

Appointments to Outside Bodies 2009-2010

Summary

The LGA has recently reviewed its appointments to outside bodies, looking at both the range of appointments to which the LGA appoints and the process by which these appointments are made.

At its meeting on 16 July, the LGA Executive endorsed a list of organisations to which the LGA currently appoints member representatives and a list of LGA member champion roles. The Executive also endorsed a new procedure for LGA appointments to outside bodies (**Appendix C**)

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- note the attached new procedure for appointment to outside bodies;
- appoint to outside bodies in accordance with the new procedure, ensuring that the bodies to which they wish to appoint accurately reflect LGA priorities;
- ***make their leading member aware, before 19 September, if they are interested in representing the Board on any of these outside bodies,***
- that members currently representing this Board on outside bodies provide any appropriate feedback from recent meetings
- provide the LGA Executive October meeting with the Board's 2009-2010 list of outside body appointments.

Action

Lead members to refresh the Board's representation on outside bodies at their next Lead Members' meeting.

Officers to inform outside bodies of any changes in, or confirm continuation of, LGA representatives.

Officers to confirm appointments directly to members and also via a paper for information to the next appropriate ***full Environment Board meeting***.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Background

1. The LGA currently benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies. However, the LGA could be making better use of these appointments, both in terms of communicating our key lobbying messages and in intelligence gathering.
2. In 2002, the Scrutiny Panel undertook an investigation of LGA appointments to Outside Bodies and their final report was presented to the General Assembly in July 2003. The panel reinforced the importance of ensuring the LGA was appropriately represented on outside bodies, that the process was clear and that members attending meetings of outside bodies were well briefed.
3. While their recommendations were accepted in full by the LGA and in several areas have been adopted, their implementation has been inconsistent.

Preparations for September 2009

4. In preparation for the start of the new board cycle in September, we have been reviewing our approach to making appointments to outside bodies with the aim of ensuring that the good practice adopted following the Scrutiny Panel review is implemented consistently across the organisation.
5. A list of the organisations to which the **Environment Board** currently appoints member representatives is attached as **Appendix A**. This list also details where Councillors have been returned to the Board in the new cycle and where changes in membership have created a vacancy on an outside body.
6. A list of current LGA portfolio holders has also been drafted and a copy of that list is at **Appendix B**. **The Environment Board** does not currently have a member carrying out a champion role.
7. A new database for centrally recording all the information relating to appointments has been created and is held by the Member Services team.
8. In order to clarify the process for making appointments; the method of recording information on appointments; and to set out the level of support we will offer to appointed members, a new procedure has been drawn up (**Appendix C**). This procedure incorporates the scrutiny panel's recommendations and will be implemented from September 2009. The Scrutiny Panel agreed this procedure at their meeting on 6 July 2009 and the procedure was endorsed by the LGA Executive at its meeting on 17 July 2009.

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9. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA Group for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.

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