

NORTH WEST INNOVATION FUND FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**LEAD OFFICER:** Tim Capper**REPORT AUTHOR:** Tim Capper**Summary:** Outlines an opportunity for elected Members to access funding for learning projects through the NWEO Gateway.**Recommendation:** To note the arrangements and agree to disseminate them through the Newsletter and other appropriate means**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The North West Innovation Fund for Elected Members is funded by the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) through the NWEO Gateway and is open to all elected Members in the North West.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 £50,000 of funding is available with a maximum of £5,000 for any single application.
- 2.2 The Innovation Fund is designed to support individual elected Members to undertake a range of activities within their own authorities to improve services and knowledge through shared learning. Innovation and risk taking is being encouraged and the range activities that will be eligible is therefore not being prescribed. As a guide, applications could be for:
- Academic Study
 - Research Projects
 - Community-based initiatives that involve shared learning
 - Study Visits, locally or nationally
- 2.3 Applications are unlikely to be supported for activities that are usually funded by the Council such as conferences or training events, or for party political activities. Successful applications will need to demonstrate added value to Council development programmes. Learning from the Fund will be expected to be shared within the Region through the NWEO Gateway and NWIEP. Additional methods of information sharing could be:
- Providing masterclasses or presentations
 - Production of web-based materials
 - Reports or briefing notes
- 2.4 Applications are by application form and will be assessed by scoring on the following criteria, by a selection panel of four elected Members:
- Outcomes and Benefits
 - Funding – Cost Effectiveness and VFM

Partnership Evidence

Communication and Dissemination

Milestones and Project Planning

Governance of Project

Evaluating Impacts

2.5 The closing date for Round 1 is 30 November 2008.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer comments	
S. 151 Officer comments	