

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: LGA European & International Board
Date and time: Tuesday 6 March 2012, 10.50am
Venue: Herculaneum / Huskisson Room, Liverpool

Attendance

| Position | Councillor | Council |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Chair | Dave Wilcox OBE | Derbyshire CC |
| Vice Chair | Richard Kemp CBE | Liverpool City |
| Deputy Chair | Marco Cereste | Peterborough City |
| Deputy Chair | Linda Gillham | Runnymede BC |
| Members | Phil Grove | Malvern Hills DC |
| | Nilgun Canver | Haringey LB |
| | Guy Nicholson | Hackney LB |
| | Liz Eyre | Worcestershire CC |
| | Sherma Batson MBE DL | Stevenage BC |
| Apologies | Zulfiqar Ali | Rochdale MBC |
| | Lord Graham Tope CBE | Sutton LB |
| | Sir Albert Bore | Birmingham City |
| | Gordon Keymer CBE | Tandridge DC |
| | Keith Glazier | East Sussex CC |
| | Sandra Barnes MBE | South Northamptonshire DC |
| External Representatives | Councillor Flo Clucas (Liverpool City Council), Simon Nokes (New Economy, Manchester), Martin Eyres (Liverpool City Council) and Sean McGrath (Lancashire County Council) | |
| Officers | Ian Hughes, Jasbir Jhas, Richard Kitt and Frances Marshall | |

Part 1 – Board Meeting

| Item | Decisions and actions | Action by |
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Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted all those apologies received. He welcomed Councillor Flo Clucas, the President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, to the meeting.

1 Delivering our lobbying priorities

Ian Hughes (Head of Programmes) and Jasbir Jhas (Senior Adviser) introduced the item, which set out the LGA's emerging corporate priorities and mapped key players in Brussels and Whitehall with influence over the development of EU policy in the LGA's priority areas. Members were asked to comment on the European and International (E&I) Board's priorities, recommend priorities within the Board's lobbying campaign and discuss how to involve Board Members in lobbying where they would be best placed to influence decision-makers.

A detailed discussion followed, in which Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- Members discussed the relationship between central and local government in terms of trade development and investment, as well as the potential role for the councils in encouraging trade development. Members emphasised the pivotal role of the sector in delivering successful local investment and confirmed the value of comparing and contrasting practises outside of the UK, particularly in relation to exploring how best to support local authorities with the new powers granted to them through the Localism Bill.
- In terms of taking the Board's work programme forward, there was agreement that the next steps should be to condense and focus the Board's lobbying priorities, once the LGA Executive had agreed the final business plan. This process would take into consideration resources as well as Members' expertise. Members would then be equipped to take forward the Board's lobbying priorities into the political arena.

- Members discussed mechanisms for maximising the use of Member and officer resources in the Board's lobbying activities. These included: Members to identify where they have contacts with key decision makers that they would be willing to work with to support the LGA's EU lobbying priorities; that prior to a meeting with a key decision maker, Board Members have the option of receiving a short briefing on E&I matters which would be of relevance to the politician; increasing the involvement of the LGA Vice Presidents in the EU Parliament in LGA lobbying activities; and expanding LGA lobbying activities to include individuals based outside of the UK.

Decision

That the Board:-

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **asked** that Members' comments as detailed above be taken into consideration in the development of the Board's lobbying campaign.

Action

Following the agreement of the final business plan, streamline the Board's lobbying priorities. Report back to the next European and International Board meeting.

Ian Hughes

Identify where Board Members' have contacts with key decision makers who have influence over the development of EU policy in the LGA priority areas. Report back to the next European and International Board meeting.

**Ian Hughes /
Frances
Marshall**

Take Members' comments into consideration in the development of the Board's lobbying campaign.

Ian Hughes

2 International Activities Update

Ian Hughes provided a verbal summary of the report, which updated Members on externally funded international project activities, including: the Pan-African Peer Review project, DIFID contracts and the Kosovo training project. In particular, he drew attention to the following issues not referred to in the report:-

Pan-African Peer Review project:-

- The role of the E&I Board in reviewing the project.

- The potential opportunity for continued LGA involvement with the pan-African LGA.
- The wide exposure and positive publicity the project had received. A Municipal Journal article was circulated to Members for information.

DIFID contracts:-

- The need for a political steer from Members to decide whether to bid for contracts, once they had been advertised.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- Support for an interim review of the Pan-African Peer Review project to take on board any lessons to be learned from the experiences gained so far.
- The success of the four day training programme for African peers and the role of LGA staff in delivering this.
- Questions regarding the peer recruitment process.
- A discussion regarding the development of the Centre for Island Government and the potential for collaboration with the LGA.

Decision

That the Board:-

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **asked** that their comments be taken into account in the development of the Board's international activities.

Action

Take Members' comments into account in the development of the Board's international activities.

Ian Hughes

3. Update on reform of EU procurement rules

Ian Hughes outlined the report which updated Members on the LGA and the CEMR's (European LGA's) proposals to reform the EU procurement rules. In doing so he drew attention to the key issues and invited Members to provide a steer in terms of the next stage of the lobbying programme.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- Questions regarding the timescale and process for approval of the directive.
- Existing links with stakeholders and politicians with similar objectives to the LGA regarding the development of the new directive, as well as scope for expanding these linkages.
- That given the significance of the proposed changes, regular updates be brought to the Board on developments relating to reform of EU procurement rules.

Decision

That the Board:-

- noted** the LGA's and CEMR's response to the European Commission's proposal for a new directive on public procurement; and
- asked** that the Board receive regular updates on EU procurement reform developments.

Action

Provide regular updates to the European and International Board on EU procurement reform developments.

**Dominic
Rowles**

4 European and International Programme Board Update

Ian Hughes outlined the key aspects of the report which provided Members with an update on recent LGA international work and current projects taking place. He made particular reference to the nomination process for the Congress of the Council of Europe and an LGA organised exhibition at the March plenary to mark the UK simultaneously holding the Presidency of the Congress and the Chairmanship

of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Decision

That the Board **noted** the report.

5 Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were **agreed**.

6 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 21 May 2012 at 11am in Peterborough.

7. Briefing Note for Future EU Funding Seminar

The briefing noted was **noted**.

8. AOB - Magna Carta Anniversary

Councillor Gillham informed Members about a programme of celebrations leading up to the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, one of which was the development of an Interpretation Centre at Runnymede. With reference to a £3.5 million funding gap, she asked that if any Members had any ideas or contacts regarding sponsorship, to approach her after the meeting.

Part 2 – Future EU Funding Seminar

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9. Future EU Funding Seminar

The Chair welcomed representatives from three regional Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs): Simon Nokes (New Economy, Manchester), Martin Eyres (Liverpool City Council) and Sean McGrath (Lancashire County Council).

Jasbir Jhas and Richard Kitt (Senior Advisers) provided a PowerPoint presentation on the evolving European funding landscape. They briefly set out EU proposals to better integrate funds and set out Whitehall's thinking on future funding programmes, which included a role for the sector in local delivery. Joined up discussions between the LGA and our member authorities with five relevant Government departments,

under 'Chatham House' rules, had led to positive conversations with Government on delivery, management and commissioning structures. With reference to this opportunity to influence Government thinking, Jasbir Jhas and Richard Kitt outlined the LGA's future lobbying priorities in Whitehall and Brussels and emphasised the need to provide a coherent yet diverse local government response.

As the Chair of the temporary ad hoc Commission on the EU Budget, Councillor Flo Clucas updated Members on the Commission's work with regard to the EU financial framework. She outlined the ad hoc Commission's key priorities, which were generally agreed upon by all states and parties, and indicated that there would be considerable support for the LGA's priorities within Brussels. With reference to three key strategies of significant interest to the United Kingdom, (Atlantic Region, North Sea and English Channel strategies), she emphasised the importance of LGA representation in Brussels and continued support for Committee of the Region representatives.

Simon Nokes provided a verbal presentation on the development of, and collaboration between, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the North West of England. He circulated a document setting out an initial response from the LEP for Greater Manchester regarding the prospects for EU funding post 2013. He expressed cautious optimism in terms of influencing the debate in Brussels on the future of structural funds, however noted that it was for individual member states to take-up and interpret the new regulations. He spoke in support of regional and local flexibility offering a range of delivery models, rather than a nationally prescribed programme. Simon Nokes, Martin Eyres and Sean McGrath updated Members on the progress made in developing a delivery model across councils and LEPs in the North West which focused on areas of mutual interest as well as providing flexibility for autonomy on local issues. Initial discussions had been held with Government regarding the developing of the model; however there was still considerable further work to do.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment and suggest further ways in which the LGA could support councils through lobbying and practical activities. In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- The timescale for development of the North West delivery model and mechanisms for operation.

- The scope for exploring regionally diverse LEP delivery models and the imperative that draft models be submitted to the relevant Government departments as soon as possible to help shape Government's thinking. It was unclear whether the Government's flexible approach to delivery included different types of models within Greater London.
- The capacity for cross regional LEP coordination and future plans to develop a national LEP network through the British Chamber of Commerce.
- The importance of effectively integrating EU and domestic funds as well as match funding public and private sector investment.
- The need to strengthen the democratic accountability and transparency of LEPs.
- That an update on the EU Strategy for the Atlantic Region be brought to a future meeting.

Decision

That the Board: -

- i. **noted** the presentations; and
- ii. **asked** for an update to a future meeting on the Atlantic Region Strategy.

Action

Bring a report on the Atlantic Region Strategy to a future meeting of the European & International Board.

Ian Hughes