

## **LGA Annual Conference, Exhibition and Innovation Zone 2018**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

This report updates on key developments in progressing this year's LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition, especially aspects relating to the Improvement and Innovation Board's work programme including the Innovation Zone.

### **Recommendations**

That the Improvement and Innovation Board:

1. Notes the key developments to date.
2. Comments on those developments as necessary to further inform arrangements.

### **Action**

Officers to progress in light of members' comments.

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## **LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2018**

### **Background**

1. The LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2018 will take place at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham from Tuesday 3 to Thursday 5 July 2018.
2. The proposed outline programme and timetable is **attached at Appendix A**.
3. The LGA's events team is progressing the conference and exhibition through the LGA Leadership Board with LGA teams, including contributions from the Leadership and Productivity Division.

### **Key developments**

4. The Improvement and Innovation Board's work programme contributes to the conference in three main ways, via:
  - 4.1. the Innovation Zone
  - 4.2. workshop sessions on key areas of our work
  - 4.3. council Chief Executive sessions.
5. Preparation for each of the above areas is under way, as follows:

### **Innovation Zone**

6. At its meeting on 1 November 2017, the Improvement and Innovation Board:
  - 6.1. set up a small working group comprising Cllrs Fleming (as the Board's innovation lead), Rankin, Miller and Allen to help steer the Zone's development;
  - 6.2. agreed to have no subject specific themes in this year's Zone, although the Board and/or its working group may agree a general theme to link the programme's innovations together;
  - 6.3. agreed that all types of innovations could feature in the Zone, from ground breaking experiments to tried and tested successes, from all sectors and countries.
7. Officers have since been progressing the Zone, particularly:
  - 7.1. using a variety of mechanisms to extensively encourage innovators to submit bids to take part by 26 January 2018;
  - 7.2. organising the assessment process and criteria so that innovators can best apply and be considered to participate;

- 7.3. liaising with the Board working group, which is encouraging innovators to apply;
  - 7.4 drafting the stand design brief for tender
  - 7.5 liaising with Newton, the Zone's sponsor.
8. In terms of next steps, the working group will be invited to comment on those bids which it is suggested might be taken forward for inclusion in the Zone.

#### **Workshop sessions on key areas of our work**

9. In previous years, the Leadership and Productivity Division has organised highly successful, sponsored workshop sessions as part of the wider conference. Last year for example we ran workshops on enterprising councils making commercialisation happen, and councils moving along the digital maturity curve towards their future vision.
10. Conference delegates' feedback and our Productivity Team's work programme, demonstrates that interest in commercialisation, digitalisation and cyber security continues to grow, eg as councils, communities and business become more reliant on digital services. The Leadership and Productivity division has therefore proposed that similar workshops be organised on these key issues this year, with sponsors where possible.
11. LGA corporate sign-off of the final conference sessions to be selected for inclusion in the programme will be made during January 2018.

#### **Council Chief Executive sessions**

12. The sessions for Chief Executives have become an integral part of the Annual Conference programme and were well received last year. The LGA's regional Principal Advisers have again been asked to work with the LGA events team on three sessions for this year.
13. The sessions provide safe, confidential spaces for Chief Executives to discuss and share issues that they alone deal with and cannot discuss in public and they are valued by Chief Executives.

#### **Implications for Wales**

14. None.

#### **Financial Implications**

15. None – other than the programmed costs of organising and running the Zone and conference.

**Next steps**

16. Officers to continue progressing the Improvement and Innovation Board's contribution to the LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2018, in light of the Board's comments.

## **Appendix A – Annual Conference and Exhibition 2018 – outline**

### Tuesday 3 July 2018

8.30-10.00	Registration, refreshments and exhibition viewing
10.00-11.30	Political Group meetings / Chief Executives' session
11.30-11.45	Break
11.45-12.45	General Assembly formal business
12.45-2.00	Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking
2.00-2.15	Conference opening and welcome
2.15-2.20	Welcome to Birmingham
2.20-2.35	Keynote speech by the Chairman of the Local Government Association
2.35-3.05	Conference plenary 1 – political
3.05-4.05	Conference plenary 2
4.45-5.45	Refreshments, exhibition viewing and networking
4.45-5.45	Workshop sessions x 6
5.45-6.30	Drinks reception
6.30	Fringe meetings
7.30	LGA Independent Group dinner

### Wednesday 4 July 2018

8.15-9.15	Fringe sessions
9.30-10.00	Conference plenary 3 – political
10.00-11.00	Conference plenary 4
11.00-11.45	Refreshments, exhibition viewing and networking
11.45-12.45	Workshop sessions x 6
12.45-2.00	Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking
2.00-3.00	Political Group meetings / Chief Executives' session
3.00-3.10	Break
3.10-4.10	Parallel plenary sessions x 2
4.10-4.45	Refreshments, exhibition viewing and networking
4.45-5.45	Conference plenary 5
6.00-7.00	Fringe meetings
7.30	LGA Conservative Group, LGA Labour Group and LGA Liberal Democrat Group, and Chief Executives' dinners

### Thursday 5 July 2018

9.15-10.15	Parallel plenary sessions x 2
10.15-11.00	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
11.00-11.30	Conference plenary 6 – political
11.40-12.40	Political Group meetings / Chief Executives' session
12.50-1.00	Break
1.00-1.30	Conference plenary 7 – political
1.30	Close of conference and lunch

This allows for:

- Chairman's keynote speech
- seven plenary sessions (including up to four keynote political sessions, three others)
- three sets of political group meetings and chief executives' sessions (one each day)
- two sets of six workshop sessions running concurrently
- two sets of two parallel plenary sessions running concurrently
- opportunities for morning and evening fringe meetings
- political groups and chief executives' dinners
- one evening drinks reception for all delegates

The Innovation Zone will also run sessions throughout the event as in previous years.