

# Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Title: LGA Executive

Date: Thursday 14 September 2017

**Venue:** 5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-

86 Turnmill Street,. London, EC1M 5LG

#### **Attendance**

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

## Item Decisions and actions Action

## 1 Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies for absence.

## 2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Izzi Seccombe made a declaration of interest.

## 3 Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments

Members of the Executive **noted** and **agreed** the membership and terms of reference.

#### 4 LGA Business Plan

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:

 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.



#### Decision:

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

#### Action:

 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.

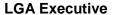
## **Decision**

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.





19 October 2017

## **Appendix A - Attendance**

Position/Role	e Councillor	Authority
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman) Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Vice Chairman) Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair) Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)		South Holland District Council Hillingdon London Borough Council Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Sean An Cllr Paul Car Cllr Peter Fle Cllr Izzi Seco Cllr Mark Ha Cllr Martin Te Cllr Paul Bet Cllr Donna Je Cllr Nick Forl Cllr Sue Mur Cllr Peter Bo Cllr Lib Peck Cllr Michael Cllr Claire Ko Cllr Simon B Cllr Richard Cllr Ruth Doo Cllr Peter Re Cllr Lisa Duff Cllr Tom Fitz	stee ter CBE eming OBE combe OBE wthorne MBE ett tison OBE ones JP bes phy CBE ox CBE  Payne ober OBE lackburn Watts mbey OBE eve MBE fy patrick  rt Parnaby OBE  Rushton awrence tson	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council Kent County Council Sevenoaks District Council Warwickshire County Council Gloucestershire County Council Buckinghamshire County Council Bracknell Forest Borough Council Portsmouth City Council Newcastle upon Tyne City Council Manchester City Council Wakefield Metropolitan District Council Lambeth London Borough Council Gedling Borough Council Haringey LB and Resources Board Blackpool Council Islington Council Sutton London Borough Council Huntingdonshire District Council Huntingdonshire District Council East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) South West Councils Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) East Midlands Councils West Midlands LGA Association of North East Councils South East England Councils (SEEC)
Apologies:	Sir Richard Leese CBE Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Manchester City Council Portsmouth City Council

Cllr Nicolas Heslop Cllr Barrie Grunewald Cllr Aaron Shotton

Sir Stephen Houghton CBE Cllr Philip Atkins OBE

Cllr John Fuller

Alderman Sir David Wootton

South East England Councils (SEEC) North West Regional Leaders Board Welsh Local Government Assoc. (WLGA)

SIGOMA

County Councils Network (CCN)

District Councils Network

Local Partnerships