

LGA Group Business Plan - update

Summary

At their March meeting, members discussed the development of an LGA Group Economy and Transport Programme plan. This paper presents an updated version of the programme plan that reflects both members' comments and further officer discussions.

Members were in particular concerned about linkages between the Group's Programmes. Officers have since discussed ways of ensuring that these can be addressed through the Group structures, including the proposed Programme Boards.

The attached programme plan has been reviewed in the light of what we know about the new government's priorities, but members will wish to note that there are some areas where our Programme Plan still rests on assumptions about the government's policy that may need to be revised as the year goes on.

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree the attached LGA Group Economy and Transport Programme plan.

Action

Officers to pursue the actions outlined in the programme plan.

24 May 2010

LGA Group – Programme Plan

Theme – Economy

Priority	What we are looking to achieve	Outputs	Who	When
<p>Councils sustaining economic recovery</p>	<p>Demonstrating that councils provide economic leadership in their places and supporting them in that role;</p> <p>Building councils' capacity to exercise leadership and develop their ambitions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Economic Assessment Community of Practice - Economic development web resource including substantial resources on Local - Economic Assessment guidance and diagnostic tools - Economic development peer reviews and peer challenges - Council support for niche manufacturing sectors: best practice guidance - Support for councils in commissioning and developing the green 	<p>IDeA and LGA</p>	<p>Through the year</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

		<p>industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Leadership Academy modules ◆ Active capacity-building, working with RIEPs ◆ Continue to develop the Partnerships and Places e-library and case study resource 	LGA/IDeA	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2012</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
People, jobs and skills	Ensuring councils have the tools to help tackle youth unemployment in their places, including support with apprenticeships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue to advocate for and support councils' role in developing employment opportunities for young people, including the Future Jobs Fund and any successor programmes. ◆ Group work programme on apprenticeships ◆ Continuing lobbying based on our Hidden talents work; ◆ Help develop mechanisms to enable information sharing between councils ◆ Evaluation of the NYA NEET engagement project 	<p>IDeA/LGE/LGA</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>IDeA/LGE</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>IDeA</p>	<p>[date?]</p> <p>[date?]</p> <p>[date?]</p> <p>[date?]</p>
	Help councils tackle worklessness locally and advocate for better solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities of Practice for the National Worklessness Learning Forum and on Apprenticeships 	<p>IDeA</p> <p>IDeA</p>	<p>Now</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good practice guidance on tackling worklessness including “How To” guides. - Guidance and good practice on procurement and worklessness ◆ Guidance, good practice and networking on councils as employers using apprenticeships and tackling youth unemployment ◆ Programme to promote financial capability and inclusion projects to help people back into work, and ‘make work pay’ for those on the margins of the benefits system ◆ Promote, to the new government, the council role in addressing complex issues of worklessness, youth unemployment and social breakdown ◆ Drawing on the experience of the National Worklessness Learning Forum, advocate for local authority role in tackling long-term worklessness. 	<p>IDeA/LGE</p> <p>LGA/LACORS</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>LGA/IDeA</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>LGA</p>	<p>May onwards</p> <p>Now</p> <p>May onwards</p> <p>April</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>April</p> <p>Soon</p> <p>April</p> <p>[date?]</p>
	Ensure councils have influence over skills provision in their areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lobby for fully devolved responsibility for skills in any new system 	LGA	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lobby for full use of the potential for devolution of the SFA's responsibilities ◆ Lobby for extension of commissioning powers on skills funding on a non-statutory basis ◆ Help councils and FE providers work better together locally by influencing national frameworks and guidance; promote FE college role on LSPs/LAAs/MAAs 	<p>LGA</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>LGA</p>	<p>May onwards</p> <p>May onwards</p>
<p>Local integrated transport commissioning</p>	<p>Lobby for affordable local commissioning of bus services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Offer to new government about the future funding of bus subsidy. ◆ A cohesive sector response to future developments on Concessionary Fares ◆ Evidence to the Competition Commission inquiry into competition within the Bus industry ◆ Ensure the role of airports and air travel in long-distance passenger transport is appropriately considered (Joint with LGA Environment Programme) 	<p>LGA</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>LGA</p> <p>LGA</p>	

	Lobby for devolved responsibility for integrated transport planning and funding and support councils in their role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Case study report on use of new Local Transport Act 09 powers ◆ Lobbying activity, linked to lobbying progress on public services governance and infrastructure funding 	<p>IDeA</p> <p>LGA</p>	
Devolution of economic governance	<p>Lobby for devolution of funding and decision-making and build council capacity to exercise new devolved roles, often in collaboration</p> <p>Make the case for a better way of planning and funding the infrastructure the country needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lobbying for councils and sub-regional groupings of councils (building on MAAs and City-Regions) to be the delivery architecture for public services ◆ MAA best practice and support ◆ Lobbying on LGA key messages about efficiency and accountability benefits of devolving power over public services to local and sub-regional levels, linked to the overall LGA position on the future governance of public services. 	LACORS	
Better regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consistency in enforcement, ensuring a level playing field alongside targeting rogue traders removing unnecessary burdens and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Relevant briefings, guidance case studies etc to support councils delivery of regulation. 	LACORS	

	<p>red tape for businesses.</p> <p>A strategy for regulation and local regulatory services, beyond the current economic recession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Businesses working across council boundaries effectively supported and regulated. ◆ Support councils in dealing with credit and debt law advice ◆ Removing unnecessary regulations and red tape that add unnecessary or excessive burdens to businesses and councils ◆ Council regulatory services recognised as contributing to the local economy. <p>SME's effectively supported by council regulatory services.</p>	<p>An effective engagement strategy with key government senior politicians and officials with an incoming government, along with senior representatives of the business community including the CBI, BRS, FSB and BCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue to support council home authority partnerships and the transition of lead authority partnerships; for councils giving business advice. ◆ Work with Birmingham City Council to facilitate training on lead authority ◆ Respond to all poor regulation proposals. ◆ Sharing case studies and examples of innovation and best practice with other councils. <p>Develop a project proposal on a costs benefits basis to identify the needs of SME's from locally delivered regulatory services and explore how the sector with key stakeholders could more effectively support local regulators</p>	<p>LACORS</p>	
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		to meet those needs.		
Infrastructure for growth	Make the case for a better way of planning and funding the infrastructure the country needs	Review of evidence on the benefits of investing in infrastructure spending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Report on the case for, and benefits of, investment in transport infrastructure ◆ Lobby for partnerships of councils to take a strong role in strategic planning (Joint with LGA Environment Programme) ◆ Lobbying for new funding mechanisms for infrastructure investment 	LGA LGA LGA	April