

Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Title:	LGA Executive
Date:	Thursday 18 October 2018
Venue:	Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Declarations of Interest
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There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman congratulated Members for all their hard work in representing the LGA at their Party conferences.

2	Housing Revenue Account caps
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The Chairman introduced the report and highlighted that the Prime Minister's announcement at the Conservative Party Conference that the HRA borrowing cap would be removed was a significant victory for the LGA. This had been an LGA priority and focus of sustained lobbying since the cap was introduced in 2012. The LGA would continue to work with the Treasury and MHCLG on the removal of the cap, and it was anticipated that more details would be presented as part of the Chancellor's Budget.

Decision

The LGA Executive **noted** the report.

3	Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
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Claire Holloway, Head of Corporate Services, introduced the final report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), chaired by Lord Best. Lord Best had chaired the Panel since 2009.

Overall, the Panel had concluded that the LGA's Scheme of Members' Allowances and Expenses was reasonable and appropriate, but had made five recommendations which were set out in the report.

Regarding the proposed day rate payment for Members on workforce employer bodies, it was highlighted that in previous years these meetings had been more frequent. If the frequency of meetings increased again in future it might be

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	<p>necessary to review these allowances again. It was also highlighted that Members currently received no remuneration for membership of European employer bodies, and this would be clarified in the amended scheme.</p> <p>The LGA Leadership Board had received the IRP's report the previous day and recommended that, as the 2018/19 meeting cycle had already begun, the agreed changes should be implemented from the start of the next cycle in September 2019.</p> <p>A view was expressed that the inclusion of a parental pay policy would be required before moving forwards with the proposed changes.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The LGA Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanked the Independent Review Panel for their work and accepted the conclusions set out in the report; and 2. Agreed the five recommendations of the Panel – that the LGA; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Amends its Member role descriptions to show the anticipated weekly time commitment in hours rather than in days. 2.2 Amends the role descriptions of vice chairs to specify that vice chairs are expected to “provide peer support and mentoring to individual councillors and groups of councillors” as part of their core responsibilities. Up to 10 further formal peer days may be paid at the standard day rate. 2.3 Adds the Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee to the list of positions for which travel expenses are reimbursed. 2.4 Replaces the special responsibility allowance paid to members of the Workforce Employer Bodies with the Members' Day Rate and brings those appointments into the main LGA scheme of allowances. 2.5 Replaces the current carers' allowance of £7.83 per hour (equivalent to the national minimum wage) with the Living Wage and London Living Wage. 3. Commissioned the preparation of a parental pay policy for inclusion in the Scheme of Members' Allowances and Expenses, and delegated to the Chairman and Group Leaders responsibility for agreeing the policy. <p>Action</p> <p>Officers to incorporate a parental pay policy into the LGA's current scheme of Members' allowances and expenses, which is to be agreed by LGA Political Group Leaders (Claire Holloway).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Appendix 1 - Report of IRP 	

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b) Appendix 2 - Employer Side Bodies

c) Appendix 3 - Role descriptions of LGA Vice-Chairs

4 **Brexit**

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the LGA's Brexit Task Force updated the Executive on the work the LGA was undertaking to address the opportunities and risks of Brexit for councils.

Cllr Bentley reported that structural funding had been secured through to 2020. There would now be a consultation on the UK Prosperity Fund which was worth £5.4 billion to local government. Cllr Bentley had written to the Secretary of State to ask who would be consulted and to highlight that the funding should be matched by the UK Government when the UK exited the EU. Regarding future influence on the Committee of the Regions, the UK had paid contributions to the Committee until 2020, and they were open to the possibility of a Joint Committee to consider particular areas of legislation following the exit of the UK from the EU.

Members noted that Cllr Bentley had also written to the Secretary of State seeking urgent clarity on issues around candidacy for election and voting rights in the Local Elections in May 2019. Clarity was also urgently needed on food hygiene and food labelling issues as councils would have to work quickly if officers were required to be retrained. Cllr Bentley was advising local authorities to keep a risk register on any issues arising as a result of the lack of clarity on Brexit related matters.

Members noted the comments from the Leadership Board in response to Cllr Bentley's update on Brexit the previous day.

In the discussion which followed Members made the following points:

- Concerns were raised that the unaccompanied asylum seeking children had started to arrive in a greater number to the West of the country.
- Following a query, Cllr Bentley confirmed they would continue to bring to the Government's attention the issues around the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children coming into Councils' care.
- Statutory instruments are also being drafted by the Welsh government to be put in place by March 2019 to provide full assurance to the sector.

Decisions

The LGA Executive **noted** the update, the areas where further LGA action is needed and the focus of future Brexit work.

Action

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
	<p>The Brexit Task Force and officers to take forward in line with members steer.</p>	
5	<p>Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding</p> <p>Richard Watts, Chairman of the Resources Board, introduced the report which updated Members on progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Reform since the previous meeting in September.</p> <p>Regarding the Fair Funding Review, Members noted that the officer level technical working group had continued to meet, and there was agreement about the use of population projections in future formulae. This position had been agreed by the Leadership Board and the LGA Executive earlier in the year.</p> <p>Regarding Business Rates Retention, the Chairman and Group Leaders had signed off the BRR model earlier in the day. This would now be amended, quality checked, and shared with Member authorities.</p> <p>In the discussion which followed a Member confirmed that the Welsh LGA support the English LGA in their position.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The LGA Executive noted the update.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Officers to proceed with delivery of the LGA work programme on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review as directed by the LGA Leadership Board, Executive and the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group.</p>	
6	<p>The lives we want to lead, the LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing: update</p> <p>Sally Burlington, Head of Policy, gave an update on the LGA's adult social care and wellbeing green paper, <i>The Lives We Want to Lead</i>. Sally emphasised that there had been a tremendous response to the consultation and the LGA's research team were currently conducting the analysis.</p> <p>In terms of next steps Sally explained that it would be key to ascertain from the Autumn budget how the NHS budget will be realised. The NHS Long Term Plan would also be of great importance to local government.</p> <p>Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE, Deputy Chairman of the LGA, congratulated</p>	

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officers for their hard work in this area. The importance of discussing the financial options for the future of adult social care and in maintaining political unity on this matter in the LGA was also raised.

Decisions

The LGA Executive noted the update and the progress that had been made with the LGA green paper.

7 Note of the last Leadership Board meeting - Tabled

Decision

The LGA Executive **noted** the minutes of the LGA Leadership Board meeting held on 17 October 2018.

8 Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Decision

The LGA Executive **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 September 2018.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman)		South Holland District Council
Cllr James Jamieson (Vice Chairman)		Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)		Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)		Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Robert Alden		Birmingham City Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE		Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE		Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE		Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE		Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Martin Tett		Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Nick Forbes		Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Michael Payne		Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn		Blackpool Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble		Hackney London Borough Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE		Manchester City Council and City Regions Board
Cllr Richard Watts		Islington Council
Cllr Rishi Shori		Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE		Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE		Portsmouth City Council

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	<p>Cllr Clive Woodbridge Cllr Robert Bucke Cllr David Finch Cllr Roy Perry Cllr Michael Wilcox Cllr Debbie Wilcox Cllr Philip Atkins OBE Cllr John Fuller Cllr Lucy Nethsingha</p>	<p>Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Tendring District Council Essex County Council Hampshire County Council West Midlands LGA Newport City Council County Councils Network (CCN) District Councils Network Cambridgeshire County Council</p>
Apologies:	<p>Cllr Paul Carter CBE Cllr Ian Hudspeth Cllr Peter Box CBE Cllr Lib Peck Cllr Anne Western CBE Cllr Simon Henig CBE Cllr Peter John OBE Cllr Barry Lewis Cllr Terry O'Neill Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE Sir Stephen Houghton CBE Alderman Sir David Wootton Cllr John Hart</p>	<p>Kent County Council Oxfordshire County Council Wakefield Metropolitan District Council Lambeth London Borough Council Derbyshire County Council North East London Councils' East Midlands Councils North West Regional Leaders Board Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) SIGOMA Local Partnerships South West Councils</p>
In Attendance:	<p>Cllr Vince Maple Cllr Harvey Siggs Cllr Kevin Bentley Cllr Amy Cross Cllr Nicholas Rushton</p>	<p>Medway Council South West Councils Essex County Council Blackpool Council East Midlands Councils</p>