

Item 3(k)

Resources Panel – report from Cllr Stephen Castle (Chairman)

1. At its last meeting in November, the Resources Panel reviewed progress with the renegotiation of the Liberata contract for the LGA's back office services which is currently underway following the completion of an independent benchmarking review. A firm deadline of having a revised contract in place by April 2013 was set by the Panel.
2. The Panel finalised recommendations for LGA membership subscriptions for 2013/14. These proposals have now been agreed by the LGA's Leadership Board. The Panel has continued with the LGA's policy of the last six years of substantially reducing the overall level of subscriptions, this year taking into account of the impact of the 2012 Census data on the subscription calculations. A new loyalty discount for those members currently not on notice to withdraw will also be introduced from 2013/14.
3. The Panel reviewed a medium-term financial strategy for the LGA and initial proposals for the 2013/14 budget. Final recommendations on the LGA's budget for next year will be considered at the next meeting of the Panel in February prior to this being agreed by the LGA Executive in March along with the business plan. Members also reviewed the LGA's in-year financial performance.
4. A Pay Policy Statement for the LGA was agreed. Members also reviewed the performance of the LGA's treasury management function and noted that the LGA's cash balances were being managed in line with the agreed strategy.
5. This was Stephen Jones's last meeting as Director of Finance and Resources, before his retirement at the end of December. The Panel thanked Stephen for his commitment to the LGA and local government as a whole.

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