

LGA Business Planning 2013/14

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report invites the Board to express views about the shape of the LGA's Business Plan for 2013/14.

Recommendation

That the Board provide views and guidance about the shape of the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14.

Action

Members' views to be fed into the development of the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14.

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Business Planning 2013/14

Background

1. The process of developing the Business Plan for 2013/14 has begun and is due to be signed off by the LGA Executive in March.
2. The LGA Leadership Board at its meeting on 17 October provided a high level steer on the LGA's priorities for 2013/14 (see **Appendix 5a**). The LGA's Boards are now being asked to develop proposals for next year to inform the more detailed business plan and budget.
3. Members are invited to offer initial views in to the process. It is anticipated that the overall budget for 2013/14 will be broadly in line with this year's budget and that the five priorities remain relevant but with a sharper focus on economic growth, funding and public service reform.
4. By way of background members will be aware that the work of the Environment and Housing Board relates directly to all five of the current priorities. These are:
 - 4.1 **Public service reform** – councils are at the centre, and seen to be at the centre, of public service reform and delivering more effective services for local people;
 - 4.2 **Growth, jobs and prosperity** – councils are recognised as central to economic growth;
 - 4.3 **Funding for local government** – reform of the public sector finance system so councils raise more funds locally, have confidence their financing is sustainable and fair, and greater ability to co-ordinate local public services;
 - 4.4 **Efficiency and productivity** – councils dramatically reduce costs in ways which minimise the impact on the quality of life for their residents; and
 - 4.5 **Sector-led improvement** – councils are the most improved part of the public sector, and local politicians and senior managers lead the transformation of local places.
5. The Leadership Board's initial view is that the efficiency and productivity priority should become part of the Public Service reform objective and that sector led improvement should be core to everything the LGA does and underpin all of the three priorities.

Reflecting the Environment and Housing Board's priorities in the Business Plan

6. At the September meeting of the Board, members confirmed the below four objectives for the current year:
 - 6.1 **Growth. Objective:** To promote the positive role that councils play in driving economic growth through their roles on planning, housing and supporting green

industries and to present an evidenced case for the powers and flexibilities to allow them to go further.

- 6.2 **Waste.** *Objective:* To champion local innovation in waste management and lobby for greater local decision making on waste, as the only means of addressing future funding gaps in waste.
 - 6.3 **Sustainability and Carbon Reduction.** *Objective:* To champion councils as confident leaders of action on carbon reduction and climate resilience to the benefit of local communities and local economies and to ensure they have flexibilities and adequate access to resources available to support local initiatives.
 - 6.4 **Flooding – managing flood risk and building resilience.** *Objective:* To ensure that flood defences are properly planned for and funded and to make the case for adequate funding for exceptional flood damage, including insurance cover.
7. The Environment and Housing Board is therefore asked to focus on the following questions in respect of the work of the Board:
- 7.1 Do the LGA's three top priorities, (set out in the 2013/14 Business Plan - initial proposition at **Appendix 5a**), capture what the LGA should be focussing on and trying to achieve for maximum impact on behalf of our members;
 - 7.2 How should the Environment and Housing Board's work be reflected in and contribute to the those top priorities, and;
 - 7.3 The Environment and Housing Board has already agreed its priorities for its ongoing work programme. If we achieve the objectives set out at the September meeting, how will our objectives change in the future? What have we found out about what works and what doesn't work over the last year? What should we be doing more of? What should we be stopping or doing less of?

Conclusion and next steps

8. Members are invited to offer their views to feed into the process for developing the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14.

Financial Implications

9. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.