

24 January 2019

Improvement and Innovation Board - from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman).

Productivity

1. I was quoted in an article in First, the LGA magazine, regarding the LGA's grant for behavioural insight funding. Eight local authorities have been awarded a £25,000 grant from the LGA to help them apply behavioural insights to their biggest service challenges.

Profit with a purpose

2. Cllr Joy Allen chaired the LGA's Profit with a purpose conference on 15 January. The event featured presentations and workshops showcasing how councils are deriving social value for their local communities through their commercial income generating activities. 90 delegates from council across the country attended.

Research and Information

Efficient and Intelligent Councils

3. As part of the work to help councils to continuously improve, the LGA has commissioned a project to develop an on-line package of support for self-assessment in one place. This support will:
 - 3.1. Bring together all of the resources/tools/guidance that councils find useful to help to improve and to become more efficient.
 - 3.2. Capture and describe the characteristics of efficient councils and develop this into a narrative.
 - 3.3. Develop a self-assessment tool to help councils identify where they currently are and where they would like to improve in the next 18 months/two years.
4. This work was mentioned by James Brokenshire MP in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2019/20, and it has attracted some trade press attention. Members of the Improvement and Innovation Board, including myself, have been involved in reviewing the work as it progress, to ensure it will be a useful self-improvement tool for councils

Select Committee

5. In September, the LGA developed a submission response to the Parliamentary Science and Technology Committee as it considers the challenges and achievements of Digital Government. Focus was given to the experiences of local government in responding to the directives and requirements placed upon it by central government. This work culminated in my appearance before the select committee on 4 December 2018 to give verbal evidence.

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Masterclass

6. Work commenced during 2018 to design and deliver a one day masterclass training event for elected members on the subject of *data and digital transformation* to be delivered three times in various regions of England. Focus is to be given to those areas which are of most attention to councillors' interests and cover aspects that they can most essentially control and contribute.
7. The broad themes of the day will explore: the benefits of digital approaches for councils, the importance of attention to data - getting the plumbing right, cultural issues, and how as councillors we can create the conditions in which suitable innovations are able to succeed. As part of these preparations, members of the Board, including myself, were involved in determining their preferred style of delivery and content to be included at a morning workshop on the 6 December 2018.

Leadership

National Graduate Development Programme Cohort 21

8. Cllr Judi Billing OBE, Deputy Chair of the Board, leads on the Board's Leadership work. Council registrations for the next intake of graduates close on 31 March 2019. Councils who apply early gain additional exposure to the pool of graduates, increasing their chances of securing top talent. The programme will be bringing a record number of candidates through the application process this year, and can continue to facilitate internal recruitment campaigns until the end of March.

Be a Councillor

9. Cllr Liz Green chaired the Women's Weekender event, a leadership development event for female councillors hosted by the LGA.
10. In December 2018 the LGA appointed Disability Rights UK as an administrator for the new EnAble Fund. The EnAble Fund has been offered from the Government Equalities Office, and has been set up for people with disabilities to gain additional support to stand for election to councils and other local authorities in the 2019 local elections.

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