

Innovation Zone 2020

Purpose:

For direction.

Summary

This report invites Members' views on the strategic organisation of the 2020 Innovation Zone at the LGA Annual Conference. The report includes background details about the Zone, ideas for the development of the 2020 Zone and opportunities for Member involvement.

Recommendation

That the members note the report and discuss the ideas for the format of the 2020 Zone. The Board advises on the issues outlined in paragraph four to assist the Zone's development for 2020.

Actions

1. Subject to Members' comments, officers to progress the Zone.
2. Innovation Working Group to provide advice and guidance where necessary.

Contact officer: Lusi Manukyan
Position: Improvement Strategy Adviser
Phone no: 0207 187 7347
Email: lusi.manukyan@local.gov.uk

Innovation Zone update

Background

1. In addition to specific support offers such as the Behavioural Insights and Design in the Public Sector programmes, the LGA's innovation programme includes sharing examples of local government and wider public sector good practice. This helps equip councils with tools and confidence to use innovative approaches to solve their challenges.
2. The innovation programme includes our three-day Innovation Zone, which is a vibrant, creative space and programme within the LGA's Annual Conference and Exhibition, taking place from 30 June – 2 July 2020 in Harrogate.
3. The Innovation Zone features examples of innovative practice which are relevant and interesting to local councils. This includes examples from both public and private sectors, as well as other organisations from across the UK and the rest of the world.

Improvement and Innovation Board input

4. There is an opportunity for members of the Improvement and Innovation Board to be involved in the design and delivery of the Innovation Zone.
5. A member-led Innovation working group is currently being set up and all members should have received communication regarding this. The group will meet regularly outside the usual board meeting to discuss how the Innovation Zone should progress.
6. In addition, board members have the opportunity to be involved with the Innovation Zone if they are already attending the LGA annual conference, by making announcements to promote the Innovation Zone, encouraging delegates to take part, as well as getting involved with the main programme.

Innovation Zone 2020

7. We are currently developing a number of ideas for the 2020 Innovation Zone, including the following:
 - 7.1 developing the idea of the open mic sessions to allow the conversations to continue.
 - 7.2 exploring whether some of the Innovation Zone sessions could be incorporated into the main conference programme.

- 7.3 considering options for sharing learning from the Innovation Zone further, for example through podcasts, videos and visualisation.
 - 7.4 working with designers to creatively adapt the Innovation Zone space to showcase different aspects of the support that councils provide to residents.
 - 7.5 using the Innovation Zone as an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of the LGA's sector-led improvement offer.
 - 7.6 ensuring that the audience has the opportunity to explore technology, for example through a hands-on area.
8. Comments are welcome on all these and any other aspects, including any suggestions of innovations we could feature in the Zone.
9. Meanwhile, the LGA-wide officer Zone group is progressing next year's event, having already considered and taken account of delegate and staff feedback.

Implications for Wales

10. Councils from Wales are welcome to take part in the Innovation Zone, as we feature examples of innovation from across the UK, as well as the rest of the world.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Next steps

12. Members to encourage attendance at the Innovation Zone and get involved during the Conference.
13. Innovation Working Group to provide advice and guidance where necessary.