

Minutes

General Assembly

12 December 2005

QE11 Conference Centre, Westminster, London SW1 at 2.00pm

Present

209 authorities in full membership and 20 authorities in corporate membership were represented at the meeting.

1. Address by the Minister for Communities and Local Government

The Chairman welcomed Members to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly. He introduced The Rt. Hon. David Miliband, Minister for Communities and Local Government, and invited him to address the Assembly.

The Minister addressed the meeting and there then followed a question and answer session.

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly held on 5 July 2005

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** as a correct record.

3. LGA Winter Review 2005 and Work Programme 2006

The Chairman asked the Assembly to note the LGA Winter Review; and sought endorsement for the strategic objectives for achievement by 2009, and the LGA work programme for 2006.

The General Assembly noted the Winter Review and **endorsed** :

- i. the strategic objectives to 2009 as set out at **Appendix 1**;
- ii. the work programme 2006 as set out at **Appendix 2**

4. The Role and Financing of Local Government

The Chairman invited Sir Michael Lyons, Chairman of the Inquiry into the role and financing of local government, to address the Assembly.

In his address, Sir Michael reported on the progress of the Inquiry and referred to a range of emerging issues. There then followed a question and answer session.

5. Amendments to the LGA Constitution and Political Conventions

The General Assembly:

(a) **approved** amendments to the Association's Constitution and political conventions:

(i) under Article 4.4 of the Constitution (power to make political conventions), adding a new section 2(iv) to the political conventions (emergency situations); and amending section 5(ii) of the political conventions (delegations); and

(ii) to Articles 23 and 24 of the Constitution (apportionment of assets and liabilities)

(b) **agreed** to delegate to the LGA Executive the power to amend the LGA's political conventions.

6. Budget and Subscriptions to the LGA 2006/07

The Chairman moved the report on the budget and subscriptions for 2006/07, together with an alternative recommendation from the LGA Executive, namely that the Assembly agree that there should be no increase in LGA subscriptions for 2006/7.

In making this recommendation, the LGA Executive informed the Assembly that the decision to freeze subscription levels took into account the generally tight settlement for local authorities next year, and asked the Assembly to note the decision taken by the LGA to freeze top-slice grant to central bodies at 2004/05 levels for the next three years 2006/07 to 2008/09, thus releasing additional revenue support grants for authorities.

The Executive had also requested that officers conduct a comprehensive review of the LGA's budget, using a zero based approach, and that this should be completed for consideration by the meetings of the LGA's Resources Panel and LGA Executive in February 2006.

The Panel and the Executive would then formulate a medium term budget and subscription plan to be completed by September 2006. On information presently available, the Executive believed it may be necessary to raise subscriptions to ensure that the LGA could perform effectively on behalf of member authorities, but that this should only be contemplated on the basis of the review and medium term planning exercises which would now take place.

The General Assembly then **approved** the budget for 2005/06, which provided for no increase to subscriptions for 2006/07.

5. Dates of Future Meetings

The dates of future meetings were **noted** as Tuesday 4 July 2006 (at the Bournemouth International Centre) and Thursday 14 December 2006 (at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London).

