

## Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Improvement & Innovation Board
<b>Date:</b>	Monday 13 October 2014
<b>Venue:</b>	Smith Square 3&4, Ground Floor, Local Government House, 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	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  No declarations of interest were received.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Improvement and Innovation Board Membership, Terms of Reference and Outside Bodies</b>  The Chairman welcomed new members and outlined the work of the Improvement and Innovation Board.  The Chairman introduced the report which detailed the Membership and Terms of Reference of the Improvement and Innovation Board. The Chairman brought the new overarching responsibility for improvement across LGA Boards to the attention of Members.  The Chairman clarified that Substitute Members are welcome to attend the Board when not officially substituting. Members are requested to inform their group office and member services if this is the case.  <b>Decisions</b> Members <b>noted</b> the report.  Members also <b>noted</b> the rules on the LGA nominations for advisory panel on EU fines adjudication, where they apply.  Members <b>agreed</b> to appoint Cllr Tim Cheetham to the Knowledge Navigator Steering Group.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Priorities and Work Programme for 2014/15</b>  Dennis Skinner, Head of Leadership and Productivity, introduced the report which detailed the Priorities and Workplan for 2014/15.	

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In the discussion that followed, members made a number of comments, including:

- The continued need for sector-led support and improvement and for it to be available for all councils.
- The Board's overarching responsibility for improvement across LGA Boards.
- The need to continue to make effective use of public data as a driver for improvement.
- The importance of support and training for member peers.
- The importance of the LGA influencing the current devolution debate.
- The opportunity to continue to learn from good practice, including that from around the world.
- Articulating the finance offer as a core area of work.

Members discussed the strategic themes and the Chairman explained that, in previous years, members had been invited to express a preference for involvement in one or more of the five strategic themes to allow for work to take place between board meetings. The Chairman would write to members to ask their preference and also to fill the vacant post as Transparency lead.

### **Decisions**

Members **noted** the report.

Members **agreed** the five strategic themes for the board and **appointed** portfolio holders to lead on each area, as follows:-

Innovation	<b>Cllr Peter Fleming</b>
Leadership	<b>Cllr Judi Billing</b>
Sector-led Improvement	<b>Cllr Jill Shortland OBE</b>
Transparency	<b>Vacant</b>
Productivity	<b>Cllr Shirley Flint</b>

### **Actions**

- To take away feedback and further develop the Priorities and Workplan for 2014/15.
- To write to members regarding their strategic theme preferences.

## **4 LGA Boards' Improvement Activity**

Dennis Skinner, Head of Leadership and Productivity, introduced the report which detailed the improvement work being undertaken by other LGA Boards and the Improvement and Innovation Board's oversight of this work.

Members discussed their overarching responsibility for improvement and the need to add value to the work of the other Boards. They discussed the

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need to find new approaches to engage with Board work.

Regarding the work of other Boards, members made a number of comments, including:

- The importance of helping councils and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) reps to understand each other's agenda and language.
- Health improvement programmes surrounding the Better Care Fund and the Care Act.
- Promoting and sharing innovation in skills and jobs.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the improvement activity undertaken by LGA Boards as detailed in the report.

### **5 Productivity programme update**

Cllr Shirley Flint introduced the Productivity Programme update, which, as well as an update, detailed the proposed LGA response to the EU Procurement Directive consultation.

Members very much supported the programme and highlighted the need to continue promoting aspects of the programme further.

Members discussed the response to the EU Procurement Directive consultation and in particular raised:

- Concerns about the procurement system denying opportunities for smaller and medium sized enterprises to complete Pre-Qualification Questionnaires and its impact on social enterprises.
- The impact of portal based systems on smaller enterprises.
- The potential impact of the Trans-Atlantic Trade Treaty.
- As regards the wider productivity work, members question the impact and value for money of Broadband investment.

#### **Decisions**

Members **noted** the report.

Members **agreed** the response, with some additions being made following their discussion.

#### **Actions**

- To take away feedback on the consultation and make the necessary additions prior to submission.

### **6 New Highlighting Leadership Programme - Progress Update**

Cllr Judi Billing introduced the report which provided an update on the new Highlighting Leadership Programme provided by the LGA.

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Members discussed the increased number of graduates and councils involved in the National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp). Members were very positive about the scheme and its importance. Members discussed the high levels of uptake, by both graduates and councils, in London and the South East and asked about efforts to increase engagement in other regions.

Members discussed the increase in uptake of the political leadership programme and the need for similar offers regarding effective and responsible opposition. They highlighted opportunities to link the programme with other external public health and care integration programmes. They also raised the need to react to demand for programmes and support depending upon the electoral cycle.

#### **Decision**

The report was **noted** by members.

#### **Actions**

- To provide members with breakdowns similar to that provided for the ngdp for other programmes.

### **7 Developing the LGA's Sector-Led Improvement Finance Offer**

Cllr Jill Shortland OBE introduced the report which focused on the need to support councils in maintaining financial stability against a background of change and increased financial risk.

Members discussed the proposed revised sector-led improvement finance offer, focusing on a need for a wider discussion with the sector on the topic. While the finance offer is well received, it is possible that it may not go far enough in some cases and it would be important to understand what councils feel they need.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

#### **Actions**

- Continue to develop the Sector-led improvement finance offer and engage the sector in a wide discussion on the subject.

### **8 Transparency**

The Chairman introduced the report which provided details of the Local Government Transparency Code and the proposal for a transparency strategy for the sector.

Members welcomed the proposed transparency strategy.

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Members **noted** the report and the progress on the open data Breakthrough Fund programme.

Members **agreed** the outline transparency strategy.

## **9 Centre for Public Scrutiny and Local Partnerships**

The Chairman introduced the annual reports of the Centre for Public Scrutiny and Local Partnerships.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the reports from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and Local Partnerships.

## **10 Sector-led improvement: a review**

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

### **Actions**

- To take away feedback and develop further.

## **11 Child Sexual Exploitation**

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

## **12 Note of the previous meeting - 15 July 2014**

The minutes were agreed.

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**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Shirley Flint	North Kesteven District Council
Members	Cllr Claudia Webbe	Islington Council
	Cllr Darren Cooper	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Bob Price	Oxford City Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
	Cllr Richard Stay	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
	Cllr Mrs Theresa Higgins	Essex County Council
	Cllr John Blackie	North Yorkshire County Council
	Mr Richard Priestman	Local Government Improvement and Development
	Mr Philip Sellwood	Energy Saving Trust (EST)
Apologies	Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Hollern	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
	Cllr Imran Hussain	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Glen Miller	Bradford Metropolitan District Council