

European and International Board

Agenda

Wednesday 11 July 2012
11.00am

Smith Square, Rooms 3 & 4
Local Government House
Smith Square
LONDON
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the European and International Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your badge when you depart.

European & International Board

11 July 2012

The European & International Board meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11 July 2012 at 11.00am**, Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4, **Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.**

A sandwich lunch will be available from 1.00pm.

Apologies

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

Labour: Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative: Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Attendance Sheet

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Location

A map showing the location of Local Government House printed on the back cover.

Contact

Frances Marshall (Tel: 020 7664 3220, email: frances.marshall@local.gov.uk)

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European & International Board - Membership 2011-2012

Councillor	Authority	Role
Conservative (6)		
Gr. Off. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI [Deputy Chair]	Peterborough City	
Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC	Rural Commission
Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC	
Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC	
Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC	
Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC	Audit & Scrutiny Panel
Labour (5)		
Dave Wilcox OBE (Chair)	Derbyshire CC	Councillors' Forum
Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City	
Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB	Economy & Transport Board
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC	
Substitute:		
Richard Williams	Southampton City	Environment & Housing Board
Liberal Democrat (2)		
Richard Kemp CBE [Vice- Chair]	Liverpool City	
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB	
Independent (1)		
Linda Gillham [Deputy Chair]	Runnymede BC	
Substitute:		
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council	

LGA European & International Board Attendance 2011-2012

Councillors	31.10.11	17.1.12	6.3.12	21.5.12	11.7.12
Conservative Group					
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sandra Barnes MBE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Gordon Keymer CBE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Keith Glazier	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Liz Eyre	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Phil Grove	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Labour Group					
David Wilcox OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sir Albert Bore	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Nilgun Canver	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Guy Nicholson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Lib Dem Group					
Richard Kemp CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Zulfiqar Ali	Yes	No	No	N/A	N/A
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Yes	No	No	No	
Independent					
Linda Gillham	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Substitutes					
Roger Dennison		Yes			

Agenda

European and International Board

Wednesday 11 July 2012

11.00am

Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4, Local Government House, London

For discussion

	Item	Page	Time
1.	Update on International work	3	11.00am
2.	EU Funds Post 2013 - Update and Lobby Strategy	9	11.50am
	Speaker: Sue Baxter, Deputy Director of EU Programmes, Economic Development Directorate at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) who is leading the UK negotiations on structural fund reform.		
	Speaker: Kevin Richardson, a local authority EU Structural Fund practitioner seconded to BIS as part of the UK negotiating team on EU structural fund reform.		
	Speaker: Adrian Cannard, Chief Executive of the East of England LGA (EELGA) to talk about the service EELGA offers councils to support EU funding applications.		

For information

	Item	Page	Time
3.	Board EU lobbying priorities – Round-up of activity	15	12.40pm
4.	End of Year Review - 2011/12	23	12.50pm
5.	Notes of the last meeting	27	12.55pm
6.	Date of next meeting – Monday 17 September 2012 at 11am in Local Government House, London.		

Update on International work

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report summarises progress being made on the international work.

At the Board meeting, LGA officers will provide a more detailed presentation on recent work and set out some of the options for future work in this area.

Recommendation

Members are asked to comment and make any recommendations for officers to action.

Action

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Programmes
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Update on International work

Background

1. The LGA's international work is delivered based on a number of key principles:
 - 1.1 All our work is based on demand from sister LGAs or councils in developing countries.
 - 1.2 The funding of projects is resourced from external sources.
 - 1.3 Delivery is based on practitioner-to-practitioner support.
2. There is increasing demand from abroad upon the UK local government sector. It should be noted that as councils in the developing world tend to prefer support from current practitioners rather than costly consultants. It is more effective, more sustainable, less expensive and provides for long-term relationships which make a difference. With a limited resource base to meet this demand, the LGA looks to sources of external funding to help develop projects.
3. In the past we have worked extensively with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) as well as a range of agencies that support capacity building and development work at the local level. This paper sets out the context of our current position, as well as planned future activities.

Past sources of support

4. In recent years, the LGA and councils' primary source of funding for international work was through funding from CLGF's Good Practise Scheme for capacity. This was a Department for International Development (DFID) supported programme which came to an end in October 2011. In the past, it funded work to support the exchange of best practice and capacity building between Commonwealth local government.
5. CLGF is now in discussion with the DFID regarding ongoing funding to support Commonwealth local government. This could include opportunities for UK local government to contribute. The LGA has been liaising with CLGF regarding progress on these discussions and ensuring LGA support to the bidding process is available when necessary.
6. Whilst CLGF is no longer the single source of support for UK councils work, it is a very important body and it is important that we help secure future funding for the organisation.

Current activities

7. This section sets out some of the current work being undertaken by the LGA, based on demand from developing nations and external funding.

African Peer Review Project

8. The LGA has been commissioned by United Cities & Local Governments Africa (UCLGA), through a programme funding by Luxembourg, to pilot peer review in five African countries to help enhance the capacity of local government across the continent. Our model of self-regulation and peer challenge was seen as a good transferable model of development. UCLGA hope to use the pilots to roll out a programme of review across local government.
9. The first of these five pilot reviews has now been completed in the municipality of Otjiwarongo in Namibia. Two UK peers supported the project (Councillor Martin Curtis from Cambridgeshire County Council and Allen Graham, Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Borough Council). Their role was to support and shadow the Vice Chairman of the Burundian LGA and the Chief Executive of Dakar City in Senegal as part of a transfer of expertise.
10. Feedback from officers and members in Otjiwarongo, the Secretary General of UCLGA and the returning UK peers has been very positive and this has been a solid start to the delivery phase of the programme.
11. The LGA's Programmes and Peer Support Teams will also be capturing feedback and lessons learned from all peers involved in each of the five reviews in order to maximise the learning opportunities that such a unique project provides.
12. More details of the future reviews and recent learning will be given in the presentation.

Kosovo

13. The LGA has been a contributor to Coffey International's lead consortium to deliver the decentralisation of Social Care services in Kosovo. DFID has now allocated additional funds for the project and LGA has been asked to provide more support to be delivered by the end of September 2012.

Future work

14. Members will be aware that the LGA was recently successful in winning preferred DFID supplier status in a consortium with the consultancy, HTSPE. Early

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indications on upcoming bidding rounds include requests for local government support for project work in Ghana, Rwanda and Pakistan on sub-national governance, which the consortia partners are exploring.

15. The LGA has also been shortlisted for a local government reform project in Kenya, together with HTSPE.
16. The growing profile of our work (especially through the Africa Peer Review project) may also lead to further demands upon councils and the LGA. Based on this anticipated demand, the pan-African LGA (UCLGA) is liaising closely with potential funders and it is envisaged that UCLGA will showcase the peer review project at their conference in December 2012, which will be attended by public and private sectors donors and other key partners.

EU Funds Post 2013 - Update and Lobby Strategy

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report updates members on current lobbying activities related to EU funds. There will be three presentations as part of this agenda item from:

Sue Baxter, the Deputy Director of EU Programmes, Economic Development Directorate at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), who is leading the UK negotiations on structural fund reform.

Kevin Richardson, one of two local government secondees to BIS who has recently joined the UK negotiating team on EU structural funds reform.

Adrian Canard, the Chief Executive of East of England LGA to set out the help councils receive in the East of England to support making EU funding applications.

Recommendation

Members are asked to comment on the report, and to steer work ahead.

Action

Officers to action as directed by Members.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Programmes
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E-mail: ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

EU Funds post 2013 - Update and Lobby Strategy

1. The European Union structural funds typically support economic and skills development activity, and are regularly accessed by local authorities to help realise local ambitions for economic growth.
2. The funds are worth over £8 billion to the UK between 2007-2013 period, which, once match-funded, represents a potential total investment over £16 billion. They include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). Further investment opportunities are available to councils through the EU's Rural Development Programme for England, and a range of thematic EU funds.
3. 2012 is a crucial year in determining what the funds will look like from 2014-2020, and what role councils can play in using them. The LGA continues to play a leading role in discussions with European institutions and the UK Government to ensure that councils are able to lead, shape and use these funds in whatever way is most appropriate for their area.
4. An informal task and finish group continues to lead LGA lobbying on EU funding. The group includes members from this Board and the Economy and Transport Board. The objectives are to:
 - 4.1 Protect investment and maximise the take from EU funds for local areas.
 - 4.2 Ensure councils play a leading role in the negotiation and establishment of the new programmes.
 - 4.3 Articulate and push the case for new delivery models that enable local partners to join-up EU funds with all investments in their areas.
5. This paper updates on work to date, and sets out some recommendations for progressing next steps.

Update on lobbying work

6. Members continue to lead work in both Whitehall and Brussels to influence the progress of the EU fund negotiations, spending decisions and management arrangements.
7. Activities in the autumn are set out below in paragraphs 8 and 9.
8. Protecting investment in Brussels:

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- 8.1 There will be crucial votes in the European Parliament in the autumn. In order to brief English MEPs on the detail of the case for investment in the UK and the need for a sub-regional delivery model, we are organising a lobby of key MEPs and European Commission officials on 17 – 18 September 2012. Members discussed this at the last meeting and asked officers to consider the most effective lobbying strategy. From discussion with European and International (E&I) Group Leaders, it is recommended that we send a small delegation of group leaders (or their representatives) to Brussels, with other members who have a record of engagement with key MEPs. This proposal will be set out at the meeting.
- 8.2 We have successfully coordinated a common set of legislative amendments with other LGAs from across the EU as well as having a number of amendments tabled by Catherine Bearder MEP to ensure funds are more flexible and encourage local delivery. Furthermore, Derek Vaughan MEP recently held a hearing allowing the LGA to directly address the European Parliament and Commission officials.
- 8.3 With the Cypriot Government assuming the Presidency of the EU for the six month period when crucial decisions on EU funding reform will be taken, we recently met with a number of Cypriot senior civil servants to set out some of our concerns and issues. Through the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and the Cypriot LGA, we were able to provide LGA briefings to all the relevant ministers in Cyprus to ensure that the UK local government view will help form part of their Presidency's agenda from July to December 2012.
- 8.4 We will also work with members through the other member representation and pressure on MEPs and the Committee of Regions (CoR) and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (European LGA). For example, Councillor Garvie (Liberal Democrat, COLSA) has become rapporteur for a CoR opinion on the local aspects of EU funds.
- 8.5 Board members may wish to arrange individual meetings with their MEPs on this issue. It will be important that there is continued demand from councils for sub-regional delivery of funds. Members can call on LGA support for briefing at such meetings,
9. Making the 'local' case in Whitehall:
- 9.1 We will continue to push the case for new delivery models that enable local partners to join-up EU funds with all investments in their areas, such as integrating EU funds into City Deals, into Local Enterprise Partnership strategies, and into local authority investment plans for their place. In order to highlight and refresh this issue, we will publish a report by September which details how sub-regional delivery can be achieved and provide evidence to

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show how local authorities can join-up spending in their areas to deliver better outcomes and efficiencies.

9.2 We need to look at greater detail in the issue of match-funding, and what local authorities can potentially offer within the new economic development landscape – such as business rates, TIF, etc. As EU investment is being planned up to 2020, it will be important to play into the lobby the role that councils and partners can play in matching EU funds as a result of new devolution.

9.3 There are a number of meetings planned with Ministers to discuss and take forward local authority approaches following responses to the BIS consultation, including with Mark Prisk MP, Chris Grayling MP, and Baroness Hanham.

10. Officers would be keen to support members of the Board wanting to more directly engage their councils in this work. Members may wish to set out where case studies from their councils could help the above evidence base.

Discussion and debate at the meeting

11. In order to provide an up-to-date analysis of how this work is progressing nationally, we have three speakers at the Board.

12. Sue Baxter is the BIS official leading the UK negotiations on structural fund reform. Sue will set out the latest position in the EU-wide negotiations.

13. Kevin Richardson is one of two local government secondees who have recently joined the UK negotiating team in BIS. These secondments have been supported by the LGA and mark a first in a “Team UK” approach to negotiations. Kevin will set out his role, how he will engage with councils and the tangible lobbying activities that would support councils’ case in the next few months.

14. One concern expressed by members is that despite the availability of EU funds, some councils do not have the capacity to support applications. At the last Board, members asked for more work to be developed in this area. The East of England LGA now provides a service to councils in its area to support applications. Adrian Cannard from the East of England ELGA will set out their work. Members are asked to consider how this approach could be rolled out in other parts of the country.

Item 3

Board EU lobbying priorities – Round-up of activity

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

At the last meeting, European and International Board (E&I) members requested a regular update on recent developments on each of our six key priority topics.

Recommendation

Members are asked to comment on the report and make any recommendations for officers to action.

Action

Officers to take action as directed by Members.

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Board EU lobbying priorities – Round-up of activity

EU structural funds 2014-2020

1. LGA Vice-Presidents Catherine Bearder MEP and Derek Vaughan MEP continue to play a very helpful role in taking forward LGA views in the European Parliament via tabling amendments and holding a special hearing with local government associations. The LGA delegation of elected members due to visit Brussels on 17-18 September 2012 will be a crucial opportunity to bolster our lobbying and build further support amongst UK MEPs, ahead of the European Parliament plenary vote.
2. Councillors are also playing an important role in the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Most recently Councillor Garvie (Scotland) successfully secured a number of amendments to the CoR position on creating common procedures for different EU funds. He has been appointed CoR rapporteur on the local aspects of EU funds – particularly on the involvement of councils and local community groups in shaping the delivery of the funds.
3. There will need to be a significant push from the LGA to convince Government to embed localism principles into the design, management and delivery of EU funds in England. The LGA has invited all local authorities to provide examples of the current system's successes and failures, and ideas for future more localised models, and is also working with Whitehall to identify local sources of match funding. In June 2012 the Chief Executive wrote to all local authority chief executives inviting them to get involved in our work.
4. On current European Social Fund, the LGA continues to support councils in their role to refer families to the £200 million Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Families with Complex Needs provision. Activity includes our Chairman's meeting with Chris Grayling MP, and a dedicated forum on the Supporting Troubled Families Knowledge Hub.

Procurement

5. As part of the ongoing LGA campaign for simpler future procurement rules, the Board Chairman has sent a letter to all UK MEPs in conjunction with the Improvement Board Chairman to secure their support ahead of a crucial vote in the Autumn. The Brussels office has worked with associations across Europe to develop a number of legislative amendments for our MEPs to table.

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6. On 21 June 2012 a meeting took place in Brussels between Cabinet Office officials, LGA, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR – the European LGA) and eight other associations of local government. A significant consensus was reached on the need for renewed joint central-local working towards the EU on this topic.
7. The LGA has produced its 'procurement pledge': a short document created on behalf of councils as a whole to underline the core procurement values councils will follow. It also includes the need to influence EU rules, and work closely with the Cabinet Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in doing so.
8. Councillor Keymer successfully secured a number of amendments to the CoR position on the topic at the 25 June 2012 Economic and Social Policy (ECOS) meeting.

Energy efficiency Directive

9. A provisional agreement was reached in June 2012 between the European Parliament, Commission and European Council that new energy efficiency legislation will not contain mandatory obligations towards local government. This results from a lengthy and effective lobbying campaign by the LGA, CoR and CEMR in Brussels and Whitehall.
10. To recall, the draft Directive proposed new measures on energy to bring the EU back on track to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in energy use by 2020. The most important aspect for local councils was the requirement to buy energy-efficient buildings, products and services, and to refurbish 3 per cent of their buildings each year to drastically reduce their energy consumption. This obligation will now apply to central Government buildings and activities only, although local councils will be encouraged to achieve energy efficiencies on a voluntary basis. The European Parliament plenary vote is expected in September 2012.
11. Other contributions will be made by energy utilities (who must help end users to cut their energy consumption through replacement of old boilers or insulation of their homes); industry (large companies required to undertake energy audits every 3 years); and consumers (better information provided on their meters and bills).
12. LGA lobbied UK ministers across Whitehall (Departments for: Communities and Local Government, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Energy and Climate Change) to ensure the local government perspective was taken into account in European Council negotiations. This engagement will continue in relation to departments' deliberations on encouraging councils to procure energy efficient products.

Air quality review

13. The Commission is conducting a review of existing air quality rules, which is expected to result in strengthened targets on existing pollutants and a broadening of the scope to include new ones. The main objectives of the review are to assess progress towards achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on human health and the environment, and to identify options - both regulatory and non-regulatory - that could improve implementation of existing policy and contribute towards the greening of the economy.
14. The drafting of new EU targets is still some way off. The CoR represented local government at an EU Stakeholder Expert Group meeting on 21 June 2012. The LGA will contribute to the preparation of an initial position paper by the CEMR in September 2012, which will be used in future lobbying of the Commission and MEPs.
15. A group of 12 European regions, including the Greater London Authority (GLA), have recently issued a position paper which, whilst welcoming existing EU legislation and objectives on air quality, recommends a greater focus on energy efficiency to achieve better air quality, on simpler legislation and implementation procedures, and greater EU funding to assist compliance.
16. The existing legislation could cause difficulty in the UK. Recent media coverage announced in June that the UK has been denied permission by the Commission to delay air quality improvements in 12 localities and is therefore liable to face infringement proceedings which could, in theory, lead to fines. However, further discussion with Defra reveals that the recent EU announcement is not about infraction or fines and the Commission has made no decision yet about whether to infract or not. Following the red tape challenge exercise, the Government is currently refining a number of options for future local air quality management and will be having further discussion at an officer level with the LGA before it formally consults on those options.

Working Time Directive

17. There have been no developments since the last Board meeting.
18. To recall, the Working Time Directive, implemented in the UK as the *Working Time Regulations 1998 (amended 2003)*, ensures that every worker is entitled to: a maximum 48 hour week, a minimum daily rest period, daily and weekly rest breaks, 4 weeks paid annual leave, extra protection in the case of night work. Special rules apply for working time in a small range of sectors.
19. The EU has repeatedly sought to revise the Directive, and is currently consulting the social partners on various aspects that might feature in a new Directive: on-

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call time; timing of minimum rest periods; tackling excessive working hours; better reconciliation of work and family life; and clarifying areas where the law appears unclear. The outcome of these negotiations is not yet known, but an update will be provided at the Board meeting.

20. A draft Directive is expected in 2013. The LGA evidence-based work on the impact that changes to the Directive may have on local authority managed or commissioned services is in hand.
21. The LGA European, Workforce Board and Fire Services Management Committee and Commission have coordinated their work on the Directive, and in June 2012, took further steps to coordinate our views in Brussels with UK representatives on the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises (CEEP), providing Public services, which is also involved in social partner negotiations.

Localism Act: EU financial sanctions

22. In April, the LGA responded to the Government's consultation on a draft policy statement to determine the process by which a Minister could seek to pass on an EU financial sanction to a local authority. Our response covered the following:
- 22.1. The LGA had significant concerns about the original proposals. Once it was clear Government would not delete the policy, we played a significant role in shaping the policy, given its likely impact on our member authorities – our aim has been to protect their interests. The final version must provide clarity, and above all avoid fines being imposed.
- 22.2. The Act introduces new liability issues into public contracts as it suggests that where a local authority has contracted with another party to deliver services regarding that function, the legal obligation remains with the original authority. The LGA recommends that the independent advisory panel takes account of local authority steps to ensure contractor-compliance.
- 22.3. We recommend that the Government explicitly specifies in domestic legislation which EU law it fully, or in part, transposes, and that any targets and deadlines are clearly stipulated. This is important given local authorities, in the main, implement UK legislation rather than EU law directly.
- 22.4. The LGA is pleased with the Government's new *working in partnership* principle to specifically involve local authorities, given the amount of EU obligations which impact on them locally. It should result in earlier, closer and more structured involvement than through regular 'consultation' and must be effective if it is to minimise EU fines arising from future EU laws.

23. The LGA will take forward discussions with the Government on the basis of the final policy statement, expected to be published by the DCLG next month.

End of Year Review - 2011/12

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The LGA Audit and Scrutiny Panel asked for an end of year report to go to its 30 May meeting on the priorities set out in the LGA's 2011/12 business plan, detailing delivery and impact. The section of the table relating to the European and International Board's business is attached at **Appendix A** for information.

Board Members will note that many of the items listed in the appendix are at 'amber'. This is an indication that our lobbying is on track, and comprise our 2012/2013 priorities, which were discussed and agreed at the March and May 2012 Board meetings.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Action

No further action is required.

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Item 4, Appendix A - European and International

2011-12 Business Plan	What we delivered	Impact	RAG
Maximise EU take of structural funds budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led a lobbying campaign to secure future EU resources for local regeneration: secured council inclusion in the UK negotiating Team, secured access to pre-negotiation meeting with BIS, HMT, CLG, DWP and DEFRA briefed numerous decisions makers on the case for local delivery of the funds. Lobbied DWP to align the £200m ESF families' provision with the Troubled Families initiative at local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear place for LGA and councils at negotiation table with EU and Government, with clear proposals for local delivery. The proposal is still being debated in Brussels and will be debated and finalised in early 2013. 	A
Review of EU procurement law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured major review of EU procurement rules, with the Commission proposing more local flexibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured agreement to reduce red tape and allow greater local flexibility. 	A
Working time directive review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked across three LGA Boards (E&I, Workforce and Fire) to ensure the sector's views on costs and impact feed into current negotiations. Kept the debate live with EU decision makers in the run up to the delayed review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensured decision-makers are challenged and aware of the cost to the UK public service of a change in UK opt-out. 	A
EU targets for energy and water efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst acknowledging the good intent of legislation, led a lobbying campaign on the cost of implementation to councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal is still being debated in Brussels. 	A
EU waste/recycling laws			A
New EU VAT rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided the cost to UK councils of an EU proposal to harmonise VAT rules to Government, EU decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal was stopped. 	G
The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear lobbying campaign in Brussels and London to ensure no return to fridge mountains and no new costs to councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal is still being debated in Brussels 	A
Council of Europe review of local-central relations in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early work with Congress officials who have already engaged in work of LGA and introduced to current local/central debates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review will be undertaken in late 2012, but Council of Europe is already relying on LGA for support and information. 	A
Facilitate local govt practitioner engagement in developing nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioned by African LGA to pilot peer reviews Achieved "approved supplier" status with DFID. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensured more local government practitioners where engaged in UK aid programme. 	G

Note of decisions taken and actions required

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

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
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
Welcome and Introductions		
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted all those apologies received.		
1	European and International contribution to the LGA business plan	
Ian Hughes (Head of Programmes) introduced the item which set out the European and International (E&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.		
A detailed discussion followed, in which Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That for the 'offer' to be deliverable, resources would need to be made available for Members and officers to lobby in Brussels where necessary.• 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.• 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.• 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.		

- 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

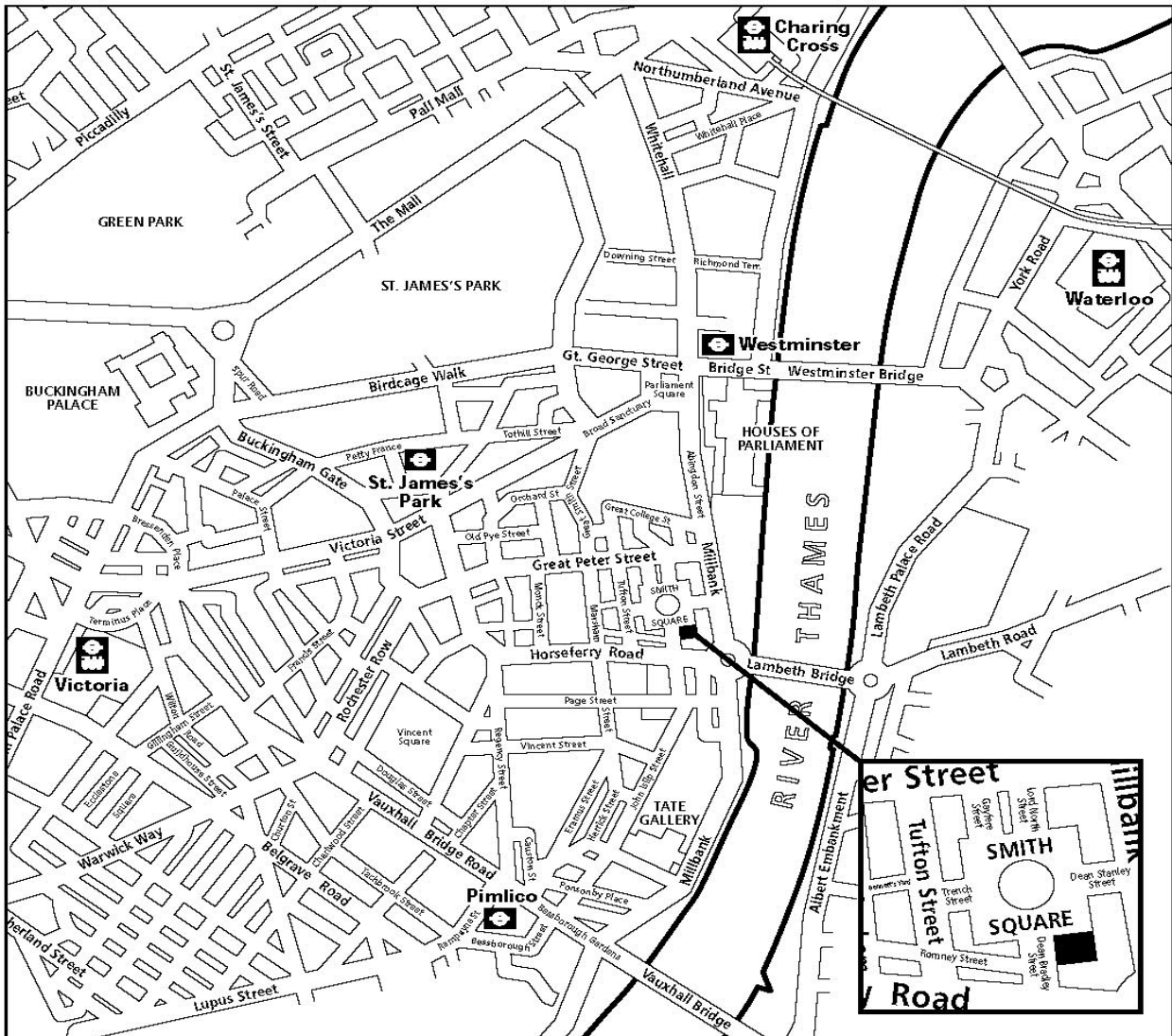
The Chair welcomed representatives from Peterborough City Council and Phil Newby from Green Ventures. Phil provided a visual presentation outlining the collaborative work undertaken by Peterborough City Council and Green Ventures to meet the environmental challenges faced by the City. The 'Peterborough 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.

LGA Location Map



Local Government Association

Local Government House
 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
 Tel: 020 7664 3131
 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@lga.gov.uk
 Website: www.lga.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are;

Victoria

and **Waterloo**; the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (District and Circle Lines); **Westminster** (District, Circle and Jubilee Lines); and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line), all about 10 minutes walk away. Buses **3** and **87** travel along **Millbank**, and the **507** between Victoria and Waterloo goes close by at the end of **Dean Bradley Street**.

Bus routes - Millbank

87 Wandsworth - Aldwych **N87**
3 Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria
C10 Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - Victoria
88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

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