

Annual Meeting of the General Assembly

3 July 2007

Item 3

Minutes of the General Assembly

14 December 2006

Present:

201 authorities in full membership and 32 authorities in corporate membership of the Association were represented at the meeting.

1. The Local Government White Paper/People and Places

Address by the Rt Hon Phil Woolas MP, Minister for Communities and Local Government

Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, Chairman, welcomed Members to the December meeting of the General Assembly. Lord Bruce-Lockhart introduced the Rt Hon Phil Woolas MP, Minister for Local Government and Community Cohesion, and invited him to address the Assembly.

The Minister addressed the meeting and there then followed a question and answer session.

2. Helping People, Improving Places: Joint Work Programme to support councils 2007/2008 to 2009/10

Addresses by Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart (Chairman) and the LGA's Group Leaders.

The Assembly received a Joint Work Programme for 2007/08 and 2009/10 "Helping People and Places" setting out the first joint work programme of the LGA and its central bodies, covering the three years beginning on 1 April 2007.

The General Assembly **noted** the report and work programme.

The General Assembly **noted** addresses by Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart and the LGA's Group Leaders: Councillors Sir Jeremy Beecham (Labour), Margaret Eaton OBE (Conservative), Richard Kemp (Liberal Democrat) and Keith Ross (Independent)

3. LGA Independent Commission: Review of Relationships

Lord Best, Chairman of the Independent Commission which was established to explore the role of the LGA in respect of its members and partners, addressed delegates. Lord

Best summarised the emerging views of the Commission to date and the likely contents of the interim paper. There then followed a question and answer session.

The General assembly **noted** that the final report of the Independent Commission will be submitted to the LGA early in the new year.

Lord Best's presentation can be accessed at www.lga.gov.uk

4. Draft Budget and Subscriptions 2007/2008

The General Assembly received a report presenting an outline budget for 2007/08. The report set out the LGA Executive's recommendation for a 1% increase in subscriptions for 2007/2008 and other related issues.

Decisions

The General Assembly **agreed** the following recommendations made by the LGA Executive.

That:

- subscriptions are increased by 1% for 2007/08;
- consideration will be given to subscription levels next year, in the light of CSR2007 and a review of the LGA budget;
- a full review of budgetary commitments and pressures is undertaken in 2007, together with the scope for efficiency savings and increased income, following the recommendations of the Best Commission;
- in accordance with the practice in Local Councils, the LGA will consider moving to a three-year budget and subscription settlement from 2008 to 2011;
- the precise level of subscriptions after 2007/2008 is remitted to the LGA Executive;

Action

Officers to take forward the Assembly's decisions set out above.

5. Note of the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly - 4 July 2006.

The minutes of the 4 July meeting were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

that the 2007 Annual meeting would take place on Tuesday, 3 July (see below).

6. Dates of Future Meetings

The dates of future meetings were **noted** as:

Tuesday 3 July 2007 (International Convention Centre (ICC) Birmingham)

Wednesday, 12 December 2007 (Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre)