

## Note of last LGA Executive meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	LGA Executive
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 14 September 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,. London, EC1M 5LG

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies for absence.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllr Izzi Seccombe made a declaration of interest.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments</b>  Members of the Executive <b>noted</b> and <b>agreed</b> the membership and terms of reference.	
<b>4</b>	<b>LGA Business Plan</b>  Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, introduced the item, outlining the LGA's business plan and key areas of focus to members, including Britain's exit from the EU, inclusive growth, jobs and housing, devolution and funding for local government, children, education and schools, Adult Social Care, and building a single voice for local government.  He asked members to comment.  In the discussion which followed, members made the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Concerns were raised over the school expansion programme, and on the reduction of money for free schools following the announcement by the Department for Education. It was suggested that the LGA should carry out a piece of work on this.</li></ul>	

**Decision:**

1. Members of the Executive **agreed** the 2017/2018 Business Plan for publication.

**Action:**

1. Officers to circulate and publish the Business Plan on the LGA website.

## **5 Business rates and Fair Funding Review**

Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the item, updating members on the LGA's work on business rates and the fair funding review. She referenced the commitment in the Conservative Party Manifesto to give local government greater control over this area and emphasised that local government should be able to retain business rates in order to maintain the services it delivers. She advised members that the local government steering group on this issue had been reconvened.

Models proposed on fair funding were discussed, and those drawn up by Leicestershire County Council, the Society of Treasurers and the Government were outlined, as well as the techniques used in each. Members were referred to the comments Leadership Board had made on this topic the previous day.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- Concerns were raised that many voters did not understand this debate. Discussions needed to be accessible to voters and council tax payers, and should not be kept on a technical level.
- Concerns were raised that the Leicestershire model should not be given precedence against the other two models. Although it worked well in a two-tier area, it might not be so effective in other areas. There was a wider discussion about the fairness of models.
- It was suggested that a group of councillors from the LGA should look at building a model. It was also proposed that independent input would have the detachment to make an impartial judgment on each model.
- It emphasised that all models should be strongly evidenced based.
- Concerns were raised over the 150 councils which would cease to receive the revenue support grant, which would cause difficulties.
- There was a discussion around core local government services and which it was acceptable to charge for. For example, funeral services were highlighted as contentious in this respect.

To these points, Sarah Pickup made the following response:

It was acknowledged that the Leicestershire model might illustrate a shift of resources from some local authorities, however it should be taken into account and tested alongside the other two. Any model chosen needed to represent the interests of all councils. It was further highlighted that the core of the proposed models tended to be similar.

Members were assured that the LGA would consider the best ways to test the proposed models.

### **Decision**

1. Members of the Executive **noted** the report.

### **Action**

1. Officers to take forward work as directed by members.

## **6 Autumn Budget**

Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the item, advising that officers had prepared a submission to HM Treasury in advance of the Autumn Budget on the 22 November. The submission built on the growing places report, and set out what councils could achieve if they were given the right funding and powers. The submission detailed core 'asks' as well as setting out ambitions around housing, Brexit, devolution, the proper funding of the Grenfell follow through, funding repairs for roads, investment for sports halls, swimming pools and libraries, education services, the public health budget and the adult education budget. It also re-emphasised calls for the Homelessness Reduction Act to be fully funded.

In the discussion that followed, members made the following points:

- The submission needed to make it clear that there were consequences to under-funding local government and should highlight these.
- There was a brief discussion on the funding of children services, and members asked if the LGA could do any work around staffing and recruitment in this area.
- There was a discussion on the funding of adult social care and public sympathy for this issue. The responsibility to fund adults with learning difficulties from the adult social care fund was also raised, as this point was often lost in the debate.

- Members raised concerns that other organisations would also be sending in similar lists of requests to HM Treasury. Members asked what the strategy was to distinguish the LGA's submission.

#### **Decision**

1. Members approved the LGA's 2017 Autumn Budget submission, with the proviso that the above comments were taken into account.

#### **Action**

1. Officers to take forward work in line with members' steer.

#### **7 Note of the last Leadership Board meeting - Tabled**

#### **8 Note of last LGA Executive meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate summary of the discussion.

## **Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman)		South Holland District Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Vice Chairman)		Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)		Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)		Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Sean Anstee		Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE		Kent County Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE		Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE		Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE		Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Martin Tett		Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Paul Bettison OBE		Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Donna Jones JP		Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Nick Forbes		Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Sue Murphy CBE		Manchester City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE		Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Lib Peck		Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne		Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Claire Kober OBE		Haringey LB and Resources Board
Cllr Simon Blackburn		Blackpool Council
Cllr Richard Watts		Islington Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE		Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Peter Reeve MBE		Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Lisa Duffy		Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick		East of England Local Government Association (EELGA)
Cllr John Hart		South West Councils
Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE		Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH)
Cllr Nicholas Rushton		East Midlands Councils
Cllr Roger Lawrence		West Midlands LGA
Cllr Paul Watson		Association of North East Councils
Cllr Stephen Parker		South East England Councils (SEEC)
Apologies:	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Nicolas Heslop	South East England Councils (SEEC)
	Cllr Barrie Grunewald	North West Regional Leaders Board
	Cllr Aaron Shotton	Welsh Local Government Assoc. (WLGA)
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	SIGOMA
	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	County Councils Network (CCN)
	Cllr John Fuller	District Councils Network
	Alderman Sir David Wootton	Local Partnerships