

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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<b>Title:</b>	European & International Board
<b>Date and time:</b>	Monday 21 May 2012, 11.00 am
<b>Venue:</b>	Peterborough City Council, Peterborough Town Hall

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### Attendance

<b>Position</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council</b>
Chair	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
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
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC
	Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
Apologies	Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB
	Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City
	Cllr Richard Kemp OBE	Liverpool City
External Representatives	Phil Newby (Green Ventures), Charlotte Palmer (PCC), Jenny Line (PCC), Teresa Wood (PCC) and Simon Machen (PCC)	
Officers	Ian Hughes, Jasbir Jhas, Dominic Rowles, Dan McCartney and Frances Marshall	

**Part 1 – Board Meeting**

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted all those apologies received.</p>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>European and International contribution to the LGA business plan</b></p> <p>Ian Hughes (Head of Programmes) introduced the item which set out the European and International (E&amp;I) Board's contribution to delivering the LGA's business plan priorities for 2012/13. In outlining the Board's focus on these priorities, he invited Members' views on the Board's 'offer to councils' and on the possibility of a delegation of Board Members lobbying UK Members of European Parliament (MEPs) in advance of key Parliamentary votes on EU funding reform in October.</p> <p>A detailed discussion followed, in which Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That for the 'offer' to be deliverable, resources would need to be made available for Members and officers to lobby in Brussels where necessary.</li><li>• In discussing the approach and resources required to deliver on the Board's cross cutting priorities, it was agreed that officers would create a wider-ranging compendium brief to support Members in their lobbying activities prior to party conference season in the autumn.</li><li>• It was suggested that the LGA political group offices could be utilised as a lobbying resource, such as organising briefings when MEP's were in London and at party conferences.</li><li>• In discussing ways to strengthen the Board's links with the work of European decision making bodies, a number of different views were expressed. It was agreed that in future, a written update report would be submitted to every Board meeting setting out any key developments from relevant European decision making bodies, which were related to the Board's six priority areas.</li></ul>	

- A discussion arose regarding mechanisms for supporting local authorities in securing investment from EU funds and how the support available from regional LGA's differed across regions. Whilst it was noted that there was a shift towards regional LGA's assuming responsibility for liaising with the national coordinator for a specific EU funding stream, Members asked that officers explore whether further support from the LGA could be put in place to help local authorities identify and bid for EU funding.
- There was unanimous support for involving Members of the Board in lobbying UK MEPs in advance of key Parliamentary votes on EU funding reform in October.

### **Decisions**

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 campaigns.

### **Action**

Provide Members with a wider-ranging lobbying brief prior to the political party conferences.	Jasbir Jhas / Richard Kitt
Include an update at every Board meeting on the work of the European decision making bodies, relating to the Board's six priority areas.	Richard Kitt / Dominic Rowles
Explore whether further support could be put in place to help local authorities identify and bid for EU funding.	Ian Hughes
Arrange a lobbying event in Brussels in advance of the key Parliamentary votes on funding reform.	Ian Hughes / Richard Kitt

## **2 Member lobbying strategies 2012**

Jasbir Jas (Senior Advisor) and Dominic Rowles (Advisor) summarised the Board's six key lobbying strategies, with support from Dan McCartney (Advisor) in relation to the directive on energy efficiency. In doing so, they outlined the policy background and context for each strategy and invited Members' views on the strategies and opportunities for Member involvement.

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

- **Reform of EU public procurement rules**

In discussing the long term implications for local authorities of the proposed reforms to procurement, it was noted that Worcestershire County Council had developed case studies which forecasted care commission over a three year period, which would help evidence the LGA's lobbying position. Councillor Eyre agreed to work with LGA officers to help promote local government's key messages regarding procurement to Chair of the European Parliament's Committee for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

- **Directive on energy efficiency**

In discussing the directive, a number of different views were expressed regarding the scope for, and relative advantages and disadvantage of negotiation within the draft legislation. Members were however united in their concerns regarding the ability of councils to achieve the binding targets set by the directive and the possibility of fines for local authorities that fail to meet these standards.

### **Decisions**

That the Board:

- noted** the report; and
- agreed** to regularly update the parliamentary contacts list.

### **Actions**

Support Councillor Eyre with lobbying work around the long term impact of procurement proposals on councils.

Dominic  
Rowles

Maintain a running list of Board Member contacts in the European Parliament and Westminster.

Frances  
Marshall

### **3. EU Funds Post 2013 - Update and lobbying strategy**

Ian Hughes briefly outlined the report which updated Members on current lobbying activities related to EU funds. He reiterated the Board's earlier agreement to organise a Member-led lobby visit to Brussels during September and indicated that the Board would discuss EU funds in more detail at the July Board meeting. The two local authority EU Structural Fund practitioners that had been seconded to the Department for Business, Skills and Innovation (BIS) to be part of the UK negotiation team on the future of EU funds would also be attending the July Board.

#### **Decision**

That the Board **noted** the report.

#### **Action**

The July Board to include a substantive item on future EU funding for 2014-2020. Nick Porter

### **4 Representation on International Bodies**

Ian Hughes outlined the key aspects of the report which updated Members on the impact of the 3 May 2012 local elections on UK delegations to international bodies. In addition to tabling a copy of the LGA's new political balance for 2012/13, he drew attention to the imminent requirement to launch the renewal of UK Delegation to Congress for 2012-16.

#### **Decisions**

That the Board:

- (i) **noted** the report; and
- (ii) **agreed** that appropriate steps be taken for nominations to be made to the various international bodies.

#### **Action**

Undertake appropriate steps to ensure nominations to be made to the various international bodies.

Richard Kitt

**5 Update on International work**

Given time limitations, it was agreed that the item be deferred and that a written update be submitted to the July Board for discussion.

**Decision**

That the item be **deferred** until the July Board meeting.

**Action**

A written update report to be submitted to the July Board.

Ivor Wells

**6 Notes of the last meeting**

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

**7. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 11 July 2012 at 11am in London.

**8. Briefing Note for EU Environmental Policy**

The briefing noted was **noted**.

**Part 2 – Future EU Environmental Policy**

**9. EU Environmental Policy**

The Chair welcomed representatives from Peterborough City Council and Phil Newby from Green Ventures. Phil provided a visual presentation outlining the collaborative work undertaken by Peterborough City Council and Green Ventures to meet the environmental challenges faced by the City. The 'Peterborough Model', utilised and centralised existing data by placing it on a common open platform (in this case Google Earth), which enabled the City Council and its partners to apply a highly visual planning process. He provided specific examples of how a variety of different social and environmental data sets, interacting on a common platform, had accelerated cooperation between partners in the City to address long term environmental and social issues.

Members welcomed the informative update and made a number of comments, which were responded to by PCC officers and Phil Newby.

**Decision**

That the Board **noted** the presentation.