

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - 2017 Annual Reports

Purpose

For information and decision.

Summary

All Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are required, under the LGA Constitution, to submit a full report to the LGA Leadership Board each year.

Copies of the SIG Annual Reports received to date will be circulated along with this agenda but in a **separate supplemental document pack**.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

- i. considers if it has any future requirements in respect of Special Interest Groups;
- ii. indicates if it wishes to invite any Special Interest Groups to a future meeting to discuss their work.

Action

Officers to take forward in accordance with the Leadership Board's views.

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Background

1. The LGA Constitution provides for member authorities with common characteristics or interests to form Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The LGA's Statement for Special Interest Groups is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. Currently there are eighteen SIGs which have been approved by the LGA Leadership Board. A list of current groupings can be found at **Appendix B**.

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3. All SIGs are required to submit a full report to the LGA Leadership Board each year outlining: the aims and objectives of the group; its current membership and lead authority; and key activities and outcomes of any work undertaken during the past year.
4. Fourteen SIGs have submitted an annual reports this year. The remaining SIGs who have not yet submitted reports are:
 - 4.1. National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA);
 - 4.2. World Heritage Sites;
 - 4.3. Shared Chief Executives SIG (*This SIG became dormant as of January 2016, however do not wish to disband.*)
 - 4.4. Unitary Councils' Network (*This SIG is exempt from submitting a report this year having only been established in October 2016.*)

Financial/Resource Implications

5. SIGs are encouraged to raise their own resources from their membership and administer these resources themselves. The LGA does not pay any allowances or travel and subsistence costs to members attending SIG meetings.
6. The LGA does however offer limited administrative support and the use of certain meeting rooms, free of charge up to a certain limit.
7. As a result of the refurbishment of Local Government House, since October 2016, SIGs have been unable to utilise LGA meeting room facilities. Given the overall reduction in meeting rooms in the refurbished building and the stronger commercial emphasis, members may wish to review the current policy of making meeting rooms available to SIGs free of charge.