

LGA Activities at the 2013 Party Conferences

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The report summarises planned LGA activities at the party conferences on finance related issues, drawing out those events attended by LGA members.

Recommendation

That the Panel note the report.

Action

As directed by Members.

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LGA Activities at the 2013 Party Conferences

Background

1. The LGA will be holding a corporate reception at each of the three main party political conferences this year to publicise the *Rewiring Public Services* campaign. Each reception features a front bench party spokesperson. At the time of writing, the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition have been confirmed for the Liberal Democrat and Labour events, with an invitation extended to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the Conservative reception.
2. As part of the LGA's efforts to influence the 2015 party manifestos, a fringe event is being held at Liberal Democrat conference to debate the content of *Rewiring Public Services*. Panellists include:
 - 2.1. Chair: Mayor Dorothy Thornhill, Deputy Leader of LGA Liberal Democrat Group, elected Mayor of Watford.
 - 2.2. Rt Hon Don Foster MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
 - 2.3. Lord Shipley.
 - 2.4. Annette Brooke MP, Co-Chair of Liberal Democrat backbench CLG Committee.
 - 2.5. Cllr Ruth Dombey, Leader of London Borough of Sutton.
3. The LGA has also proactively sourced over eighty speaking platforms for member councillors across the three events, offering a bespoke briefing for each opportunity. See below for a selection of those events sourced by the LGA for member councillors, on subjects related to the work programme of the Finance Panel:
 - The State of the State 2013: Performance, productivity and public services**
 - 3.1. A fringe at Conservative conference at which LGA Chairman attended Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell is speaking and a private roundtable discussion at Liberal Democrat conference attended by Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson.
 - The future of public services**
 - 3.2. A dinner is being held by Westminster Council at the Conservative Party conference; attended by Cllr Porter. A fringe event on the same subject is being held at Labour conference at which Cllr Taylor is speaking.
 - The future of business growth**
 - 3.3. The British Chamber of Commerce is holding dinners at the Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem conferences on business growth; attended by Cllr Porter, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Vernon-Jackson.

To pool or not to pool? The future of local authority pension funds.

- 3.4. The London Pensions Fund Authority is holding a roundtable discussion on the future of local authority pension funds at Conservative Party conference; LGA chairman Sir Merrick Cockell is attending.

Infrastructure investment and regional growth

- 3.5. The Reform think tank and Angel Trains are holding a roundtable on the future of infrastructure investment and regional growth at Conservative Party conference; Cllr Bentley is attending.

Investing in growth: the role of infrastructure

- 3.6. The Reform think tank is holding a roundtable on investing in growth at the Labour Party conference; Cllr Turner is attending.

Delivering the National Infrastructure Plan and removing barriers to investment

- 3.7. The Infrastructure Alliance is holding a fringe event at the Conservative Party conference to discuss delivering the National Infrastructure Plan; Cllr Porter is speaking.

4. Details of all the public events that the LGA is involved in across the three party conferences, including the LGA's own receptions and fringe event, can be found online at <http://www.local.gov.uk/party-conferences>.