

LGA Business Plan 2019-2022

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

In July 2019, the LGA General Assembly passed a motion *calling upon the government to explore the domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through funded partnership roles with local authority areas, encouraging councils to continue to link local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs and declaring a climate emergency.*

In response to the motion and to the recommendations of the Climate Emergency Sounding Board, this paper sets out an initial proposed framework and a first draft business plan for 2019-2022, with an increased focus on SDGs and climate change.

Recommendations

That the Leadership Board:

1. Agrees the framework of themes as the basis for the 2019-2022 business plan and the main areas of focus for the year to come (**Appendix 1**).
2. Agrees areas for inclusion, deletion or amendment in the final draft business plan (**Appendix 2**).

Actions

Final draft plan incorporating the Board's comments to be presented to the next meeting on 30 October 2019 for sign off.

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LGA Business Plan 2019-2022

Background

1. In July 2019, the LGA General passed a motion
 - 1.1. Calling upon the government to explore supporting the domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through funded partnership roles within each local authority area;
 - 1.2. Encouraging councils to continue to link their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs;
 - 1.3. Declaring a climate emergency and committing to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong and unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency and sharing best practice across all councils.
2. Leadership Board agreed in July to postpone consideration of the new LGA business plan pending further work on the SDGs and climate change. The Board set up a member Sounding Board to take this forward over the summer. The report of the Sounding Board is included at item 7 on the agenda.

Proposed business plan themes 2019/20

3. **Appendix 1** maps the 2018/19 business plan themes (column 1) against the UN sustainable development goals (column 2) and proposes a revised set of business plan themes for 1019/20 (column 3). **Appendix 2** is a first draft plan set against those revised themes.
4. The Sounding Board identified a number of strands of activity on climate change for the LGA to take forward from a policy and improvement perspective. These have been included in a new "*Climate Change*" theme.
5. Sounding Board members also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the LGA demonstrates best practice in the way that it manages its own business. A new section on "*the way we work*" is proposed that includes our own internal commitments to climate change.
6. Separately, in response to growing concerns about intimidation of councillors and candidates and work on a new code of conduct and other governance-related issues, a separate theme on "*Strong local democracy*" has been included. In order to reduce the number of themes, the Board may wish to consider whether this could be combined with the current sections on "*supporting councils*" and/or "*funding for local government*", both of which are fundamentally about building a strong and resilient sector.

7. It is proposed that “*Britain’s exit from the EU*” remains as a standalone theme for 2019/20 at least.
8. Housing, children’s services and adult social care continue to be priorities for member councils and are all highlighted in the revised themes. Raw data from this year’s Membership Survey will be available from October 2019 and any changes in priorities will be fed into the final draft plan that comes to Leadership Board on 31 October.

Presentation

9. An online business plan would signal our intent to reduce paper use, although a PDF version should also be available. The design could reference the SDG website, giving a visible link between the two. This work has been programmed into the design team forward plan.
10. A new a section showing the breakdown of our own income and expenditure along with information on the company and its governance have also been included.

Next steps

11. Subject to members’ comments and direction, and the findings of the membership survey, a final draft will be presented to the next meeting of the Leadership Board on 31 October 2019.