

30 January 2018

## Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Improvement & Innovation Board
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 1 November 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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### 1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members to the very first meeting of one of the LGA's Boards at the newly refurbished building. He thanked members of the board for their work during the previous cycle.

Cllr Alan Connett and Cllr Judi Billing each declared a declaration of interest, as both held contracts with the LGA.

There followed introductions around the table.

### 2 Membership and terms of reference for 2017/18

Members **agreed** the board's membership and terms of reference for 2017/2018, with the proviso that the political composition was corrected in the terms of reference.

### 3 Priorities and work programme

Dennis Skinner, Head of Improvement, introduced the item. He outlined the proposed board priorities for 2017/18, and highlighted progress to date in delivering the improvement programme for 2017/18. He advised members that the programme was funded through a DCLG grant, and that it challenged and supported councils to improve. Lead member responsibilities were also discussed.

Dennis drew members' attention to Annex B which set out the deliverables in the MoU with DCLG. With reference to corporate peer challenges, it was noted that some councils had not yet taken up the offer of a free peer challenge, and members were asked for feedback on what could be done to encourage take up. Members were also asked more generally for feedback on improvement priorities for 2018/19.

30 January 2018

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- The importance of corporate peer challenges as an improvement tool and understanding the learning that comes from them. Members requested that more information from the peer challenges be fed back to the board.
- There was a reference made to universal credit and the potential cost implications for councils in 2018/2019.
- Members noted that the MoU with DCLG did not cover work to support improvement in children's services which was really important for most councils.
- There was a discussion around councils' ability to generate income and the problems which could arise if the Chancellor limited the freedom to borrow for this purpose. Concern was expressed over this issue in light of the end of revenue support grant.
- In view of the current interest in exploring alternative sources of income it was asked whether a best practice guide helping councils think through investment decisions and approaches to income generation would be helpful – in addition to the newly developed commercial skills training for members and officers.
- Members discussed the work the LGA was undertaking on community consultation and noted the LGA's recent "NewConversations: guide to engagement"
- Members agreed that there would be value in exploring the possibility of a support offer to help councils strengthen emergency planning and resilience capabilities.

## **Decision**

The board:

1. Agreed priorities for 2017/18, and confirmed member leads.
2. Noted progress of delivery to date and requested a report drawing out the learning from corporate peer challenges
3. Noted and commented (as outlined above) on the potential shape of the improvement programme for 2018/19.

## **Action**

1. Officers to proceed with work as directed by members.

#### **4 Productivity programme**

Cllr Ron Woodley introduced the item, updating members on the progress made against the Productivity Programme for 2017/18.

Siobhan Coughlan, Programme Manager, also gave a presentation on cyber security highlighting the risks to councils and how the LGA is working with Government to help raise this at a strategic level with senior officers and councillors to get it on their radar. This is to help councils ensure they have the right processes and arrangements in place to protect themselves from cyber threats and to be able to respond should they be subject to a cyber-attack. Councils already have a number of measures in place however, they need to remain vigilant. Siobhan emphasised that it was important for councils to protect themselves against the theft of saleable data on the black market. A recent report had highlighted that the number of cyber-attacks had doubled, and councils were advised to appoint a senior corporate director and councillor to hold responsibility for this area, and to add cyber security risk to their Corporate Risk Registers, their Civil Contingency Plans and their Business Continuity Plans.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- A system which could test viruses would be welcomed and Members were advised that a programme called web check was being developed to check websites for out of date certificates and systems that need to be patched. Members asked whether there was any further support the LGA could provide to help members know how to respond to a cyberattack.
- Members highlighted that procurement of insurance represents a large cost for all councils and were advised that the LGA was exploring the creation of a new local government mutual to provide cost effective arrangements for procuring insurance and was currently inviting founder members.
- There was a discussion around the challenges facing councils on inclusivity of residents who were still not online and how to encourage digital inclusion.
- Members noted that the pace of transformation in local government was not always matched by that in other local public sector partners
- There was a discussion on the impact of Brexit, and members asked whether the Government had shared any documents about the specific impact on local government.

#### **Decision**

1. The board noted the updates and progress on the Productivity

- Programme.
2. Members asked for an update report on Brexit at the next board meeting.

### **Actions**

1. The presentation on cyber and information about the insurance mutual be circulated to members.

## **5 Highlighting Leadership offer: 2017/18 update**

Cllr Judi Billing MBE, introduced the item, advising that the report updated members on priorities and engagement figures for the 2017/18 Highlighting Political Leadership offer.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- Members discussed the differing levels of take up across the regions.
- Members asked what data was available on under-represented groups. They were advised that figures were being gathered and would be available when reporting on the final Q4 activity/ end of year report.
- Concerns were raised over the number of women standing to be councillors, and members asked what was being done to address this. Officers advised that this was primarily an issue for the political parties but that the Be a Councillor Programme aimed to encourage more female candidates to come forward.

### **Decision**

1. The board noted progress so far on the 2017/18 Highlighting Political Leadership offer.

### **Action**

1. Officers to proceed with work in line with members' comments.

## **6 Sector-led Improvement for Care and Health**

Andrew Hughes, Head of the Care and Health Improvement Programme, introduced the item, advising members that the programme looked at sector-led improvement for adult social care and the integration of care and health services. It was delivered in partnership with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) and funded by the Department of Health. The programme looked at how to support councils dealing with the challenges of care. The programme required updating and the report set out a series of key issues that had emerged from discussions with the

sector and sector bodies, which were detailed in section 10 of the report.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- Members highlighted the lack of reference to sustainable transformation plans.
- Concerns were raised that the nature of the national debate about social care and delayed transfers of care which was felt to have a detrimental impact on local relationships
- Members were concerned about the progress of transformation and integration at a local level. A whole systems approach was required and members questioned whether this was achievable in the absence of a cultural change within DH.
- There was a discussion on Southend Care, where problems were partly being addressed by using empty hotels and B&Bs in the town for care. The CHIP programme would explore new models of care.
- A point was also made on the importance of making provision for the younger generation, who would have fewer assets in old age.

### **Decisions**

The board:

1. Noted the progress being made re-shaping the Care and Health Improvement Programme to focus on the sustainability of social care and the integration of services with the NHS.
2. Provided guidance (as outlined above) on the scope of the activity and offer to the sector, to inform negotiations with the Department of Health.

### **Action**

1. Officers to proceed with work as directed by members.

## **7 Data and transparency programme**

Juliet Whitworth, Research and Information Manager, introduced the item, advising members that the report provided an update on two aspects of the LGA's data and transparency programme. The first focused on the Intelligent Council project designed to help authorities make better use of data to support evidence-informed decision making. She emphasised that volunteers would be welcomed to help with this.

The second focused on the implications of the General Data Protection regulations which mandated new requirements on the protection and management of personal data. Juliet highlighted key elements of the report which explained the LGA's approach to supporting councils

implement the new regulations, including a number of free briefing events.

**Decision**

1. The board noted the report and considered the progress to date of projects.

**Action**

1. Officers to proceed with work as directed by members.

**8 Progressing next year's Innovation Zone**

Cllr Peter Fleming OBE, introduced the item, inviting members to give their views on the strategic organisation of the Innovation Zone at the LGA Annual Conference 2018. Members were asked whether there should be a subject theme this year.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- It was suggested that there be no subject specific themes but instead a broad overall theme for the Zone as a whole
- It was emphasised that the innovation zone could include innovations from outside the sector – there did not need to be a constraint on the types of innovations showcased
- Members agreed that there should be a small working group set up to provide strategic oversight of the development of the Zone for 2018. The following members were appointed: Cllr Peter Fleming, Cllr Joy Allen, Cllr Catherine Rankin and Cllr Laura Miller.

**Decision**

The board:

1. Advised on the Zone's development for 2018.
2. Agreed to appoint a member advisory group.

**Action**

1. Officers to proceed with work as directed by members.

**9 LGA Boards' improvement activity**

Vicki Goddard, Improvement Support Adviser, introduced the item, advising members that the report set out progress on improvement activity undertaken by other LGA Boards. This included updates from 8 different policy boards.

**Decision**

1. Members noted the report.

**10 Note of the Previous Meeting**

**Decision**

1. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate summary of the discussion, with the proviso that there was an acknowledgement of the problems with the rail network on the day which prevented some members from attending.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing MBE Cllr Ron Woodley	North Hertfordshire District Council Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Members	Cllr Janet Blake Cllr Peter Fleming OBE Cllr Catherine Rankin Cllr Barry Wood Cllr Laura Miller Cllr Ian McCord Cllr Linda Robinson Cllr Phil Davies Cllr Joy Allen Cllr Tudor Evans OBE Cllr Abdul Jabbar MBE Cllr Sue Woodward Cllr Nicole Meardon Cllr Liz Green  Cllr Alan Connett Cllr Mike Haines Cllr Shirley Pannell Mr Richard Priestman  Mr Philip Sellwood	Aylesbury Vale District Council Sevenoaks District Council Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Cherwell District Council Purbeck District Council South Northamptonshire District Council Wychavon District Council Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council Durham County Council Plymouth City Council Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Staffordshire County Council Cheshire West and Chester Council Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council Council Teignbridge District Council Teignbridge District Council North Kesteven District Council Local Government Improvement and Development Energy Saving Trust (EST)
Apologies	Cllr Angelique Foster Cllr James Jamieson Cllr Bob Price Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE Cllr Glen Sanderson JP Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	North East Derbyshire District Council Central Bedfordshire Council Oxford City Council Bedford Borough Council  Northumberland Council Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council