

Improvement and Innovation Board – report from Cllr William Nunn (Chairman)

Improvement

1. The LGA has secured the option for local government to appoint auditors through a dedicated sector-led national procurement body. The Government has approved Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) as that body and we are encouraging councils and local bodies to opt-in and maximise the significant financial and quality related benefits that this scheme will offer. Nearly 270 councils and local bodies have expressed interest in opting in to the national scheme. PSAA has published an initial draft prospectus and is inviting views on proposed arrangements.
2. The deadline for councils to submit an Efficiency Plan to access the Government's four year financial settlement offer was 14 October. As part of its range of support to assist councils with those Plans, the LGA, together with CIPFA, consulted a group of local government colleagues and produced 'top tips' for councils. The document, together with other resources for financial improvement, is available [here](#).
3. The LGA hosted a Member Peer Conference in Birmingham on 8 September, attended by councillors who contribute their time, experience and expertise to sector-led improvement projects. Over 100 peers attended from all regions. It was an opportunity to network, work both within political groups and cross-party, hear the latest on the LGA's improvement plans and attend briefing sessions on key work areas supported by peers. Delegates also contributed ideas for development of future LGA offers and future peer training. An action plan will be put together to take those ideas forward.

Leadership

4. We have produced and promoted [a new film](#), showing our range of political leadership development programmes and resources helping individual councillors become more confident and effective.
5. We have also updated the LGA's political leadership development offer. The latest programme dates can be found [here](#).

Productivity

6. On 5 October the LGA, in partnership with YPO, launched a national [Commercial Skills Procurement Solution](#), providing councils with a bespoke solution to finding specialist expertise, to make the delivery of commercial projects easier and ensuring councils pay a competitive price.
7. We have launched, with the Cabinet Office, the next phase of the [One Public Estate Programme](#), whereby councils can apply for up to £500,000 to support delivery of ambitious cross-public sector property-based projects that boost local growth, deliver more customer-integrated services, generate capital receipts and reduce running costs.

Transparency

8. Our Research and Information Team is leading on the National Action Plan for open government 2016-2018 core commitment on the creation and use of a data standard for consistent publishing of elections data. The [second round consultation](#) concluded on 14 October, building on an earlier first round and refinements and clarity provided by key stakeholders.
9. Our Research and Information team's [LG Inform Plus Powers and Duties Tool](#) guides users through the legislative framework that underpins all local authority and fire and rescue services, and includes direct links to legislative documentation. The tool now supports statutory and discretionary obligations arising in secondary legislation. [This single data sheet provides more information](#).

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