

16 July 2018

LGA Annual Conference, Exhibition and Innovation Zone 2018

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This paper, and a verbal update at the meeting, updates members on our Annual Conference and Innovation Zone, and invites members' comments, which can be taken into account for next year's conference.

Recommendation

That members offer any comments that can be taken into account.

Action

Subject to members' comments, officers will take forward next year's conference and Innovation Zone.

Lead Member:	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE
Contact officer:	Vicki Goddard
Position:	Improvement Support Adviser
Phone no:	020 7664 3078
Email:	vicki.goddard@local.gov.uk

LGA Annual Conference, Exhibition and Innovation Zone 2018

Background

1. The work of the Improvement and Innovation Board and contributions from the improvement team will have been reflected in a number of activities at the LGA Annual Conference earlier this month.

Innovation Zone

2. This is our sixth Innovation Zone organised as an integral part of the LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition.
3. The Board agreed, at its November 2017 meeting, to consider innovations from outside the sector with no constraint on the types of innovations showcased. The Board also agreed not to have subject specific themes in the Zone but a broad overall theme for the event as a whole, and to set up a small working group to provide strategic oversight of the Zone's development.
4. Cllrs Peter Fleming OBE, Joy Allen, Laura Miller and Catherine Rankin were appointed to the working group at the November meeting and have since advised on the programme, which officers have progressed accordingly. The group's recommendation of 'your local place' has been developed as the Zone's overall theme, highlighting how innovations that benefit individuals also shape and enhance local communities. Members of the working group and this wider Board will also have compered at this year's Zone.
5. The latest programme is available on the LGA [website](#), and after conference it will be available on this [page](#) until 16 August. It includes a range of examples of council related innovation, and those from the wider public, voluntary, community and private sectors, and the Netherlands and possibly India to improve residents' lives, policy outcomes and efficiencies.
6. The Zone has been widely publicised in the months ahead of Annual Conference. Adverts and articles have been included in the May and July editions of *First* magazine. We are promoting the Zone via Twitter, our two related Knowledge Hub Groups (Improvement and Performance, and Innovative Councils), the annual conference app and handbook, the LGA Boards' and events monthly e-bulletins, our Chairman, Chief Executive and CommsNet bulletins, and through internal means. Signage at conference will also direct delegates to the Zone as part of the LGA Hub stand.
7. Cllr Linda Robinson of this Board will officially launch the Zone on 3 July at 12.40 when there are due to be contributions from: Newton, the Zone's sponsor, on reducing delayed transfers of care in the North of England; Bradford Metropolitan District Council's City Centre Growth Zone scheme; London Ventures' innovations to deliver significant benefits for London residents, efficiencies and effectiveness of public services; and St Helens Council's culture and arts partnership with Heart of Glass that cuts across all aspects of St Helens life.

16 July 2018

8. Prior to the official launch, Cllr Peter Fleming is due at 10.00am on 3 July to introduce Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Pepper the Robot who is taking forward reminiscence work with care home residents, and a co-produced program developed with young children and adults with Aspergers and autism.
9. The remainder of the programme is dedicated to showcasing a wide range of innovations relevant to councils. Various projects focus on, and provide links between, health and social care, loneliness and homelessness. We have therefore combined many of these to feature on Wednesday, the busiest day of conference, to attract as many delegates as possible to discuss these key issues.
10. The Zone's third and final day is due to include sessions on drones, female genital mutilation and ink from air pollution, illustrating the breadth of innovation relevant to councils.
11. At least 30 innovations relevant to councils are due to have been directly showcased, with references to other councils and organisations also involved in this work.
12. After conference, we will invite council contributors to the Zone to submit case studies about their innovative work for our [website](#), which includes approximately 900 examples. Highlights from the Zone will also feature in the August edition of First magazine. Additionally, we will add presentations from the Zone to our website as soon as possible.
13. A verbal update on how the Zone went at conference will be given at the meeting.

Conference workshop sessions

14. There were a number of workshop sessions covering a variety of issues dealt with by the Board, including: Commercial councils – profit with a purpose; the Digital Place: connecting citizens, councils and communities sponsored by Capita; and fringe sessions on the national procurement strategy and on cyber security (with SOLACE).
15. Principal Advisers also supported the organisation of three sessions for Chief Executives which took place alongside the political group sessions, on Driving the health and social care integration agenda; Walking tall: the 21st century Chief Executive; Commercialisation – is this the answer to plugging the gap?

LG Inform

16. Colleagues from the LGA Research and Information team were available to demonstrate LG Inform providing “hands-on” assistance to Conference delegates and also to promote LG Inform plus and the new LG Inform VFM which brings together data about the costs, performance and activity of local councils and fire and rescue authorities.

Leadership

17. We promoted the Be a Councillor campaign and soft launched the opening of council registrations for the next round of the National Graduate Development programme and contributed to the LGA/SOLACE session on getting more senior women into local government.

Publications

18. Updated and refreshed versions of some of our main promotional material was available at Conference, including: 'Sector led improvement: our offer of support' – a leaflet summarising the wide-ranging improvement support offer available to the sector; and more detailed updated flyers around our other main offers. The SLI infographics is being updated with the latest statistics around delivery and take up of the support offer.

Implications for Wales

19. Improvement work is provided directly by the Welsh Local Government Association.

Financial Implications

20. None

Next steps

21. Members are asked to:

21.1. Note this report

21.2. Share their views on how the Zone went from their perspective.