

Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

Title: Improvement & Innovation Board
Date: Tuesday 24 January 2017
Venue: Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,
London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Note of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed .	
3	Improvement and Innovation Board: Priorities Dennis Skinner (Head of Improvement) introduced the item. He explained that, subsequent to decisions made at the previous board meeting, the board priorities and Terms of Reference had been amended. He also asked members to offer views on the improvement priorities for 2017/18. Discussion During the discussion, members reiterated the importance of effective engagement by members with the work of the board, including awareness of other LGA boards' improvement work, opportunities to communicate the LGA's improvement offer to the sector, and participating in the work led by the priority member leads eg Innovation Zone. Members asked to be informed of upcoming LGA board meetings, leadership programme training dates, etc. Decisions The members;	

1. **Agreed** the Board priorities and member leads.
2. **Agreed** the revised Terms of Reference.
3. **Agreed** to exploit existing opportunities to engage members in the Board's work rather than to appoint portfolio roles.
4. **Offered views** on the improvement priorities for 2017/18.

Action

Officers to provide members with information about upcoming LGA board meetings, leadership programme training dates, etc.

4 Independent evaluation of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge programme

Paul Clarke (Programme Manager, Peer Challenge) introduced Dr James Downe (Cardiff University) who presented the interim findings of Cardiff Business School's independent evaluation of the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) programme.

Corporate Peer Challenge is a core element of the LGA's support to sector-led improvement launched in 2011. The Centre for Local & Regional Government Research were appointed (in August 2016) to carry out an independent evaluation to provide an assessment of the effectiveness, impact, and value for money of the programme.

Discussion

In the ensuing discussion, members raised the following points;

- The effectiveness of the CPC depending on it not being seen as an 'inspection' but rather as an improvement tool, with peers seen as "critical friends".
- The balance between containing all the feedback given to a council in the final report, and having that report published.
- The need to communicate the importance of CPCs through various channels, including members, senior officers, LGA principal advisers and the media. This is especially true for those authorities who as of yet have not received a CPC.

Decisions

The members;

1. **Noted** the interim evaluation items presented.
2. **Noted** that a final evaluation report will be available in due course.
3. **Requested** that the final findings be circulated to the Board as soon as they are published, and that the recommendations are reported at the next Board meeting, along with proposed responses.

Actions

Officers to;

1. **Distribute** the final findings of the evaluation when they are published.
2. **Submit** a report on the findings to the next Board meeting.

5 Highlighting Leadership offer: 2016/17

Cllr Judi Billing (Deputy Chair) introduced the report. She provided an overview of the programmes currently offered and highlighted the positive results from the impact evaluation included in the report. Ninety six percent of delegates surveyed said that they felt more confident in their role as a councillor having participated in the leadership programmes.

Discussion

Members raised the following points;

- The importance of the programme responding to the needs of the sector.
- The importance of developing new thinking and listening skills through the programme.
- The importance of demonstrating the leadership programme's value for money to DCLG and its uniqueness in the sector.
- The need for the LGA's leadership offer to skill both politicians and officers in the sector.

Members requested the following items;

- That as regards the table of bookings for the leadership programme consideration be given to including a percentage figure for uptake, as compared to the number of councillors in a region.
- That officers explore how we might better understand what happens to all ngdp graduates following completion of the programme.
- That officers consider how to demonstrate the value for money of the programme.

Decision

Members **noted** the contents of the report.

Actions

Officers to pursue the requests outlined above;

6 Managing member peers

Angela Page (Head of the Conservative Group Office) introduced the item on behalf of all PGOs, which covered the process of appointing and accrediting peers; peer training and reviewing peer performance.

She explained that the process for managing member peers differed for each political group and briefly described the approaches and the informal feedback mechanisms in place.

Discussion

Members discussed the following issues;

- The importance of supporting member peers in their continuous personal development through formalised training.
- The possibility of refreshing the training provided to the existing member peer pool.
- The importance of developing a mechanism to demonstrate the impact of our peer mentoring work to DCLG.

Decisions

Members;

1. **Noted** the approaches for appointing, training and reviewing peer performance adopted by the Group Offices.
2. **Advised** that consideration be given to ways in which the impact of our peer mentoring work can be assessed and demonstrated.

Action

Officers to pursue ways in which the impact of our peer mentoring work can be assessed.

7 #NewConversations: Engaging effectively with communities

Cllr Judi Billing (Vice Chair) introduced the item, outlining the development and launch of a new resource designed to assist councils engaging and consulting effectively with their communities. She invited the members to attend the launch event on Monday 27th February, in Layden House.

Heather Wills (Principal Adviser) explained that the resource was intended to be part of an overall strategic approach by a council, and thus would be useful to all authorities.

Decision

Members;

1. **Noted** the progress in developing a best practice resource for councils on engagement and consultation.
2. **Advised** that councils need to constantly and meaningfully engage with their communities in order to best utilise the relationship.

Action

Officers to **circulate** an invitation to the upcoming launch event to all board members.

8 Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) 2017/18 and beyond

Andrew Hughes (Head of Implementation) introduced the item. He provided the board with an overall background for the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) at the LGA, as well as an overview of their programme areas and proposals for 2017/18. He invited views on the proposed programme for CHIP for 2017/18 and beyond.

Discussion

Members;

- Expressed general support for the programme and its future aims and objectives.
- Highlighted the importance of supporting councillors in their local leadership of the integration process and providing political reassurance.

Decisions

The members **noted** the presentation.

Action

Officers in the Care and Health Improvement programme to progress as directed by members.

9 LGA Boards' improvement activity

Vicky Goddard (Improvement Support Adviser) introduced the item highlighting the improvement activity undertaken by other LGA boards.

Decision

The members **noted** the report.

Action

Officers progress in line with members' direction.

10 Local Government Reputation campaign

Victoria Daly (Senior Media Officer) introduced the item, updating the board on the progress of the reputation campaign. She summarised the proposals for the campaign and provided a proposed campaign timetable.

Discussion

Members;

- Expressed general support for the campaign but questioned whether the proposed strapline was the right one.
- Requested officers to present further details to the board at the next meeting.

Decisions

Members;

1. **Noted** the progress of the campaign.
2. **Requested** further details to be presented to the board at the next meeting.

Action

Officers to **present** further details to the board on the reputation campaign at the next board meeting.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
Vice-Chairman	Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE	Bedford Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing MBE Cllr Ron Woodley	North Hertfordshire District Council Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Members	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE Cllr Robert Gould Cllr Linda Robinson Cllr Harvey Siggs Cllr Michael Wilcox Cllr Barry Wood Cllr Phil Davies Cllr Andy Moorhead Cllr Tudor Evans OBE Cllr Sue Woodward Cllr Sue Whitaker Cllr Bob Jennings Cllr Glen Sanderson JP Cllr Mike Haines Cllr Howard Sykes MBE Mr Richard Priestman	Sevenoaks District Council Dorset County Council Wychavon District Council Somerset County Council Lichfield District Council Cherwell District Council Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Plymouth City Council Staffordshire County Council Norfolk County Council Epping Forest District Council Northumberland Council Teignbridge District Council Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Local Government Improvement and Development
Apologies	Cllr Bob Price Cllr Cherry Beath Sir Stephen Houghton CBE Mr Philip Sellwood	Oxford City Council Bath & North East Somerset Council Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Energy Saving Trust (EST)
In Attendance	Dr James Downe	Cardiff University