

New Model for Local Government

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

Leadership Board of 13 March will receive a report and initial draft policy papers on the following:

- a) Growth
- b) Good adult social care
- c) Future children's services
- d) Welfare reform
- e) Sustainable future funding
- f) Independent Local Government

This item is brought to Councillors' Forum in order that Members can be briefed on this important piece of work and provide their comments and observations. Any contributions will be used to inform this work as it progresses.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

Consider the report and presentation and to provide input to assist discussions and steer further progress.

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New Model for Local Government

Background

1. At its meetings of 9 January and 13 February, the Leadership Board considered reports setting out a proposal for a New Model for Local Government and the associated timetable to deliver it. The proposal's purpose was threefold:
 - 1.1 Developing a clear case for the future national role of local government in order to inform party manifestos in the run-up to the next general election.
 - 1.2 Setting out Local Government's offer in order to inform the expected 2015 spending review immediately after the election.
 - 1.3 Providing the LGA national conference with a practical explanation of the above and informing its longer term planning processes.
2. Leadership Board agreed with the proposed work in broad terms and asked that it be developed further. It saw value in wide national communication of the work before conference in order to ensure that voices across the sector could be heard.
3. Leadership Board agreed that there should be a number of specific in-depth discussions about the various themes set out in the paper and that initial drafts of policy papers should be developed to provide the foundation for the work. It asked Group Leaders to nominate a members' group to review them. Policy papers are being prepared on the following key priorities:
 - 3.1 Independent Local Government;
 - 3.2 Growth;
 - 3.3 Good adult social care;
 - 3.4 Future children's services;
 - 3.5 Welfare reform; and
 - 3.6 Sustainable future funding.
4. A range of other supporting activities are either under way or planned including the following:
 - 4.1 Review of the papers by a small group of members nominated by the political groups;
 - 4.2 Presentation of relevant papers to Boards and Panels;
 - 4.3 Discussion of the idea of the New Model at Regional Roadshows;

- 4.4 Detailed discussions on the individual subject areas at specific 'Deep Dives'; and
- 4.5 Other events where there is an opportunity to develop the initiative further.
- 5. By the time of the 13 February meeting, most Leadership Board members had received initial copies of these papers. They considered that in order to be successful we needed to present some more radical proposals. The policy papers attached do not yet reflect this observation, but the point is being taken on board fully in the various discussions outlined above.
- 6. A verbal briefing on the latest position on this initiative will be provided at the meeting. Further reports will be brought to future meetings of Leadership Board to provide updates on progress and to seek formal endorsement of later iterations of these papers. The purpose of discussions at this meeting will be to help inform discussions at the events and activities outlined above.
- 7. There will be a further opportunity for discussion at the Councillors' Forum on 14 March, where this subject will be the main item on the agenda. Leadership Board may therefore wish to suggest issues and questions on which it would like Councillors' Forum's views.

Next steps

- 8. The New Model project is progressing according to plan and the contributions of Board members are sought.