

Resources Board – report from Cllr Claire Kober OBE (Chair)

Board governance and Member Champions

1. Following a review of the portfolio model that the Board was operating last year, the Leadership Board has decided to revert to a Board system of governance. The Board met for the first time in this political cycle on 23 September and agreed a number of Member Champion roles to take responsibility for a specified subject area. Members appointed the following Member Champions:
 - 1.1. Local Government Finance – Cllrs Claire Kober and John Fuller
 - 1.2. EU matters including funding– Cllr Clarence Barrett
 - 1.3. Welfare Reform – Cllr Claire Hudson
 - 1.4. Skills – Cllr Linda Van de Hende
 - 1.5. Pensions – Cllr Roger Phillips

Local government finance

2. At its first meeting the Resources Board considered local government finance issues that could form part of the LGA's Autumn Statement submission, which was finalised in line with the Government's deadline of 7 October. .

EU matters including funding

3. Members also agreed to proceed with key recommendations for the Resources Board under the Leadership Board commissioned work streams: "*Responding to issues arising from the referendum decision to leave the EU*" and "*Developing a new legal base for local government (after we leave the EU)*". Priority areas will include: (i) Lobbying to secure the full quantum of EU funding allocations (£5.3bn) to local areas up to 2020; (ii) Contributing to the LGA's broader work to inform imminent Brexit negotiations, by reviewing and prioritising key local government services and responsibilities which are currently based on EU law (regulations and directives) (iii) Developing early-thinking options for successor arrangements to EU regional aid, once we have left the EU. As the Board's member champion for EU matters, Cllr Clarence Barrett (LB Havering - Ind), will lead a small group of members to develop this work between meetings.

Fair Funding Review

4. The LGA has responded to the Government's initial consultation on business rates retention and the call for evidence on the Fair Funding Review. In its responses, the LGA stressed the need to consider existing funding pressures before phasing out grants and introducing new responsibilities on local government.

DCLG/LGA regional

5. As part of the process of gathering views on the Government's consultations on business rates retention, the LGA organised a series of regional workshops, delivered jointly with the Department for Communities and Local Government. The six sessions were held in York, Newcastle, London, Cambourne, Taunton and Birmingham.

6. Overall, around 190 authorities were represented by 250 delegates across the six events.
7. While discussions were lively and wide-ranging, a number of common themes emerged. Where possible they were reflected in the LGA's consultation responses. In any case, all views have been noted by the Government as part of its consultation process.

Business Rates Task and Finish Group

8. Work on the detailed development of the policy continues with further meetings of the LGA's member Task and Finish Group, and the joint LGA and Department for Communities and Local Government officer-level steering group and sub-groups. Papers and minutes from the officer meetings are published on the LGA's business rates hub [here](#).

Check, Challenge, Appeal consultation

9. The LGA has also responded to the Government's consultation on the Check, Challenge, Appeal regulations which aim to reduce the number of appeals. As part of this response, the LGA stressed the need for stricter time limits for appeals to be raised after the publication of a new valuation list.

London Finance Commission

10. Cllr Fuller, the Vice-Chair of the Resources Board, provided oral evidence to the London Finance Commission at its London hearing on 8 October.

National Living Wage

11. We commissioned research into the impact of the National Living Wage in local government and related areas (e.g. procured social care), with a focus on the likely level of the NLW in 2020. The draft report from Incomes Data Research is being considered and the findings will be reported to a meeting of the National Joint Council Employers' Side in early November.

Meeting with the Pensions & Local Government Minister

12. Cllr Roger Phillips in his capacity as chair of the Local Government Pension Scheme advisory Board met with the Pensions Minister (Richard Harrington MP) and the Local Government Minister (Marcus Jones MP) in September. Both meetings usefully covered a range of pensions issues such as cost and charges, asset pooling and academies and it was agreed that officials will follow up in a number of areas of shared interest.

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