

LGA Winter Review 2004 and Business Plan 2005

Summary

1. **Attaches a copy of the LGA winter review 2004, and outlines the LGA's strategic objectives in the proposed LGA's business plan for 2005.**

Recommendations

2. **That:**
 - i **The LGA Winter Review and Business Plan 2005 be endorsed;**
 - ii **Boards be asked to develop a work programme to deliver the strategic objectives;**
 - iii **The LGA Executive should monitor progress and report back to the General Assembly in July and December.**

Report

3. **Last year, drawing on the issues raised in the LGA's perception's audit that we need to be more focussed, pick our battles carefully, do less but better, and be more evidence based in our approach to our lobbying, the General Assembly agreed a business plan built around a single work programme, jointly agreed across Executives and based on a limited number of priorities for the year ahead. The business plan agreed by the General Assembly in 2003 included 40 projects organised in 5 themes and 5 broad objectives. A report summarising our achievements of 2004 is set out in the attached winter review report.**
4. **At the General Assembly in July 2004, new member structures for the LGA were agreed, organised around the LGA Executive, 6 Boards, European & International, Resources, HR and Scrutiny Panels; Tourism and Fire Forums and the Urban and Rural Commissions. The new member structures have enabled members to be more focussed and streamlined in our approach to lobbying, and provide an opportunity for more members, drawn from member authorities to become engaged in our work through task groups.**
5. **In determining the LGA's business plan for 2005, the LGA Executive agreed that we should retain the principles of being focussed, evidence based and do less but better, and that the business plan should be built around a limited number of priority objectives identified by each Board and the LGA Executive. Over the autumn cycle of meetings, the LGA Executive and 6 Boards have been working to identify 3 priority objectives for their work in the coming year, consistent with the themes and aspirations set out in the LGA's Manifesto 'Independence, Opportunity, trust' and which the LGA can lobby for in the run up to the general election. A table setting out the priority objectives agreed by each Board is attached at annex a.**

6. The LGA's business plan for 2005 is set out in the winter review document. This summarises the Board's priorities into 10 key objectives for the Association to deliver in 2005.

"To secure the delivery of the LGA manifesto and in particular

- **secure adequate resources for all member authorities to exercise all their functions**
- **win a firm government commitment to a fair reform of local taxation that enables councils to collect at least two-thirds of their revenue through locally-controlled taxes and charges**
- **seize every opportunity to reinforce the community leadership role of councils, particularly in relation to education, community safety, public health, young people and the local environment, and by making the most of local public service and local area agreements**
- **reverse the loss of powers from councils to regional and national quangos and improve arrangements for holding regional bodies to account**
- **ensure councils lead the creation of sustainable communities and develop workable proposals to enable local communities to benefit from development gains**
- **help councils make significant progress in devolving power beyond the town hall**
- **help put "poor" and "weak" councils on track to rise out of these categories by 2008**
- **win a government commitment to halve spending on inspection by 2008**
- **help councils to achieve and retain the benefits from greater efficiency**
- **undertake a sustained campaign to improve public perceptions of local government and raise the profile of councils' roles**

The business plan also sets out our proposed organisational development objectives.

7. **Following agreement by the General Assembly to the strategic approach to the business plan, Boards and the LGA Executive will then determine a detailed work programme to deliver their strategic objectives. Board work programmes will consist of relationship management work and projects which will be overseen by a rolling programme of member task groups. An update note from each board chair on their work can be found within the delegate pack for the Assembly meeting.**
8. **The Urban and Rural Commissions, European & International, HR, Scrutiny and Resources panels, and the Tourism and Fire forums will examine the contribution they can make to the delivery of the LGA's strategic objectives, in particular ensuring the European, and specific rural and urban dimensions to our lobbying work is addressed.**

Implications for Wales

9. **The LGA Business Plan sets out the programme of work that the LGA will be undertaking during 2005. The WLGA has its own business plan, however, the LGA**

and WLGA will continue to work closely to deliver the key themes and objectives in both plans.

Financial/ Resource Implications

- 10. The business plan is intended to ensure that the most effective use is made of the LGA's resources.**

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	Objectives
LGA Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to secure adequate resources for all member authorities, including a firm commitment from government to reform local taxation to achieve a fairer tax system that enables councils to collect at least two-thirds of their income from locally-controlled taxes and charges; to support local government in the efficiency programme and ensure that local government's interests are promoted. to work to secure the delivery of the LGA manifesto and to make significant progress in the devolution of power beyond the town hall; to embark on a sustained campaign to raise the public perception of local government.
Children & Young People Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to articulate and promote a powerful strategic role for local government to achieve better outcomes for children 0 – 19; to secure maximum support and flexibility for local government to enable the radical change agenda for children and learning to be delivered; to consolidate the role of local authorities in joining up services (public/ private/voluntary) in localities on behalf of children, young people and their families and the local community.
Community well-being Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure formal recognition of a leading role for local authorities in improving public health across all communities To ensure that community leadership and commissioning roles for local authorities remain at the heart of the government's vision for adult social care To secure adequate resources for the council services covered by the Board and maximum flexibility in the use of these resources
Environment Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that local people lead the creation of sustainable communities and benefit from developments in their communities To enable local politicians to lead and change behaviour locally on environmental, sustainability and waste management issues To influence the final content of the European Commission's review of the European Sustainable Development Strategy both to promote the role of local government and to benefit UK local government
Improvement Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenging poor performance in local authorities and supporting poor performers to improve; Getting the most from the new governance and funding proposals for localities such as local area agreements (LAAs), local public service boards (LPSBs) and local public service agreements (LPSAs); and Influencing the performance framework within which local government operates – to include significantly less inspection, intervention, and central targets and more self regulation through a combination of self assessment, peer review, and user assessment.
Regeneration Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to examine the relationships between local government and regional bodies with a view to enhancing the role Councils play in implementing regeneration, cultural and tourism activities. Building the profile of Councils and sharing good practice in regeneration, cultural and tourism activities through conferences, guides and networks. Work to increase the funding and resources available to Councils in implementing regeneration, cultural and tourism activities.
Safer communities Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Reform Working positively to reduce youth offending (in collaboration with the Children and Young People's Board)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a coherent approach to, and raising the profile of, regulatory services• Campaigning for local authorities to provide and commission services to resettle offenders and prevent re-offending
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