

Item 6

Update on other Board Business

Purpose of report

Members to note the following:

- EU update
- Members' Feedback
- Any other Business

Recommendation

Members to note the reports.

Action

Members are invited to feedback the outcomes of recent Outside Body and other meetings.

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EU update

General

1. Almost all council services are affected by EU laws in one way or another from energy efficiency, equalities, procurement, recycling, waste and working hours. Councils also benefit from EU structural funds as well as a whole host of other funds. Thus, the LGA manages a lobbying programme so we can maximise the opportunities for councils to gain EU cash and to minimise the burden of proposals for new regulation.
2. In September, the LGA launched a brand new and in-depth national intelligence service to help its member authorities get more out of the European Union (EU). It includes:
 - 2.1 new **monthly [EU lobbying tracker](#)** highlighting key EU legislation and policy which could affect our member authorities, what LG Group is doing about it on their behalf, how they can get involved in our lobbying, and finally details of when key EU legislation becomes UK law, which our member authorities implement.
 - 2.2 New **[EU funding tracker](#)** providing information about valuable EU funding opportunities which could benefit the needs of our member authorities and the communities which they serve.

All members are encouraged to [register](#) or [sign up via your account](#).

E&I Programme Board

3. The European and International (E&I) Programme Board will provide strategic oversight and coordinate the Group's E&I work. It is composed of representatives from each of the other eight programme boards. Each representative's role is to champion the integration of EU lobbying within their nominating board play a role in developing strategic oversight of the Group's E&I work. The first meeting takes place on Friday 26 November. Membership is near complete, and is highlighted below:

Name	Nominated from
Dave Wilcox (Lab)	Chair
Richard Kemp (Lib Dem)	Vice Chair
Sandra Barnes (Con)	Deputy Chair
Linda Gilham (ind)	Deputy Chair
tbc	Children and Young

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	People
Liz Eyre (Con)	Community Wellbeing
David Lloyd (Con)	Culture, Tourism & Sport
Peter Box (Lab)	Economy and Transport
Paula Baker (Lib Dem)	Environment & Housing
tbc (Con)	Improvement
Nilgun Canver (Lab)	Safer & Stronger Comms
Roger Phillips (Con)	Workforce
Albert Bore (Lab)	Rep from external body
Gordon Keymer (Con)	Rep from external body
Graham Tope (Lib Dem)	Rep from external body

LG Group EU priorities 2011 and beyond

4. On Wednesday 27 October, the European Commission published its legislative programme for 2011 (the Brussels version of the Queen's speech).
5. The LGA European team, and relevant colleagues from across the Group identified those EU initiatives which could affect councils in coming years from a funding, cost, or regulatory point of view (appended). We will need to work through programme boards to prioritise and ensure we drive the right messages in Westminster, Whitehall and Brussels.
6. Our lobbying priorities will be agreed at the November meeting of the E&I programme board. From the long-list, we suggest our lobbying priorities should be:
 - 6.1 **EU budget:** ensure councils get their fair share of structural funds, and that they are better managed in England
 - 6.2 Simplifying **EU waste legislation:** need to ensure simplifying plethora of EU laws does not increase burden and cost on councils
 - 6.3 **Directive on energy efficiency:** new law may introduce national targets, and there will be a focus on the public sector
 - 6.4 Directive on **Water Efficiency of Buildings:** possible targets/thresholds for public buildings
 - 6.5 **Coordinating EU Public Procurement law:** big issue for councils as current rules are too complex and costly.
 - 6.6 Legislative proposals on **VAT on public authorities:** this aims to create a level playing field between private companies and public authorities through a neutral VAT system.
 - 6.7 New **trading standards** regulation
 - 6.8 **Revision of Working Time Directive** and a range of new workforce issues

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7. Our general principles are that the EU legislates only when absolutely necessary, with a maximum of consultation, forewarning and financial assistance, leaving it to local councils and the UK government to work out the detail.
8. These principles are further reinforced by the spending pressures which will continue to have a significant impact on councils. We need to make sure any new legislative proposals which might affect local services, do not put excessive pressure on our member authorities.