

## **Audit Committee – Report from Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE (Chairman)**

1. Having reviewed the LGA's first set of audited consolidated accounts in May, the Panel reviewed the audited financial statements for the IDeA, LGE, LACORS and LGIH prior to these being adopted by the relevant company boards. These financial statements have all received an unqualified audit opinion from the external auditors, Littlejohn LLP.
2. The Panel received the final report from the scrutiny review of the LGA's direct offer to members. The central conclusion from the review was that while the offer itself is fundamentally sound, providing a valuable and comprehensive service to member councils and councillors, the way the LGA communicates the offer could be improved.
3. The Panel's recommendations include strengthening our engagement with backbenchers and informing councillors more directly of the LGA's lobbying successes. The recommendations from the review are now being implemented and a member-level reference group has also been set up to provide feedback on communication and marketing plans and ideas as they develop.
4. The Panel carried out a review of its activities during 2011/12 and reflected on changes that are to be introduced from September 2012. The Panel is to be superseded by a newly constituted Audit Committee, which will focus on external and internal audit, with responsibility for scrutiny being transferred to the LGA's Resources Panel.

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