

26 January 2017

LGA Policy Work Programme

Purpose

For consideration.

Summary

This report summarises the work programmes of eight LGA policy boards.

Recommendation:

That People and Places board members consider the content of this report.

Action:

LGA officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officer: Philip Clifford
Position: Senior Adviser
Phone no: 07909 898327
Email: Philip.Clifford@local.gov.uk

LGA Policy Work Programme

1. At the November meeting of the People and Places Board Members requested a summary of the work currently being undertaken by the LGA's policy boards with a view to gaining a greater understanding of whether and where issues with particular relevance to rural communities were being discussed. As such, the work programmes of eight LGA policy boards are summarised below:

2. City Regions Board:

- 2.1 Develop the LGA's work and lobbying position in relation to devolution.
- 2.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on: devolution and the position of English local government.
- 2.3 Support the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission.
- 2.4 Work with the People and Places Board to support the Leading Places project.
- 2.5 Work with the People and Places Board on employment and skills policy and lobbying.

3. Community Wellbeing Board:

- 3.1 Develop the LGA's work and lobbying activity in relation to the wellbeing of adults, including health and social care, community cohesion and asylum and immigration.
- 3.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on: developing a new legal base of European legislation and community cohesion.
- 3.3 Promote a shared vision relating to the integration of health and adult social care.
- 3.4 Continue work to on the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP).
- 3.5 Support local areas to develop ambitious plans for health devolution.
- 3.6 Evidence the mounting pressure on adult social care and make the case for increased investment in public health.
- 3.7 Ensure the role of local government in mental wellbeing is appropriately recognised and resourced.
- 3.8 Continue to develop work relating to councils responsibilities to serving members of the armed forces.
- 3.9 Work the Resources Board to support an integrated health and care workforce and with the Children and Young People's board to support a place based approach to children and young people's health issues.

4. Culture, Tourism and Sport Board:

- 4.1 Provide leadership and oversight of the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to sport and physical activity.
- 4.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on culture, tourism and sport and feed into the LGA's wider work.
- 4.3 Support effective local political leadership and the transformation of culture, libraries and sport services.
- 4.4 Work with Sport England to reflect councils' leadership role in the implementation of their new strategy.
- 4.5 Work with DCMS to influence the Culture White Paper.
- 4.6 Steer the Libraries Taskforce.
- 4.7 Further consider the case for culture, tourism and sport within devolution deals to help boost local growth and improve wellbeing.
- 4.8 Works with the Community Wellbeing Board to support the role of culture and sport promoting better health, and with the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board in relation to the historic environment and place shaping.

5. Children and Young People Board:

- 5.1 Responsible for LGA activity on the wellbeing of children and young people, including education, social care and careers.
- 5.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on: rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the area of child abuse and the protection of young people at work.
- 5.3 Lobby for a clear and sustainable role for councils in supporting local schools and for a stronger role for councils in making new schools are fit for purpose.
- 5.4 Support councils to implement the new national funding formula.
- 5.5 Support councils to implement the provisions in the Children and Social Work Bill, including proposals for Local Safeguarding Children Boards.
- 5.6 Support Councils to improve fostering and adoption outcomes.
- 5.7 In conjunction with the Community and Wellbeing Board support councils to take a place-based approach to children.

6. Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board:

- 6.1 Provide strategic oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to the economy and environment, including transport, employment and skills,

economic development and business support, housing, planning, waste and climate change.

- 6.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on those areas within the Board's remit.
- 6.3 Continues to press for the council role in building more homes to be recognised in government policy and to influence the development of the government's white paper.
- 6.4 Lobby for a better funded, proactive planning system to deliver homes.
- 6.5 Work to prevent homelessness and ensure the Homelessness Reduction Bill meets the needs of the homeless.
- 6.6 Work to ensure local authorities have the freedom to collect and dispose of waste in the way that is best suited to their residents.
- 6.7 Work to increase the certainty and flexibility of transport funding.
- 6.8 Work to improve to improve bus services by all areas having automatic rights to bus franchising powers.
- 6.9 Increase local leadership and flexibility in the approach to flood risk management through the devolution of capital and revenue funding.
- 6.10 Work with the LGA Resources Board to establish options relating to a post-2020 regional aid successor scheme.

7. Improvement and Innovation Board:

- 7.1 Offer improvement support to councils and set the strategic framework for all LGA activity designed to help councils drive their own improvement.
- 7.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union across a range of high level priority EU Directives and Regulations.

8. Resources Board:

- 8.1 Develops the LGA's policies and programmes in line with the LGA priorities in relation to: Local Government Finance, Strategic Finance, Welfare Reform and Workforce issues.
- 8.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union and look to secure the current quantum of £5.3bn funding to English local areas up to 2020 and post-Brexit domestic regional aid.
- 8.3 Support councils in obtaining value for money in their pay bill by negotiating fair and affordable pay settlements.
- 8.4 Coordinate responses to consultation on changes to employment law and regulations with a growing emphasis on the potential consequences of EU Exit.

- 8.5 Investigate combining assets in pension funds in England and Wales into pools and work on legislation for the Secretary of State to intervene in investment matters.
 - 8.6 Continue to assist councils in modernising their approaches to organisational design, pay and rewards and other workforce development issues.
 - 8.7 Look at the following issues on Business Rates Retention: responsibilities to be transferred to be funded through business rates, designing the retention system, and the needs review to form the needs baseline that will underpin the system.
 - 8.8 Consider Capital Financing and develop policy improvements to suggest to Government in this area.
 - 8.9 Undertake research into the local impacts of continued welfare reform.
 - 8.10 Work on the case for adequate funding for the local safety net Homelessness prevention and housing affordability with the EEHT board. Support the most disadvantaged jobseekers in partnership with Cities and P&P Boards. Explore the resourcing of early intervention and support for families with children in partnership with CYP and CWB Boards.
- 9. Safer and Stronger Communities Board:**
- 9.1 Responsible for the promotion of the health and safety of local communities.
 - 9.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union as it relates to community cohesion and the need to develop a new legal base for council enforced regulatory services.
 - 9.3 Support regional workshops for councillors on the counter-extremism and Prevent agenda.
 - 9.4 Work with the national FGM Centre to research the costs of domestic violence and support councils in relation to the planned 'National Statement of Expectation'.
 - 9.5 Maintain lobbying around proposals for Police and Crime Commissioners to assume responsibility for fire and rescue services and contribute to the development of new models of devolution and emergency services.
 - 9.6 Develop a new package of support for councils on taxi licensing and refreshing our 2015 taxi licensing handbook. Continuing to lobby the Home Office for changes to the licensing system to give councils greater flexibility in managing their local economy and protecting local residents.
 - 9.7 Work with councils and the government to ensure that the new medical examiners system does not impose additional costs on councils and continuing to highlight the pressures created by the Coroners and Justice Act.