

Priorities, Portfolios and Regional Ambassadors

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper invites members to agree the Board priorities for 2016/17 and the arrangements for portfolios and regional ambassadors. A list of portfolios and regional ambassadors, updated to reflect the 2016/17 Board membership, can found attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendations

That the Board;

1. Agree the Board priorities for 2016/17 (paras 2/5) and;
2. Agree the arrangements for portfolio holders (paras 6/8) and regional ambassadors (paras 9/11).

Action

Officers to take action as directed by members.

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Improvement and Innovation Board: Priorities, Portfolios and Regional Ambassadors

Background

1. This paper invites members to agree the Board priorities for 2016/17 and the arrangements for portfolios and regional ambassadors.

Board Priorities

2. Historically the Board has organised its work around the following priority areas:
 - 2.1. Improvement (including peer challenge)
 - 2.2. Leadership
 - 2.3. Productivity (including Innovation – where there are already strong synergies)
 - 2.4. Accountability and Transparency.
3. These reflect some of the key areas of work in the Memorandum of Understanding with DCLG around the use of DCLG grant to support improvement in the sector.
4. In the past each of the priorities has been led by one of the lead members of the Board.
5. In addition the LGA's Leadership Board has asked all Boards to consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on their areas and make appropriate provision within their work programme. There is a full report on Brexit later in the agenda for this Board meeting.

Portfolios and Regional Ambassadors

6. **Portfolios:** For the 15/16 cycle of meetings the Board also agreed the creation of a number of new portfolios, as follows:
 - 6.1. research and sharing;
 - 6.2. reputation and communications;
 - 6.3. devolution;
 - 6.4. finance;
 - 6.5. housing; and
 - 6.6. European and International (subject to the Board being given a lead role after the June referendum. NB. As it transpired the Board was not given this responsibility).
7. Some of the portfolio areas are the lead responsibility of other LGA Boards. In these circumstances the intention was that portfolio holders would take an interest in the performance challenges, improvement issues and activities within the remit of the Board. They would help to ensure the LGA support offers match the changing needs in the sector, are developed in the light of the Improvement and Innovation Board's overarching approach and that there is no duplication. They would, subject to the agreement of the relevant Board Chair, receive relevant Board agenda, where appropriate attend Board meetings as observers, and report back to the Improvement and Innovation Board as necessary alongside the current regular report to the Board on the improvement activity of LGA Boards.
8. The Board is asked to consider whether to continue with portfolios and if so to appoint members.

9. **Regional Ambassadors:** For the 15/16 cycle of meetings the Board also agreed the creation of Regional Ambassadors. The intention was that Regional Ambassadors would promote sector led improvement and the LGA's improvement offer within their own regional structures. This could include writing articles promoting the offer and its effectiveness; making presentations about the offer at regional meetings and member networks; drawing attention to good practice, etc.
10. As it transpired the Board was only able to appoint Ambassadors in four out of the nine regions and following the reconstitution of the Board this summer, only two regions now have Ambassadors on the Board. National and regional lead member peers, along with the LGA Principal Advisers, are already active in each region.
11. The Board is asked to consider whether to appoint Regional Ambassadors for 2017/18.
12. A schedule of the portfolio holders and regional ambassadors – updated to reflect whether members are still on the Improvement and Innovation Board - is **attached**.

Implications for Wales

13. There are no specific implications for Wales.

Financial implications

14. There are no additional financial implications arising from the report. All Board members are currently eligible to receive a special responsibility allowance (SRA) in recognition of their role on the Board; this existing allowance would also cover any additional Portfolio, Shadowing or Ambassadorial responsibilities as detailed above. i.e. Members undertaking additional responsibilities would not be eligible for further remuneration in addition to their existing SRA.
15. Travel and subsistence costs would continue to be administered in line with the LGA's Members' Allowances Scheme¹.

Next steps

16. As directed by the Board.

¹ NB - The LGA does not pay Travel and Subsistence for attendance at its own meetings with the exception of the Chair. Costs incurred in attending LGA Board meetings should be met by the member's home authority.