

## Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

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**Title:** Improvement & Innovation Board  
**Date:** Tuesday 20 January 2015  
**Venue:** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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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>Welcome and Declarations of Interest</b>  The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.  No declarations of interest were made.	
<b>2</b>	<b>The Planning Advisory Service</b>  Councillor Mike Jones, Chair of the Board, Planning Advisory Service (PAS) introduced the presentation which provided members with an introduction to the work of PAS.  Alice Lester and Richard Crawley, Programme Managers, explained that PAS was a grant funded programme funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government that has been running for 10 years. The Service is rooted in the peer community, with a Local Authority audience, providing services such as toolkits, briefings and best practice guides, free of charge to councils.  Richard Crawley introduced the Planning Quality Framework, a new service product that allows councils to understand their planning performance by benchmarking and feedback with other authorities. The Framework has been successfully piloted with forty councils and will be rolled out further.  Members discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waste and minerals obligations and the duty to cooperate.</li><li>• PAS surveys and respondents.</li><li>• The balance of PAS engagement with officers and members and the importance of developing stronger engagement with members.</li><li>• Sharing best practice and whether there were significant regional differences in terms of the challenges and support needs.</li><li>• The robustness of the data used by PAS and how to support councils where the data implies they may be facing challenges.</li></ul>	

**Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

**3 LGA Business Plan 2015-16**

Dennis Skinner, Head of Leadership and Productivity introduced the report, which updated members on the development of the LGA Business Plan for 2015/16.

Sector-led improvement was to be one of the key priorities and members considered a proposed contribution to the Business Plan.

Members discussed the need for ambitious targets for involvement in Leadership Programmes, the need for consideration to be given to how the LGA supports councils pursuing the Devolution agenda and a strand of work on Innovation .

**Decision**

Members **noted** the report and the appendix.

**Action**

Officers to develop the business plan in light of Members' comments.

**4 Sector Led Improvement: 'Taking Stock'**

Councillor Jill Shortland and Dennis Skinner introduced the report which provided an update to Members on their previous decision to carry out a review of the current approach to sector-led improvement and the final version of the consultation document.

Members felt it was important to engage as widely as possible with the sector, including with regional bodies, portfolio holders, members and the professional bodies.

**Decision**

Members **noted** the report and appendix.

Members **decided** that the pool of respondents to the consultation should be drawn as widely as possible.

**Action**

Officers to promote the consultation widely in the sector.

**5 Care and Health Integration Programme 2015-16**

Andrew Webster, Associate Director Health and Care Integration, introduced the report which provided Members with an update on the work of the care and health integration programme for 2015-16.

It was proposed that a single programme be developed for 2015/16 with a coherent focus point for local authorities with the objective of helping the sector to; improve outcomes for local people, deliver better quality health and care, embed health and wellbeing boards as place-based health and care leaders, make care and health sustainable locally and increase public, regulator and government confidence in local care and health services.

This will allow programmes to run with a single support structure, provide a universal offer to all councils and increase the regional offer.

Members discussed the importance of relationships with the Department of Health and other government departments and the need for more joint working locally. They also discussed the need for a stronger focus on health and wellbeing boards as part of the improvement process and the involvement of GP commissioners.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

#### **Action**

Officers to continue to negotiate agreements with project sponsors in light of the steer from Members.

### **6 Productivity Update**

Councillor Shirley Flint and Alan Finch, Principal Adviser Finance and Acting Team Leader, Productivity introduced the report which provided an update on the productivity programme.

Members welcomed the new Digital Offer to councils which aimed to help those councils that might not be at the cutting edge but who were keen to implement what works effectively elsewhere.

Members also discussed the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill and powers to centralise procurement processes and the Commissioning Academy pilot.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

#### **Action**

Officers to continue work in this area in light of the steer from Members.

### **7 Leadership and Localism Update**

Councillor Judi Billing and Pascoe Sawyers, Principal Adviser, Leadership and Localism, introduced the report which provided an update on the delivery of the leadership development offer and a detailed breakdown of attendance.

As at the end of December a total of 577 councillors from 241 councils had attended or signed up to attend our various political leadership programmes, compared to 555 from 249 councils in the whole of 2013/14.

Members discussed:

- The large up-take of Leadership Essentials.
- The opposition pilots that begin in February 2015.
- Comparatively low uptake in the North East.
- Feedback from Members.
- Measuring the impact of the offer.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

#### **Action**

Officers to continue work in this area in light of the steer from Members.

### **8 LGA Boards' Improvement Activity**

Dennis Skinner introduced the report which detailed the improvement activities undertaken by LGA Boards.

Members discussed the work of the Children and Young People Board in relation to Ofsted and the Single Inspection Framework and work to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

#### **Action**

Officers to keep the Board informed about the improvement activity across all LGA Boards.

### **9 Note of the last Improvement and Innovation Board Meeting**

The minutes were agreed.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Shirley Flint	North Kesteven District Council
Members	Cllr Claudia Webbe	Islington Council
	Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Darren Cooper	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Bob Price	Oxford City Council
	Cllr Kate Hollern	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
	Cllr Sue Whitaker	Norfolk County Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Richard Stay	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Dominic Gilham	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Theresa Higgins	Essex County Council
	Cllr John Blackie	Richmondshire District Council
	Mr Richard Priestman	Local Government Improvement and Development
	Mr Philip Sellwood	Energy Saving Trust (EST)
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cllr Susan Woodward	Staffordshire County Council	
Apologies	Cllr Imran Hussain	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
	Cllr Glen Miller	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council

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