

New Model for Local Government Update

Purpose of report

To update the Finance Panel on the LGA's work to develop a new model for local government.

Summary

Work is continuing on a suite of papers which will present proposals for a new model of local government to the LGA conference to be held on 2 - 4 July. Its purpose will be to influence political manifestos in the lead up to the 2015 general election and the spending round that will immediately follow it. This paper provides a brief update on the work to date and seeks any comments that Finance Panel may have to help steer the work further.

In particular, a copy of the draft finance policy paper will be **circulated separately** and the Panel's comments on this will be sought.

Recommendation

Members are asked provide input to assist discussions and steer further progress.

Action

Any input will feed into the final drafts of the new model which will be cleared with the Chair of the Panel.

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New Model for Local Government – Update

Background

1. At its January and February meetings, the LGA Leadership Board considered reports setting out a proposal for a new model for local government. The proposal's purpose was threefold:
 - 1.1. developing a clear case for the future national role of local government in order to inform party manifestos in the run-up to the next general election;
 - 1.2. setting out Local Government's offer in order to inform the expected 2015 spending review immediately after the election; and
 - 1.3. providing the LGA national conference with a practical explanation of the above and informing its longer term planning processes.
2. Initial policy papers were drafted and circulated to Boards and Panels covering the following key priorities:
 - 2.1. Independent Local Government;
 - 2.2. Growth;
 - 2.3. Good adult social care;
 - 2.4. Future children's services;
 - 2.5. Welfare reform; and
 - 2.6. Sustainable future funding.
3. The Leadership Board sought national communication of the work in order to ensure that voices could be heard across the sector and from key partners. Good numbers attended national roadshows and subject specific workshops.
4. Work is now under way to develop the papers based on the feedback received. The LGA's submission to the spending round for 2015/16 has been developed in parallel with this activity. It has drawn from the discussions and provides a solid foundation for future development in the new model.

Future activity leading to conference and beyond

5. Drafts of the papers for the new model will be circulated separately and members' comments on it will be very helpful. An update on our submission to the spending review may be found at Item 2 on this agenda and Panel Members are asked to consider what further developments they might wish to see included and to review the draft with that in mind.

Item 3

6. The structure of the new model has been reviewed and it is envisaged that it will now be a portfolio comprising a comprehensive overview paper and the six detailed policy papers outlined above. It will also have a more descriptive name which will be less inwardly focused on local government and emphasise that its purpose is to enable effective support of communities in challenging times by rewiring public services.
7. The Leadership Board has been very clear that it is important that the national conference should have the new model at its focus and be able to contribute to its development. Accordingly, it will not be presented with a fait-accompli. Whilst the new model will be delivered in a well-developed form, its purpose will be to seek conference's thoughts and views on a number of issues and questions. The following are the key activities leading up to and including conference:

Week/ Month beginning	Activity
29 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt of second drafts of papers.
6 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency review of papers. • Development of overview paper. • Copywriting review of papers with communications team.
15 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Board review of progress. • Copywriting review continues. • Workshop to highlight questions and issues for conference.
20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of final draft.
27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final review of full suite prior to June Leadership Board. • Develop campaign and draft designs.
3 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further preparations and production for conference.
12 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Board discuss final draft.
17 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further preparations and production for conference.
24 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation into speeches and design of sessions. • Warm up press campaign.
1 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA national conference. • Finalise new model in light of conference discussions. • Follow up campaign. • Political input into manifesto preparation.
1 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of presentations for political conferences.
1 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of key messages at party conferences.
1 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of campaign and decisions on next steps.

8. Whilst the above table revolves around the LGA and political conferences, work of various kinds has already begun on draft manifestos by the political parties. Accordingly emerging themes and messages are being shared with them on the basis that the LGA has yet to come to a firm view, in order to ensure that there are openings for more formal input over the summer.

Conclusion

9. There has been considerable intense thinking about the new model over the last four months, aided by Board and Panel Members' work and speedy responses on the spending round. All comments will be very welcome, whether on the draft papers that are being separately circulated or the timetable outlined above.