

Note of last IDeA Company Board meeting

Title:	IDeA Company Board
Date:	Wednesday 21 January 2015
Venue:	Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Implications of the 2015-16 RSG Announcement <p>The Board considered a report which provided an update on the Government's recent announcement regarding Revenue Support Grant (RSG) top-slice for 2015/16 and beyond, including the possible implications for the LGA and IDeA. Helen Platts, Head of Finance and Business Management, explained that IDeA would be provided with a RSG totalling £23.4m in 2015/16, but that DCLG intended to explore how the budget for improvement services could be opened up to competition from 2016/17.</p> <p>Board members noted that the LGA had taken the view that DCLG becoming the commissioner and client for improvement services was not desirable or logical due to a number of factors, including the potential impact on employee relations and pay negotiations, oversight of council performance and emergency support, peer challenge and review, and the commissioning of leadership and development programmes. Members took the view that a commercial or private sector provider would not want to undertake the function of national pay negotiations, or would not be able to deliver it as effectively as the LGA.</p> <p>Members also commented that a commercial or private sector operator may submit a loss leader bid for provision of improvement services, but would subsequently increase the price. The LGA provided the functions effectively and efficiently and members agreed that if good value could be evidenced the Government would prefer to leave the function with the LGA rather than set up a new body at this stage.</p> <p>Helen Platts highlighted that, in preparation for a scenario where RSG services could potentially be outsourced from 2016/17, there were a number of areas to address. These included the refurbishment of Layden House to address the IDeA pension deficit, the termination of the Liberata contract, and reviewing the IDeA's governance arrangements. The Board would be kept informed of any developments.</p>	

Decision:

Members **noted** the update.

2 Third Quarter Performance Report: April - December 2014

Helen Platts, Head of Finance and Business Management, presented the performance report for the third quarter (April – December 2014). This included performance figures for the delivery of programmes, finance, Corporate Health Indicators, the Risk Dashboard, the Strategic Risk Register, and the IDeA Management Accounts.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

3 Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited - Update

The Board considered an update report on the progress made with establishing Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA), a transitional body to manage external audit contracts originally let by the Audit Commission. Dennis Skinner, Head of Leadership and Productivity, explained that the LGA had been successful in submitting proposals to DCLG to form PSAA until at least 2017, following closure of the Audit Commission on 31 March 2015.

Members noted that Steve Freer had been appointed as Chair of the PSAA Shadow Board which would overview the implementation of PSAA. He would then chair the PSAA Company Board from 1 April 2015. Although it was important that PSAA was independent, and the responsibility for running the company would rest with the PSAA Board, the IDeA's overarching role of IDeA, set out in the Memorandum of Understanding, was to support the PSAA in successfully discharging the functions delegated to it by the Secretary of State.

It was highlighted that although PSAA would be in place until at least 2017, there was an option to extend for a further three years. It would be for the next Government to decide on whether that was the preferred course of action. Members would be updated on continued progress with the implementation of the PSAA.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

4 Note of Last IDeA Company Board Meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were **agreed** as a correct record of the meeting on 11 June 2014.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Members	Cllr David Sparks OBE	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Jim McMahon	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Mr Richard Priestman	Local Government Improvement and Development
	Mr Philip Sellwood	Energy Saving Trust (EST)

LGA Officers
Helen Platts
Dennis Skinner
Paul Goodchild