support local areas to innovate in integrating health and social care. It is our intention to ensure that public service transformation and integration are taken forward together. Your expression of interest should demonstrate how support from the network would align or integrate with any existing reform initiatives (eg. city deals).

New areas will need to contribute towards the costs of the network. If you and your partners are interested in exploring what support it could offer your area, I would welcome expressions of interest, to be sent to publicservicetransformation@communities.gsi.gov.uk by 15 April setting out briefly why your area should be considered and how your proposal reflects the six key criteria outlined above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BRANDON LEWIS MP