

Note of last Resources Board meeting

Title: Resources Board
Date: Thursday 5 April 2018
Venue: Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
23	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. The Chair noted apologies received. One declaration of interest was made by Cllr Marland, who stated that he was a Founding Member of the LGA Insurance Mutual.	
24	Great People for Growing Places - consultation on workforce priorities The Chair invited Marj Keddy, Interim Head of Workforce, to introduce the item. Marj started by giving an update to Members on the development of a refreshed workforce strategy, the current status of the project, it's intended output and links made with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Chair thanked Marj for the update, and invited Members to comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members requested to reference skills and skills shortages.• Members placed importance on a consultation with the NHS regarding this work.• Members discussed the need for thorough communication strategy, as well as bespoke branding outputs to maximise the project.• Members discussed morale and pay of the frontline workforce, and how the latter is significantly lower than senior management, and if this could be explored further.• Members discussed leadership values and the importance of good leadership in this project.• Members discussed the current stress and financial restraints on frontline services, and requested for further research regarding generating income to support the sector.	

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.

Action:

- Officers to further explore and research areas requested by Members.

25 Recruitment and retention update for Adult Social Care in England including the scoping of a National Recruitment Campaign for the sector

The Chair invited Marj Keddy, Interim Head of Workforce, to introduce the item. Marj gave an overview of the report, the challenges in recruitment and retaining staff for Adult Social Care (ASC), a brief overview of Skills for Care, along with requesting views on a National Recruitment Campaign.

The Chair thanked Marj for the update, and invited Members to comment:

- Members requested more information in the report into focus on the reasons why workers are leaving the sector, along with exploring solutions for this.
- Members stated the paper also lacks information around pay and government infrastructure and funding to ASC, including the base size of the sector and national budgets.
- Members discussed the need for more young people to enter into the ASC sector.
- Members requested that the report unmerge all references to social workers and support workers, as these roles are significantly different.
- Members discussed how vital it was for the report to reflect on the differences of local needs.
- Members discussed the need for appropriate and locally-led branding.
- Members also reflected on this works link to EU workers, and the effect and widely-reported skills-shortages impacted by Brexit.
- Members discussed the need for young people and a younger workforce to enter into ASC.
- Members also held discussions around the emerging use of technology, and how this benefits the sector.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.

Action:

- Marj Keddy noted all of the Members requests, and stated this will be further explored in the next phase of the project.

a) Social Care Vacancy and Turnover Rates

26 Local Government Finance Update

The Chair invited Aivaras Statkevicius, Senior Adviser, to introduce the paper. Aivaras updated gave an overview of the paper, and the LGA's

current work related to the local government finance, the Spring Statement, the Fair Funding Review (FFR) and business rates retention (BRR) reform.

The Chair thanked Aivaras for the update, and welcomed comments from Members:

- Members requested the Board for the foreseeable future has an update regarding the FFR.
- Members also reference the recent paper that went to the LGA's Leadership Board.
- Members stated there had been no feedback on failed bids regarding BRR. Aivaras stated that he had been chasing MHCLG regarding this.
- Members discussed and agreed the lack of clarity on the government's position regarding the LGI & MRP.
- Members discussed lobbying methods, including specific targeting of MP's, as well as working in collaboration with stakeholders (such as the County Council Network (CCN)).
- Whilst Members agreed that lobbying work is important, Members discussed the need to refresh messaging, as well as a new and alternative model.

The Chair thanked Members for the update.

Action:

- **MISSED THIS**

27 Work of the City Regions Board

The Chair invited Aivaras Statkevicius, Senior Adviser, to introduce the item. Aivaras updated Members on the progress of the work commissioned by the LGA's City Regions Board regarding fiscal devolution, which overlaps with the remit of the Resources Board.

The Chair thanked Aivaras for the update and invited Members to comment:

- Members welcomed the cross-board work, and stated that these arguments made by numerous Boards will support future lobbying work.
- Members discussed Mayoral Combined Authorities, who are setting their own fiscal policy initiatives.
- Members went on to discuss how this primarily focused on core cities within England, and stressed the importance that rural areas are not discarded when making the argument for more fiscal devolution. Members agreed that there needs to be consistency and fairness when it comes to fiscal devolution.
- Members discussed the idea of a tourism tax and equalisation, how this would work in practice and the potential the benefits and possible negative impacts of this.
- Member also requested that the FFR be taken into consideration during this work.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.

Action:

- Future updates to be given to Board Members regarding the progress of this work.

28 Local Government Mutual Update

The Chair invited James Alexander, Lead Adviser, New Government Mutual, to introduce the paper. James gave an overview of the paper to Members, with specific mention to the incorporation of the mutual, appointment of the Directors, the formal joining of the founding Members and the LGA underwriting of costs.

The Chair thanked James for the update and invited Members to comment on the paper:

- Members queried the mentioned costs in paragraph 19 and 20, which officers gave further details.
- Members requested further details relating to paragraph ten. Officers later ratified that eight councils have taken the formal, public decision to join the mutual, and nine councils were due to take the decision later in the month of March 2018.
- Members discussed planned financial safety measures that are in place, that offer protection for both local government and the LGA.
- Members discussed the recovery period that the LGA will recuperate incurred costs.

Action:

- Members agreed for the LGA to continue underwriting set-up costs of the mutual company, on the basis that they are recouped in due course.

29 EU Funding and Successor Arrangements

The Chair invited Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, to introduce the item. Jasbir gave Members an overview of the report, which included local government EU funding and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), following Britain's departure from the EU.

The Chair thanked Jasbir and invited members to comment:

- Members discussed the need for tougher and clearer asks to government, agreeing that lobbying messaging needed to be coordinated.
- Members discussed LGA work on the management of the UKSPF.
- Members requested a future update on the LGA's Brexit Taskforce.
- Members discussed the possible gap in funding towards industry sectors, including medicine and space exploration.

- Members debated the need for sophisticated approach for the future distribution of the UKSPF, and ways this could be done.
- Members discussed the EU Social Fund and if this will be covered in the UKSPF.
- Members raised issues around the UK skill shortages gap and UK productivity, mentioned in the Industrial Strategy.
- Members discussed parallel working with both the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and the MHCLG. Officers updated members that the LGA Chairman – Lord Porter – and his upcoming meeting with the new DWP Minister Esther McVey MP.
- Members also discussed the need to ensure potential opportunities of Brexit are explored and communicated during lobbying work.

30 Unions Consultation on the Pay Offer and AoB - verbal update

31 Capita Update - verbal update

The Chair invited Susan Attard, Head of Productivity, to introduce this item. Susan updated Members on the work currently being undertaken by the LGA with Capita. Susan briefed members that Capita has numerous government contracts with both the Crown, central government and more notably local government.

Susan compared Captias' process of issuing a profit warning, and the steps the company is taking, compared to that of Carillion, who did not undertake the correct steps. However, Susan stated that there were no assurances and contingencies are being made.

Capita are also producing monthly bulletins to local government CEX's, as well as holding a roundtable to discuss various performance issues with the company. The CEX of Capita is also due to meet with the LGA's CEO and Chairman in May.

Susan concluded that she felt that Capita were taking the correct steps and necessary precautions, and felt that leadership were determined to improve their productivity and performance, so as to keep their contracts with local government.

The Chair thanked Susan, and invited Members to comment:

- Members discussed performance issues with Capita, and how this impacts local government business performance.
- Members discussed other outsourced contracts with other notable providers.
- Members discussed that performance issues with outsourced contracts are a problem not just with Capita.
- Members requested that the roundtable with Capita, as well as the meeting between its CEX and the LGA's CEO and Chairman also discuss the relationship between Capita and local government.

32 Notes from the previous Resources Board

Members approved the Notes from the previous Resources Board.

33 Any Other Business

Due to the Chair standing down in the upcoming Local Government Elections, Lead Members of the Board paid tribute to the Chair, and thanked them for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to the LGA's Resources Board and wider work.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
	Cllr Graham Whitham	Sutton London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Hilary Carrick	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Harrow Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Byron Rhodes	Leicestershire County Council
	Cllr David Williams	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
	Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Tom Beattie	Corby Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Sian Timoney	Luton Borough Council
	Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
	Cllr Adam Paynter	Cornwall Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		