

European and International Programme Board

Agenda

Tuesday 17 January 2012
11.00am

Millbank Room 8.2 (8th Floor)
Local Government House
Smith Square
LONDON
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the European and International Programme Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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European & International Programme Board

17 January 2012

The **European & International Programme Board** meeting will be held on **Tuesday 17 January 2012 at 11.00am**, in the Millbank Room 8.2 (8th Floor), Local Government House, LONDON, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be provided afterwards at 1pm.

Apologies

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

Labour: Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative: Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Attendance Sheet

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Location

A map showing the location of the Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

Contact

Stephen Service (Tel: 020 7664 3194, email: stephen.service@local.gov.uk)

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European & International Programme Board - Membership 2011-2012

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Role</i>
Conservative (6)		
Marco Cereste [Deputy Chair]	Peterborough City	
Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC	Rural Commission
Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC	
Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC	
Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC	
Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC	Audit & Scrutiny Panel
Labour (5)		
Dave Wilcox OBE (Chair)	Derbyshire CC	Councillors' Forum
Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City	
Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB	Economy & Transport Board
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC	
Liberal Democrat (2)		
Richard Kemp CBE [Vice-Chair]	Liverpool City	
Zulfiqar Ali	Rochdale MBC	
Lord Graham Tope CBE (observer)	Sutton LB	
Independent (1)		
Linda Gillham [Deputy Chair]	Runnymede BC	
Substitute:		
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council	

LGA European & International Programme Board Attendance 2011-2012

Councillors	31.10.11	17.1.12	6.3.12	21.5.12	11.7.12
Conservative Group					
Marco Cereste	Yes				
Sandra Barnes MBE	Yes				
Gordon Keymer CBE	Yes				
Keith Glazier	Yes				
Liz Eyre	Yes				
Phil Brove	Yes				
Labour Group					
David Wilcox OBE	Yes				
Sir Albert Bore	Yes				
Nilgun Canver	No				
Guy Nicholson	Yes				
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Yes				
Lib Dem Group					
Richard Kemp CBE	Yes				
Zulfiqar Ali	Yes				
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Yes				
Independent					
Linda Gillham	Yes				
Substitutes					
Roger Dennison	No				

Agenda

LG Group European and International Programme Board

Tuesday 17 January 2012

11.00am

Millbank Room 8.2, Local Government House

For discussion

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1.	LGA Business Plan 2012/13	3
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For information

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Date of Next Meeting: 11.00am, Tuesday 06 March 2012, Millennium House, Liverpool

LGA Business Plan 2012/2013

Purpose of report

For discussion and decision.

Summary

This paper outlines current work on the 2012/13 LGA Business Plan and asks Members to agree the European and International Programme Board's contribution to it.

Recommendation

For members to discuss and agree the European and international priorities for the 2012/13 LGA Business Plan.

Action

LGA Officers to take forward as directed by Members.

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LGA Business Plan 2012/2013

Background

1. Work is currently underway on the LGA Business Plan for 2012/13. The business plan is for the April 2012 to March 2013 period.
2. An outline business plan, attached as an appendix to this paper, is being presented for initial review at the January Executive. This is being developed as an iterative process with members, in discussions at Leadership Board and through the political group offices. This work has already informed the statement of our vision for local government and, given this, initial proposals as to where the LGA can have most impact.
3. Through early work, six priorities have emerged as the focus for the LGA's work in 2012/13:
 - 3.1 Public Service Reform
 - 3.2 Growth and Prosperity
 - 3.3 Funding for local government
 - 3.4 Efficiency and Productivity
 - 3.5 Sector-led Improvement
 - 3.6 The LGA's own effectiveness and efficiency
4. As part of this, Programme Boards are being asked to identify the headline priorities for their areas of work into 2013 in the light of the LGA's overall direction of travel. Officers have fed some draft, high-level priorities (set out below):
 - 4.1. Lobby in Brussels and Whitehall to ensure that future EU regulation minimises burdens and maximises local opportunities.
 - 4.2. Ensure that international practice is available to support service improvement in the UK.
 - 4.3. Support requests from the developing world for more UK local government involvement in the delivery of aid.
 - 4.4. Support council members in their formal advisory roles at the EU and Council of Europe.
5. The European and International Board is refining its EU and international work through discussions at the January Board. Thus members are asked to review these priorities and the business plan and any suggest comments to be forwarded to the LGA Leadership Board.



DRAFT

BUSINESS PLAN
2012/13

A SHARED VISION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHANGING LIVES

Local government has the potential to lead local communities, now more than ever before, and play a central role in growth and in changing people's lives.

In the current economic climate, it is down to local government and its leaders, to rise to the challenge. People rely on us to do so, not just as the trusted deliverers of local services, but as leaders and innovators, as councillors who really know and work hard for their communities, and as officers who get on with the job.

Local government leaders are demonstrating they are up to the task and driving their councils forward to ensure they fulfil this role. Their aim is to make places distinctive and attractive for people to live and work in and enjoy.

Part of that leadership role is to communicate powerfully, to connect with people, taking the argument, strongly and self-confidently to central government, the wider public, other partners and the media.

ACCOUNTABLE

Local government really can make a tangible, lasting difference to people. It has the ability to inspire and lead communities, and improve quality of life, by creating and contributing to a real sense of place, rooted in those local communities.

Unlike many other organisations, councils can make change happen instantly and with real authority, at a very local level – the opposite of the grand, empty gesture. It is sometimes the small things which have most impact and leave the biggest impression.

Key to this is localism, by definition not something which is set out at a national level – localism means central government letting go, putting more faith in local people, and being confident about local democracy. Councils are the enablers of localism, not the impediment to it. They are often the single most important source of practical advice to local communities who want to take on more responsibility.

This means collaboration, partnership, no silos, and working across boundaries. Local government must work like this both internally and externally, facing outwards towards those who use local services.

Councils and councillors get involved and involve others. They encourage by example and support others to develop – and this includes their own workforce as much as their communities and the partners they work with. Councils actively involve people in the design and delivery of their local services.

Councils work as enablers – supporting people to take more control over their lives and their localities, and encouraging growth, through influence over land use, education, training and local infrastructure. There is real impact to be made in helping local economies and local businesses prosper.

EFFICIENT

Local government remains the most efficient part of the public sector and rightly rests its reputation on this fact. People correctly expect it to deliver cost effectively and efficiently, with excellence being pursued in balance with the appropriate use of public money.

Councils are ambitious in finding ways to do the job within their means, so they are good spenders of public money and more effective than most other organisations in helping people and communities.

In this way local councils and those who run them lead by example and by supporting others – by being bold, innovating, and sharing best practice.

Councils are not afraid to cut costs and be innovative about ways of improving services, as well as being prepared to consider radical economies of scale where this helps delivery on the ground. This means councils focusing relentlessly on performance, eliminating cost. To achieve this councillors are having to make difficult and at times unpopular decisions, while earning a reputation for delivering value for money.

Councils know they can only achieve this by ensuring they have a workforce that is appropriately rewarded, flexible, skilled and engaged through this time of unprecedented change.

RELIABLE

Councils are the backbones of their communities, relied on day in day out, to deliver excellent services whatever the circumstances. They are the safety net, relied on to pick up where other services fail.

People and their local communities depend on this and place their trust in their council, their councillors and what they deliver. Councils must live up to people's expectations and make sure their trust is not misplaced.

Local government can do this because it is one of the most open and accountable parts of the public sector. Voters expect it to deliver. It can be relied on to handle issues important to people's everyday lives and is a force for practical good.

Councillors themselves are trustworthy individuals and work hard in a transparent, highly accessible environment. They need to be supported and encouraged, as their talents, commitment and energy are a really important resource for the local communities they represent.

In return, councils connect to the daily lives of families and their communities. They do this by earning trust, being accountable and staying local. They put their faith in local people and are confident about local democracy.

Councils and their leaders provide the glue for local communities, ensuring social cohesion and successful diversity. Councils also have a key role in supporting the most vulnerable people in society.

THE LGA'S PRIORITIES

The LGA's mission is to support, promote and improve local government.

We work with councils to achieve our shared vision for local government by focusing our efforts where there is a need for us to get involved and where we can have real impact.

The LGA has a major role to play in upholding local government's reputation and supporting real leadership. We are politically led, but independently authoritative, holding unrivalled expertise and knowledge about local government and local government issues.

Leadership is about being bold and ambitious, supporting councils to make a difference, deliver and be trusted. The LGA is proactive and confident, unlocking the economic power and influence of local government and driving change. This is only possible if we work together as a single sector.

The LGA has a key role in driving the debate on public sector reform, to ensure that councils can bring together local services so they are better for the people who use them and better value for the taxpayer.

As the national organisation representing councils and councillors, we play a critical link between central and local government as the legitimate voice of our sector, making the case to ministers. Our policy work is based on objective, independent and credible analysis. It is driven by knowledge, not ideology, and by new thinking, not dogma.

The LGA also acts as the key conduit and promoter of the best that local government has to offer, by encouraging councils to develop and share best practice, through our improvement, innovation and productivity programmes.

As a politically-led membership organisation, we invest in support to the elected members who are directly involved in the LGA. We use our governance arrangements to build strong connections with councils and their sub-national partners to provide political direction for all our work.

This business plan focuses primarily on the services and support funded by subscriptions from LGA member authorities including fire and rescue authorities, and RSG top-slice. We seek additional funding for specific programmes where these fit with our priorities. We also provide services on a cost-recovery basis where councils are prepared to pay for them.

Our top priorities

To deliver our vision for local government, in 2012/13 we will focus on achieving the following outcomes:

Public Service Reform

Councils are at the centre - and are seen to be at the centre - of public sector reform and delivering more effective services for local people.

This includes:

- making the case for continued decentralisation of responsibilities and resources to councils
- making the case to government for community budgets and working with councils to develop and share good practice on community budgets for families with complex needs, and neighbourhood and area community budgets
- supporting councils with implementing the Localism Bill including the Power of General Competence and the Community Right to Bid and Challenge
- influencing the government's Open Public Services proposals and supporting councils in pursuing innovative public service reforms
- ensuring the negotiating machinery and national agreements for workforce are relevant and fit for purpose
- developing an affordable, sustainable and fair local government pension scheme that delivers value for money for the taxpayer
- supporting councils in the transfer of public health to local government
- supporting councils and community safety partnerships in preparing for police and crime commissioners, including setting up police and crime panels
- supporting councils in their role in education with the expansion of academies and free schools to ensure councils can ensure a fair system for all
- lobbying for fair funding for all schools and arguing the case for councils to be the mediating layer between central government and schools
- responding positively to the anticipated White/Green paper on the care system, supporting councils to share best practice
- articulating councils' role in the Big Society and supporting councils in commissioning from the voluntary and community sector
- helping councils share and develop good practice on payment by results
- lobbying in Brussels and Whitehall to ensure that future EU regulation minimises burdens and maximises opportunities.

Growth and Prosperity

Councils are recognised as central to economic growth.

This includes:

- leading a campaign to ensure that the local levers of growth are unfettered
- supporting the development of new planning powers, to achieve wellbeing and growth in local communities
- supporting councils to deliver the new housing strategy
- supporting councils in developing innovative funding for economic infrastructure
- representing councils' interests with reform of the EU structural funds
- lobbying to ensure councils are better able to influence local transport provision
- supporting councils in hosting and engaging communities in a safe and exciting 2012 Games, to deliver wider benefits for the whole country
- promoting and developing councils' role in the visitor economy
- supporting councils as they lead the national roll-out of superfast broadband
- working with government, industry and councils to ensure the Green Deal and new statutory responsibilities on home energy work for councils
- working with councils to strengthen community resilience, including understanding the underlying causes of the civil disturbances in the summer
- working to ensure regulatory services can remain flexible and accountable to the needs of local businesses and local communities
- supporting the development of members and officers in driving the economic potential of their areas.

Funding for local government

Reform of the public sector finance system so councils raise more funds locally, have confidence their financing is sustainable and greater ability to co-ordinate local public services.

This includes:

- the Resource Review, so that investment is focused more effectively on the local areas which most need it
- leading and shaping the debate on the Dilnot Commission's recommendations on the future funding of care and support
- lobbying for welfare reform, in the interests of improving services to local communities and to support local employment
- supporting the creation of a collective agency to help councils reduce their borrowing costs by using the bond markets
- working to achieve equitable needs-based funding arrangements that are fair to local government in all parts of the United Kingdom.

Efficiency and Productivity

Councils dramatically reduce costs in ways which minimise the impact on the quality of life for their residents.

This includes:

- helping councils save at least £150m over the next 3 years by supporting pathfinder programmes, productivity master classes and good practice
- roll-out of the capital assets programme with a particular emphasis on councils using their assets to generate economic growth
- lobbying and leading support for councils with waste and recycling including collection, infrastructure planning and delivery and waste minimisation
- providing free of charge tools such as LG Inform to allow councils to benchmark costs and performance information against other authorities
- continuing to support the Creative Councils programme to help councils turn their ideas into action and share the outcomes with the rest of the sector
- supporting councils to develop on the type of workforce they will need in five years' time helping them with reward, motivation and improved performance
- supporting councils and fire and rescue authorities to respond to civil emergencies

Sector-led improvement

Councils are the most improved part of the public sector.

Local politicians and senior managers lead the transformation of local places.

This includes:

- a programme of over 100 peer challenges in each of the next three years for councils and fire and rescue authorities
- maintaining an overview of the performance of local government and providing tailored support to councils that face significant challenges
- support to enhance councils' accountability to local people including support to strengthen scrutiny working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny
- an improvement programme for children's services
- working with councils to develop an improvement model for adult social care through Promoting Excellence in Adult Social Care
- support to councils to modernise and improve public libraries and programmes for culture, tourism and sport services
- ensuring that international practice is available to support service improvement in the UK and abroad
- providing a range of development programmes for elected members, and one free/subsidised place for every council for each of the next three years
- offering every council over the next three years a member development workshop to support councils to become "champions of their patch"
- working with the national parties and others to increase the diversity of people standing for public office through our "Be A Councillor" programme
- offering member mentoring free of charge for any council where there is a change of political leadership
- providing development programmes which bring together elected members and officers through programmes such as our Leeds Castle programme
- attracting new talent into the public sector through programmes such as the National Graduate Development programme.

Our own effectiveness and efficiency

The LGA is the single voice of local government, representing every local authority and locally democratically elected representatives across England and Wales.

This includes:

Membership

- increasing membership levels amongst local authorities in England and Wales and providing a membership body for Police and Crime Commissioners
- improving engagement and building strong and productive relationships with councils and groupings of councils – this will be the focus of a member scrutiny review
- acting as conduit between local authorities and central government to ensure a local perspective to emerging policy debate
- securing amendments to emerging legislation and running effective campaigns that deliver real change and improvements for our membership
- developing our suite of communications to provide clear, relevant and up to the minute information that councils value and use
- enhancing benefits and reducing the cost of membership.

Business management

- reviewing our costs with a view to achieving a significant reduction in overheads – this is also the focus of a member scrutiny review
- focusing on value for money, transparency and accountability
- supporting our employees through regular appraisal and investment in their development.

Outline budget 2012/13

	Pay £m	Non-Pay £m	Total £m
Subscriptions			10.0
RSG England			25.5
RSG Wales			0.3
Specific grants and other ring-fenced funding			8.5
Other income (conferences, seminars, sponsorship)			2.0
Rental income			1.0
Other			1.0
Possible carry forward of prior year underspend			1.4
Total income			49.7
Political support and governance	1.7	1.4	3.1
Programme teams	4.6		6.4
Leadership and Productivity	4.4		9.4
Workforce	1.8		2.8
Policy and Delivery	10.8	7.8	18.6
Strategy and Communications	2.2	2.5	4.7
Total operational costs	14.7	11.7	26.4
Specific grants and other ring-fenced funding	2.8	2.8	5.6
Strategic Management Board	0.7	0.1	0.8
Finance and Resources	1.0	-	1.0
Liberata shared service	-	6.8	6.8
Accommodation	-	2.8	2.8
Other overheads (audit, insurance etc)	-	1.7	1.7
Pensions - past employees	-	0.9	0.9
Pensions - additional contribution	-	3.7	3.7
Total overheads	1.7	16.0	17.7
Total expenditure	19.2	30.5	49.7

Our Corporate Indicators

	Target 2012/13 (TBC)	Baseline
Membership	September 2012	September 2011
Total membership	422	422
People Management		September 2011
Employees – total headcount	307 (269 estabd posts + posts for grant-funded programmes)	307
Average sick days per employee for 12 months	Maintain or improve (public sector av 9.6 days; local govt av 10.3 days)	4.5 days
Workforce profile		
BME employees % of the workforce		17%
BME - proportion of employees Grade 6 and above	Increase % of BME employees grade 6+ in line with workforce	5.9%
Employee engagement	Survey during 2012	Survey July 2009
Satisfied with their job	Maintain or improve	79%
Good place to work		66%
Kept well-informed		80%
Line manager helps them achieve their potential		61%
Organisation is committed to equality and diversity in its services		69%
Organisation is committed to equality and diversity in its employment practices		66%
Debtors	March 2013	March 2011
0 – 2 months	80%	56%
3-12 months	20%	10%
13-24 months	0%	14%
Over 24 months	0%	20%
	100%	100%
Liberata customer satisfaction	Survey Nov 2012	Survey Nov 2010
HR and Payroll	80%	66%
Finance and accounting	80%	72%
ICT	80%	58%
FM	80%	80%
Print and design	80%	68%
Overall	80%	61%
Carbon emissions	March 2013 reduce by 6% from 07/08 baseline of 1,450 CO2 tonnes	March 2011
	1,363	1,373

Item 2

LGA International work

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report sets out the principles behind the LGA's international programmes, describes the externally-funded work currently being managed by the LGA and updates members on future activity.

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Carl Wright, will present to the Board, set out the work that CLGF has undertaken with LGA member councils in the past few years through the Department for International Development (DFID) funded Good Practice Scheme and highlight potential for future funding and joint LGA/CLGF work.

Recommendation

Members are asked to comment on the report, assess current priorities for lobbying and discuss potential lobbying over the coming year.

Action

Officers to action as directed by Members.

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LGA International work

Background

1. The LGA delivers a number of projects which provide support to local government in the developing world. This work includes capacity building, peer support and general training/development. There are a number of basic political steers which guide the LGA's work in this area:
 - 1.1 All work is based on demand from sister LGAs or councils in the developing world.
 - 1.2 The funding for projects is sourced externally.
 - 1.3 Delivery is based on practitioner-to-practitioner support, rather than the use of expensive consultants.
2. There is also a clear geographical focus (Commonwealth and Eastern Europe) which guides how we prioritise our response to demands for support.
3. There are three important issues for members to consider:
 - 3.1 Our partnership with the Commonwealth needs further work as resources from DFID ended in December 2011.
 - 3.2 In Jan 2012, the LGA achieved "approved supplier" status with DFID and this will develop new work.
 - 3.3 As our record of delivery develops, there will be increased demand upon the sector.

The context of our work

4. There is increasing demand for the skills and expertise of the UK local government sector from councils and associations of councils in developing nations. We have a clear view from sister associations that local government in the developing world prefers support from current practitioners rather than costly consultants. It is more effective, less expensive and provides for long-term relationships which make a difference.
5. With an extremely limited resource base to meet this demand upon English councils, the LGA looks to sources of external funding to help develop projects. In this area, we have worked extensively with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and we have developed partnerships with a range of agencies to support capacity building and development work.

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6. We work with a variety of aid agencies to facilitate local government practitioner engagement in project delivery and to meet demand from the developing world. As a result the LGA has a reputation as the gateway to UK local government expertise and supporting good governance in developing democracies.

Summary of our recent and ongoing work

Peer Review in Africa

7. Between January and September 2012 the LGA and the United Cities & Local Government Africa (UCLGA) will deliver five pilot peer reviews across Africa, shadowed by UK teams. The selection process for the five participating UK member peers has begun and despite the postponement of the peer training event in December, this is now scheduled for the week of 30 January.

Pakistan

8. A three year DFID-sponsored capacity building project with the Local Councils Association of Punjab (LCAP) was completed in December 2011. However, there is continued demand for UK local government to support calls for the reinstatement of democratically elected local government in Pakistan. In October Cllr Richard Kemp chaired a seminar on how UK institutions with connections to Pakistan, and the wider diaspora can play a more active role in supporting the country's return to elected local government. The LGA is working closely with CLGF on how this work can progress both within the UK and in Pakistan.

South Africa

9. Our DFID-sponsored work with the South African LGA (SALGA) was completed in December 2011. This work included a peer review of SALGA which initiated the above pan-African work. There is potential for the LGA to play a further role in supporting SALGA's work around peer support for South African municipalities. This is being pursued with SALGA's management.

Arab Spring

10. The LGA was asked look at how UK local government could respond to events in North Africa. As a result, the LGA made a written submission to the Common's Foreign Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the British government's role in building the institutions of democracy and civil society in Egypt, Tunisia and other Arab countries. This follows discussions with Whitehall about the Arab Partnership Fund and the potential for the LGA to

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support the DFID/FCO programmes on transparency, accountability and governance. Contacts are being pursued with the British Embassy in Morocco.

Kosovo

11. The DFID funded project “Strengthening Financial and Administrative Systems for the decentralisation of the Social Care Services Programme” started in January 2011. The LGA is delivering the project with the lead partner, COFFEY International and two other implementing partners from Kosovo and Slovenia. The project has experienced a number of difficulties in its implementation but despite this the LGA contribution has been delivered successfully with very positive feedback from the Association of Kosovo Municipalities. We are also supporting an EU-funded project by NICO in Northern Ireland.

Overseas Territories and the FCO

12. The LGA has been supporting the capacity building of the Falkland Island Government (FIG) over the last year. While the project has come to an end the government of Falkland Islands is pursuing further funding to continue the project to focus on reviewing the leave system in FIG.

NEW PARTNERS AND NEW WORK STREAMS

DFID Framework Agreement

13. Much of DFID’s work (i.e. the UK aid budget) is contracted out through “framework agreements”. The LGA has lobbied both DFID ministers and officials about the demand for local government expertise in the delivery of UK aid. Both Ministers and officials have advised that the most effective route to providing more practitioner input into UK aid is to establish the LGA as a partner with aid organisations in bidding for DFID contracts.
14. In late 2011, the LGA became a member of an international consortium led by an international consultancy, HTSPE which bid for DFID work. In early January 2012, this bid to DFID to become a “preferred supplier” was successful. This bid was under for Public Sector support under the “Governance and Security Framework Agreement”.
15. As an agreed supplier, the LGA will now be part of a partnership to provide delivery of services as part of bilateral programmes in DFID priority countries. These contracts will be awarded through mini-competitions of agreed suppliers. This is the first time that LGA has won preferred supplier status with DFID and thus we need to consider how we use this area of new influence.

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Demand as a result of growing work on peer review abroad

16. As a result of this and the pan-African peer review work, the LGA has been asked to consider work with other partners. For example, FCO has asked the LGA to investigate extended peer support and modern twinning to governments of the Overseas Territories. Officers presented a paper, jointly with CLG, to a meeting of OT officials at the end of 2011.
17. Thus there are two issues for members to consider here:
 - 17.1 Firstly, the quality and quantum of our current work (especially the innovative peer reviews with the Pan-African LGA) is generating demand for the LGA as a supplier of expertise. This is shown in the interest of FCO in the concept of peer reviews.
 - 17.2 Secondly, our new role as a formal “DFID supplier” presents the opportunity to bid for formal DFID contracts where the LGA can help supply local government practitioners to enhance the delivery of aid projects.
18. Members are asked to consider how we develop our work in these areas over the next few months and how members provide oversight of this developing work.

Working with the Commonwealth

19. Much of our international development work is delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (the Commonwealth LGA) which has more than 160 members in 40 Commonwealth countries including local government associations, individual local authorities and ministries dealing with local government. It works to promote and strengthen democratic local government across the Commonwealth and to encourage the exchange of best practice.
20. CLGF also delivers programmes to support and improve local governance in a number of Commonwealth countries and regions and this includes the DFID funded Good Practice Scheme (GPS), a three year programme bringing together local authorities in the UK and a number of developing countries. The scheme also funds local government associations and the third GPS (2008-2011) which has funded our work in Pakistan and South Africa is now complete.
21. In response to this growing demand from across the Commonwealth for UK local government expertise, the following UK councils received DFID funding

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to participate in the third phase of the Good Practice Scheme which was delivered in India, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Jamaica:

- 21.1 Leeds
 - 21.2 Sunderland
 - 21.3 Cardiff
 - 21.4 Birmingham
 - 21.5 Glasgow
 - 21.6 Hull
 - 21.7 Leicester
 - 21.8 Worcester
 - 21.9 Hastings District
 - 21.10 Cannock Chase District
 - 21.11 Staffordshire Moorlands District
 - 21.12 London Borough of Lewisham
 - 21.13 London Borough of Hounslow
 - 21.14 London Borough of Greenwich
 - 21.15 Hampshire County Council
 - 21.16 Kent County Council
 - 21.17 Warwickshire County Council
22. CLGF is in discussion with DFID on the possibility of further funding for local government related activities and the LGA will be supporting as much as possible.
23. Carl Wright, Secretary General of CLGF will be attending the Board meeting and will present on future opportunities for the LGA and UK local government to continue supporting local government across the Commonwealth. He will also look at how future lobbying between the Commonwealth and the LGA make could enhance this work.

European Union 2012 lobbying programme

Purpose of report

For decision. This paper seeks member approval on LGA European Union (EU) lobbying priorities arising from the European Commission 2012 work programme, seeks approval on ways to take forward our lobbying, and updates members on current lobbying priorities.

Summary

Half of all regulation affecting councils originates from the EU, directly impacting councils' statutory duties. It is critical we influence draft EU laws. In November 2011, the European Commission published its annual programme of EU legislative proposals, which will frame the LGA's EU work.

The LGA's lobbying in Brussels is delivered in partnership with sister LGAs through the pan-EU association, CEMR. Frederic Valier, the General Secretary of CEMR will be attending the meeting and presenting the work of the pan-EU associations, how it can support LGA priorities and how we maximise the value of our membership.

Recommendation

Members to consider the content of the report, LGA 2012 EU lobbying priorities, and note current lobbying work.

Action

Officers to take forward members' recommendations.

Contact officers:

Contact officer: Jasbir Jhas / Richard Kitt

Position: LGA Senior Advisor

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Email: jasbir.jhas@local.gov.uk / richard.kitt@local.gov.uk

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European Union 2012 lobbying programme

Importance of EU lobbying to councils

1. Around half of all regulation affecting councils or the services they provide and procure originates from the EU. Councils also stand to benefit substantially from £8bn of EU regeneration and skills funding available to the UK during this funding period (2007-2013).
2. **EU laws are developed several years in advance of becoming UK law and implemented by councils.** The decision making process is broadly defined in three stages: pre-legislative; legislative; and implementation. The LGA is active at each stage to lobby EU decision makers in Brussels and Whitehall.
 - 2.1 **Pre-legislative:** *European Commission (EC)* initiates draft EU laws. Its annual Work Programme, EU version of our Queen's speech, can highlight proposals years in advance. The LGA prioritises proposals which may have a regulatory, financial or administrative impact on councils. With CEMR (pan European LGA), we seek to influence EC officials drafting proposals, and Whitehall departments negotiating the UK position.
 - 2.2 **Legislative:** *Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and national governments* (Council of the European Union) debate, amend, approve or reject draft EU laws. The Committee of the Regions (CoR), an EU body for councillors, is also consulted. The LGA tests EU draft laws with councils to evidence our lobbying, and through CEMR and UK CoR members, will proactively lobby MEPs, UK Government and Commission officials.
 - 2.3 **Implementation:** UK government must transpose EU laws into UK statutory instruments, and communicate this to councils. The LGA will work with the relevant Whitehall department to ensure this is done.

European Commission work programme 2012: the local impact

3. The EC 2012 programme was published on 15 November 2011. It contains legislative proposals to be put forward between now and 2014. It highlights 129 proposals for 2012 alone. From this officers have identified proposals which could have a regulatory, financial or administrative impact on councils or the services they procure.
4. The table below highlights all the issues which will impact on councils and categorised as: "priority" where we will proactively lobby, or "watching brief" where less staffing resource will be provided. It also includes current EU lobbying priorities which include the EU Budget 2014-2020, reviews of public procurement and working time laws, and new energy efficiency rules etc. **Members are asked to consider these recommendations from officers.** Once members have

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agreed a final list, officers will ensure agreed priorities are reflected in relevant Programme Board priorities to ensure mainstreaming.

EU proposal and expected impact on our member authorities	When	Priority/ Watching brief
Children and Young People		
Child poverty: common principles of intervention on support to families (labour market, income support) and childcare, education, healthcare, housing, social services.	June 2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Economy and Transport		
EU Budget review (2014-2020) incl. structural funds: UK councils benefit from £8bn EU skills and regeneration funding. We seek a coherent, locally responsive and accessible future funding package.	Live	Priority
CO2 from cars and vans: new targets for manufacturers, but may affect procurement of local authority fleet.	Dec 2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Revisions to regional aid guidelines post 2013 will affect the UK 'assisted areas' map and the levels of grant support councils can offer to both EU and UK businesses. Revisions to 'block exemption' & de minimis state aid regulations could make it easier for councils to award state aid to companies without having to notify the EU. Revisions to state aid rules for broadband may make it easier for councils to provide support schemes in locally.	Sept 2012 July 2012	Priority <i>Watching brief</i> <i>Watching brief</i>
Environment and Housing		
Directive on energy efficiency: LGA opposes inflexible annual 3% binding renovation target for buildings by 2014.	Live	Priority
Directive on water efficiency in buildings: expected to set binding targets and incur a significant cost to councils as owners of municipal buildings and social housing.	Expected 2012	Priority
Review of Environmental Impact Assessment Directive will seek to improve councils' implementation of EU laws. Other items: seventh environmental action programme including better enforcement, and evaluation. Potential review of Environmental Liability Directive .	July 2012 Oct 2012 2014	Priority <i>Watching briefs</i>
Revision of Waste Framework and Waste Stream Directives must not add to existing duties. New diversion targets from other waste streams to be added to Landfill Directive moving towards zero land filling by 2050.	Both in 2014	Priority
Air Quality Directive: review may set new air quality management standards. 2013 is European air quality year	2013	Priority
Energy efficient production and distribution: may scope EU harmonisation of smart energy grids / metering.	Autumn 2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Revision of EU Greenhouse Gas: fluorinated	June	<i>Watching</i>

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greenhouse gases (led to fridge mountains).	2012	<i>brief</i>
Finance		
Review of MIFID directive: Proposes reclassification of UK councils as 'non-professional' investors, thus harming their ability to invest public funds.	Live	Priority
VAT affecting public authorities: councils' ability to claim back VAT from government for goods/services they buy for the public sector (crèches etc) may be threatened by common EU approach for public bodies in the EU.	<i>In 2011 plan, but not published</i>	<i>Watching brief</i>
Improvement		
Major review of EU public procurement rules. LGA will lobby to ensure a simpler and lighter regime overall, and a more flexible approach to shared services.	Live	Priority
Lobby for light touch regulation on service concessions affecting councils' franchise arrangements: toll bridges car parks, leisure centres, waste, school canteens	2012	Priority
International		
Role of civil society and local authorities in development.	Oct 2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
European Neighbourhood Policy and Eastern Partnership	2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Regulation		
Proposals to review EU Directives/regulations on organic food, tobacco sales, general product safety, animal health, and official food chain controls may affect councils' trading standards and environmental health teams.	During 2012-13	<i>Watching brief</i>
European consumer agenda: consumer safety, rights redress and access to justice, enforcement, information.	Summer 2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Tourism		
European tourism label sector: legislation to bring quality evaluation of the sector.	2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Workforce		
Working Time Directive Review: may affect care homes and fire services. LGA lobbying to keep 48 hour opt-out; ensure not all on-call time classed as working time; and compensatory rest is taken flexibly.	Ongoing	Priority
Freedom of movement for workers within the EU may establish certain obligations on employers, incl councils.	Late 2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Green Paper on restructuring: identify good practice in employment restructuring promoting employment/growth.	2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Protection of workers may set cancer risk levels and extend scope to risks which are toxic for reproduction.	2012	<i>Watching brief</i>
Work/family and private life - measures to increase female employment rates and tackle demographic change	2012	<i>Watching brief</i>

Taking 2012 lobbying forward

5. As discussed at the last Board meeting, the **Localism Act EU financial sanctions provisions** are a reminder why we must get future EU laws and their implementation into UK law right, and why councils must fulfil their obligations arising from them. The LGA proposed statement of policy, now subject to consultation, highlights Government's role in working in partnership with local government when developing UK positions to new EU laws which may result in legal obligations. Actions include:
 - 5.1 sharing details of Whitehall EU leads, and an LGA-Whitehall summit to take forward our partnership working on draft new EU laws;
 - 5.2 involving LGA ahead of negotiations on new EU laws;
 - 5.3 highlighting local implications in preliminary UK Government positions; and
 - 5.4 involving LGA ahead of transposition, and making clear new obligations.
6. **Whitehall and UK Parliament** engagement will include liaising with EU leads in departments on specific EU draft laws, Commons' and Lords' EU committee clerks, and feeding into relevant inquiries.
7. **UK CoR members** play a crucial role in Brussels and Whitehall to develop lobbying messages i.e. members are currently championing LGA priorities on EU funding, and energy efficiency lobbying. On 9 January they will agree 2012 priorities. It is proposed we identify members to lobby on LGA priorities.
8. **Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)** are important to our lobbying. We continue to strengthen our relationship with UK MEPs on key committees. The LGA appoints Vice Presidents in key institutions to champion LGA issues; this includes the European Parliament. Our EP VPs are Julie Girling and Philip Bradbourn (Cons), Richard Howitt and Derek Vaughan (Labour), Edward McMillan Scott and Catherine Bearder (Lib Dem) and Keith Taylor (Ind).
9. The **fourth UK Local Government-EU summit** in Brussels brings together key EU and UK decision-makers in Brussels (UK MEPs, UKREP and EC officials) to understand the impact the 2012 EU legislative programme will have on councils. It will involve all four UK local government associations.
10. The LGA plays a key role in the pan-EU association, **CEMR**, particularly on EU lobbying. Our Brussels lobbying is dependent on a strong lobbying alliance with sister LGAs. This is achieved through CEMR, where three committees are chaired by UK members, and a fourth steered by an LGA officer; these are currently being reconstituted. All proposed LGA priorities are included in the CEMR's own lobbying priorities. In the recent reform of CEMR, the LGA played a leading role to ensure CEMR's lobbying work is prioritised over other issues within its annual work programme.

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11. At the last meeting, members considered how we maximised our membership of CEMR. In order to achieve this objective, the General Secretary of CEMR, Frederic Vallier, has been invited to the meeting to address members and set out how CEMR will support LGA priorities in 2012.

Update on ongoing LGA EU lobbying

12. The following briefing provides members with an update on the work of the LGA's current lobbying priorities.

Review of EU Public Procurement Directive

13. On 20 December 2011 the European Commission published proposals for a new public procurement directive to replace the current regime. The proposals are a significant reform affecting how councils purchase supplies, works, and services. They introduce a number of new measures which aim to make public procurement easier for both SMEs and local authorities:

- 13.1 new possibilities for councils to share services without going to tender, but only in limited circumstances;
- 13.2 a new 'light' regime governing the award of social, health and education service contracts above €500,000;
- 13.3 a new requirement to explain why contracts above €500,000 have not been broken down into smaller lots to help SMEs;
- 13.4 a requirement for councils to fully adopt e-procurement by June 2016;
- 13.5 a stronger steer for councils to purchase 'green' and socially-responsible supplies and services.

14. The European Parliament and national governments are planning to agree the proposals by the end of 2012, with the aim that they come into effect on 30 June 2014. As part of its 'Productivity Programme', the LGA is working with Whitehall and the European institutions to ensure the new regime reflects councils' interests. In particular, consultation with local authority procurement managers is underway and an online 'hot seat' event is planned to discuss the proposals on 23 January.

15. LGA has also launched '[buying into communities](#)' a new guide with case studies to help councils achieve their goals in line with the existing EU procurement rules.

Directive on energy efficiency

16. The LGA opposes the inflexible annual 3% binding renovation target for buildings by 2014 and the requirements to procure only high energy efficient works, products and services. Our lobbying has been effective as we seek to influence EU decision makers in Brussels and Whitehall.

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17. The LGA position is now reflected in the CEMR and CoR positions, the latter through amendments proposed through Cllr Keymer. The resulting CoR report rejects the EU proposal that 3% of local government buildings be renovated each year. In the European Parliament, the draft Directive is currently at first reading stage and received 1700 amendments which are being processed before a first reading vote in committee in February. Within these are a number that supported the LGA position put forward by Fiona Hall MEP. We will lobby MEPs' to ensure they support amendments in line with the LGA position
18. The lead Whitehall department is DECC, but DCLG and DEFRA have a clear interest. The LGA has met with all three prior to the EU Energy Council debate in November 2011. The emerging government position is largely in line with that of the LGA. Cllr Parsons, Environment and Housing Board Chair wrote to lead ministers in each department before Christmas emphasising the potential impacts for local government and the LGA has received press coverage on our position. The full Energy Council will consider the outcome of the first reading in the Spring and LGA will work with Government in advance of this.

Future EU funding 2014-2020

19. This is a crucial year in determining what structural funds programmes will look like from 2014-2020. Local government will continue to play a leading role in discussions with European institutions and the UK Government to ensure future spending contributes to local ambitions for growth.
20. It was agreed at the previous Board meeting to establish an informal task and finish group to oversee LGA work on EU funding, to include members from this Board and the Economy and Transport Programme Boards. Officers will present a draft work programme for member steer, including proposals for a:
- 20.1 for a refreshed position paper on councils' engagement with EU funds;
 - 20.2 elected member involvement to Ministers and MEPs, and
 - 20.3 LGA initiated stakeholder events involving Government and others.
21. Since the last meeting, the Board has responded to a House of Lords Inquiry into the future EU Budget, and held an event on which brought together councils, the European Commission, Catherine Bearder MEP, and lead Whitehall departments. Cllr Wilcox spoken at this event, and a House of Lords event on the future of the European Social Fund. In Brussels, Cllr Flo Clucas championed a CoR report on the EU Budget, supported by LGA officers.

European and International Programme Board update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper outlines the recent LGA international work and updates Members on current projects taking place.

Recommendation

Members are requested to consider the update and offer any comments.

Action

LGA Officers to take forward any work identified by Members.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Programmes, LGA
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Item 4

European and International Programme Board update

Election monitoring

1. Through our membership of the Council of Europe's Congress, UK members play an important role in observing local elections in different countries predominantly in Eastern Europe. As part of our work with Council of Europe, the LGA is involved in training for election observation.
2. To ensure that there are a number of qualified UK observers, the next training session will take place in London on 13 February 2012. The training will be carried out by Congress officials, an elected member from Austria (Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, first Vice-Chair of the Congress Monitoring Committee) and Cllr Keith Whitmore, President of the Congress.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Council Meeting

3. UCLG represents and promotes local government on the world stage, and is the united voice for democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests. The World Council is the principle policy-making body of UCLG and meets once a year. The 2011 meeting was attended by Cllrs Dave Wilcox and Richard Kemp.
4. As well as setting out UCLG's priorities for the coming six years, the 2011 World Council also addressed important issues such as the tightening fiscal climate and the contribution of local and regional authorities to sustainable development in the run up to Rio +20 being held later this year in Brazil. The UCLG 2010-2016 Strategy and 2012 Work Plan were adopted, as well as an agreement to engage national governments on ensuring 'observer status' for UCLG at the United Nations.
5. The LGA was also represented at a meeting of UCLG's Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group which brings together professional practitioners from other LGAs and individual authorities active in the field of international development. This has become a valuable professional network for collaboration and exchange with local government partners from across Europe and now more increasingly developing countries. As part of its participation in the CIB Working Group the LGA is the lead association on coordinating programming and donor engagement in Zimbabwe.

UK delegation meeting of Congress and Committee of Regions (CoR)

6. The annual meeting of the UK delegations to Congress and CoR took place on 9 January 2012. The leaders of the two delegations will give an oral update on the meeting at the Board.

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report provides information on international Olympic and Paralympic Pre-Games Training Camps (PGTC) and associated visits from Heads of State. It discusses the potential for the Board to assist councils in the run up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Recommendation

Members are asked to provide a steer on the proposals outlined in this report.

Action

Officers to take forward any recommendations as determined by Members.

Contact officer: Liz Hobson
Position: Senior Adviser
Phone no: 0207 664 3229
E-mail: liz.hobson@local.gov.uk

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Background

1. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the biggest international sporting event in the world involving almost 15, 000 athletes. A ground-breaking international legacy programme, 'International Inspiration', delivered by the British Council, UNICEF and UK Sport, is working to leave behind a lasting legacy for young people around the world beyond the London 2012 Games.
2. The LGA has been working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to ensure councils play a central role in delivering a safe and successful 2012 Games.
3. An LGA 2012 Task and Finish Group has been established to provide strategic oversight of LGA programme board work to ensure we deliver a coherent offer to member councils in relation to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
4. At its first meeting on 15 December 2011, the Group suggested the European and International Programme Board may want to support member councils in the lead up to the 2012 Games. It could initially focus on Pre-Games Training Camps (PGTCs) and visits from Heads of State and other dignitaries.

Pre-Games Training Camps and Host a Nation Week

5. Pre-Games Training Camps for national teams will provide athletes with a base from which to prepare, train and acclimatise ahead of the Games, and provide opportunities for local communities to engage with athletes, through cultural exchange, education and engagement alongside provisions for international sporting teams.
6. As of 19 December 2011, a total of 124 agreements have been signed by National Olympic Committees (NOC) and National Paralympic Committees (NPC). Of these approximately fifty-five have some form of council involvement. Most of the other agreements are with educational establishments, mainly Universities (See **Appendix A**). A further 223 NOCs/NPCs are still considering signing a PGTC agreement.

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7. LOCOG has made a commitment to make a Financial Award of up to £25,000 available to every NOC/NPC who sends a team to prepare in an approved PGTC in the UK or Northern Ireland. The deadline for applications for financial awards is 29 February 2012 for NOCs and 31 March 2012 for NPCs.
8. The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is planning to organise a 'Host a Nation' week shortly before the start of the 2012 Games, in order to foster greater awareness of other nations and people. All PGTCs that have a visiting team will be invited to be part of the 'Host a Nation' week.
9. There is also an expectation that over a hundred Heads of State or other dignitaries will make visits prior to and during the 2012 Games. The LGA is liaising with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to see if our assistance is required in liaising with local areas, for example if there are requests for hosting civic receptions for visiting Heads of State.

Potential ways that the European and Internal Board can support councils

10. The European and International Programme Board can potentially support councils in a number of ways:
 - 10.1 Liaise with LOCOG to explore ways to support their work with councils.
 - 10.2 Liaise with the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) to support councils with PGTCs to develop activities for the 'Host a Nation' week.
 - 10.3 Promote PGTC council venues to contacts and networks that the LGA has in other countries.
 - 10.4 Assist councils to make contact with appropriate government officials in other countries.
 - 10.5 Support councils to host Heads of State or other dignitary visits during the training camps.

Conclusion and next steps

11. Following a steer from Members of the European and International Programme Board on the proposals to take forward, progress made on these will be reported to the LGA Executive by the 2012 Task and Finish Group.

Pre Games Training Camp agreements (as of 19 December 2011)

UK and Northern Ireland data by nation and region	PGTC agreements in place
North East	3
Yorkshire and Humberside	11
North West	6
West Midlands	2
East Midlands	2
East of England	20
London	9
South East	30
South West	25
Scotland	2
Wales	11
Northern Ireland	3
Total	124

A list of the locations of the Pre-Games Training Camps that have agreements in place as of 19 December 2011 can be accessed through this link:

<http://www.london2012.com/documents/venue-documents/pre-games-training-camps-agreements.pdf>

The list runs to 11 pages so it is not attached to this report but a copy will be available at the meeting.

Examples include: the Chinese Olympic Committee agreement with Leeds, the Australian Olympic Swimming team agreement with Manchester, the Grenada Olympic committee agreement with West Sussex and Horsham, the Kenyan National Olympic Committee agreement with Bristol, USA Track & Field and Jamaican Athletics team agreements with Birmingham, and the Canadian Mountain Bike team agreement with Essex.

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LG Group European & International Programme Board
Date and time:	Monday 31 October 2011, 11.00am
Venue:	Smith Square Rooms 3&4, Local Government House

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chair	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
Vice Chair	Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City
Deputy Chair	Marco Cereste	Peterborough City
Deputy Chair	Linda Gillham	Runnymede BC
Members	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
	Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC
	Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC
	Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC
	Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City
	Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB
	Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC
	Zulfiqar Ali	Rochdale MBC
Observer	Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB
Apologies	Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB

Officers: Ian Hughes, Jasbir Jhas, Sarah Messenger, Nick Porter, Drago Djekovic, Ivor Wells, Richard Kitt, Sarah Monaghan

The Chair welcomed Members to the first meeting of the cycle and detailed apologies received.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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1 EIPB Membership, meeting dates and Terms of Reference

Decision

Members **noted** the:

- *Membership of the Board for 2011-12*
- *Dates for 2011-12, including meetings in Peterborough and Liverpool*
- *Terms of Reference for the Programme Board*

2 EU Workforce Issues

Sarah Messenger and Ian Hughes presented this report, which suggests a way forward for the LGA to coordinate its work on EU proposed policy and legislation which could impact on the local government workforce. Both emphasised the importance of joint working between the workforce and programme teams and Boards in these area, particularly on the Working Time Directive (WTD).

Members suggested that although the Working Time Directive should be prioritised by the workforce and programmes teams, other key issues such as new rules on the free movement of workers will also have a huge impact on councils and should be more clearly expressed in the policy objectives in this work area. Members also suggested that as well as working with the fire and rescue workforce to provide evidence to substantiate the LGA’s lobbying work on the review of the Working Time Directive, the LGA should also work with adult social care teams to give the case more weight. As Chair of the CEMR Committee, it was suggested that it may be appropriate for Steve Cromer to attend a future Board meeting to discuss these issues in more detail.

Members agreed that although the Workforce Programme Board will have oversight of this work area, further work and an update on progress should be presented to the European and International Programme Board on a regular basis.

Decision

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*Members **noted** the LGA work on EU proposed policy and legislation which could impact on the local government workforce.*

Action

Officers to provide the Board with an update on progress in due course.

**Ian Hughes/
Sarah
Messenger**

**3 Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
(the European LGA)**

Ian Hughes introduced this report which examines the benefits and costs of the LGA's membership of CEMR, the reform of the organisation, the current debate on its future budget and options that members may wish to pursue in 2012.

Ian highlighted current issues of contention between CEMR member associations with regard to the way in which the CEMR is currently run, including its financial situation. However, Ian stressed that the CEMR has genuine influence in the policy areas which the LGA tends to prioritise and has had a real impact for the UK.

Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE, current CEMR Vice-President and Vice-Chair of the CEMR Finance, added that real change is being proposed by driving through reduced fees for the UK and other larger nations who pay higher membership fees due to their higher GDP per capita. The UK are also continuing to push for reductions in back office staff, excessive overheads and the governance structures of the organisation in order to deal with the financial crisis.

In discussion, Members emphasised that the LGA must consult with COSLA, the WLGA and NILGA on these issues. Members agreed that the LGA should not serve a precautionary notice of withdrawal at this stage, but should continue to press for radical reform of the organisation and the condition of its 2012 reduced fee. Members also suggested that CEMR should make better use of experts from the individual European LGAs on specific issues in order to cut costs.

Decision

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*Members **agreed** to initiate work on a radical reform of CEMR and to agree 2012 fees (but that fees be conditional on a radical reform process.)*

The Board also asked LGA delegates to the CEMR Policy Committee to pursue these agreed lines at the next meeting in December 2011.

Action

Chair

- The Chair and Cllr Keymer to meet with the Secretary General of CEMR to raise concerns and suggest ways forward.
- The LGA delegation to CEMR Policy Committee to agree LGA lines.

4 European economic and skills development funds, 2014 – 2020

Nick Porter introduced this item and discussed the proposed EU budget, Structural Fund regulations, and Rural Development regulations for the 2014-2020 programmes which the European Commission has recently published. Nick outlined the proposed twin-track engagement strategy which the LGA has devised in Brussels and Whitehall to influence the legislative process.

Cllr Sir Albert Bore added that although a twin-track engagement strategy was necessary, there would be many areas which require a more coherent strategy as this agenda develops. In particular, the UK should focus on working to 'encourage' national Government to ensure local authorities are involved at all stages of operational programmes and ensure that locally responsive delivery models are actually implemented.

Members welcomed the new options for integrating funds within functional economic areas, which follows on from LGA lobbying and is a real success for us, as this follows directly on from our publication on *EU Funds and Place Based Budgets*. However, members stressed that it was imperative to use both national and European allies that the UK Government should follow through on ensuring these options are made reality.

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Decision

Members considered and commented on the outline programme of activity.

Action

- Members agreed to establish joint working arrangements with members of the Economy and Transport Programme Board to drive through this work at a member level.

5 EU Fines (Localism Bill): Update and next steps

Jasbir Jhas introduced this report which sets out the lobbying progress to influence EU fines policy in the Localism Bill through the House of Lords. Jas informed members that since the last update to the Board, LGA lobbying during the Bill's passage through the Lords has resulted in a major rethink of Government policy. This includes securing key concessions through Government amendments such as Designation Orders to ensure that fines are passed by Parliament before they are handed down to local authorities, and the establishment of an Independent Advisory Panel. The LGA has also submitted a proposal for a statutory statement of government policy to the House of Lords library to determine how EU fines will operate. Jas informed Members that the next steps in this process would be a Government consultation on the LGA proposal and also delivering a new partnership between central and local government on future EU laws.

Members thanked Jas and the team for all the hard work which has gone into this clause at all stages of the Bill, and congratulated them on this key achievement. Members also thanked Lord Tope for leading the debate in the Lords.

Decision

*Members **noted** the report and **endorsed** the proposals for a new central-local relationship on EU proposed laws.*

6 International Update

Ivor Wells introduced the item and together with Drago Djekovic

Item 6

gave a presentation based on the international work in the organisation, which has been reviewed and revitalised since the restructure of the organisation.

Current projects focus on the transitional countries of Eastern Europe, developing Commonwealth countries of Africa and South Asia and fragile and post-conflict states where the UK government has an interest. Ivor added that whilst members in the past have had a clear political overview, we have proposed that each international project should also have a member champion to ensure that work with members in sister associations has a clear political anchor in the LGA. The process of appointing member champions is still underway.

In discussion, the Chairman thanked officers for an impressive presentation and asked that in future meetings, update reports on international work were brought forward in the meeting, to allow time for a fuller discussion.

Decision

*Members **noted** the updates.*

6 Public Health

Ian Hughes introduced this report which sets out the current work of the EU committee of regions in the area of public health, explains LGA member involvement and influence and how we tap into the experience of councils outside the UK to establish new public health services.

Decision

Members noted the report.

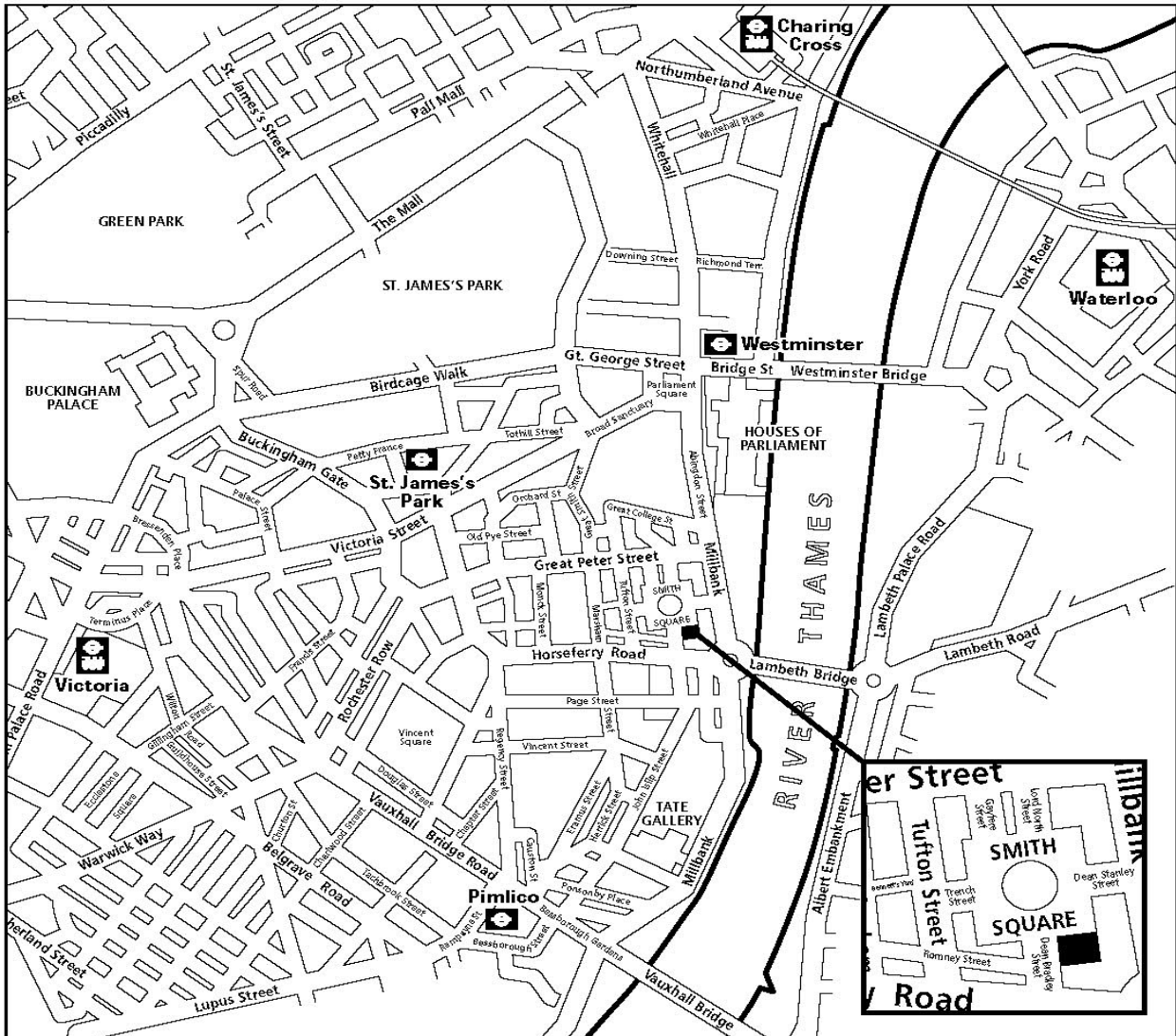
Action

- Members and officers to disseminate best practice from other EU countries to councils to support the development of their new functions.

7 Notes of the last meeting

Members approved the notes of the last meeting as an accurate

LGA Location Map



Local Government Association

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 Website: www.lga.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are; **Victoria** and **Waterloo**; the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (District and Circle Lines); **Westminster** (District, Circle and Jubilee Lines); and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line), all about 10 minutes walk away. Buses **3** and **87** travel along **Millbank**, and the **507** between Victoria and Waterloo goes close by at the end of **Dean Bradley Street**.

Bus routes - Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych **N87**
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster-
Pimlico - Clapham Common

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