

Winter Review 2005 and Work Programme 2006

Summary

1. *Seeks approval to a LGA work programme for 2006 and objectives for achievement by 2009.*

Recommendations

2. *That the General Assembly endorse:*
 - i *the objectives to 2009 set out at [Appendix 1](#);*
 - ii *the work programme set out at [Appendix 2](#).*

Winter review 2005 and objectives to 2009

3. *The Summer Review submitted to the General Assembly in July surveyed the experience of local government over the last four years and the lessons to be learned from it. It concluded that “Local government has its best opportunity in three decades to win the powers and freedom it needs to meet the aspirations of the communities it serves.” This positive assessment was confirmed by David Miliband’s offer, at the LGA Annual Conference, of a “deal for devolution”, which would trade reduced central control for strengthened local accountability and a robust commitment to self-improvement.*
4. *In September, the LGA published a new manifesto, The next four years, which sets out action needed by central and local government to make the deal for devolution a reality. At the central-local partnership in October, we won the agreement of the government that the manifesto themes would form the focus of the work of the partnership and its sub-groups over the next 18 months.*
5. *Appendix 2 sets out the key activities and objectives that are needed to complete the “deal for devolution” and deliver our manifesto. The General Assembly is asked to adopt them as the LGA’s strategic objectives to 2009.*
6. *A Winter Review, including the objectives to 2009, is in preparation and will be available to delegates on arrival at the General Assembly.*

Work programme for 2006

7. *In 2005, the Association agreed to focus the Association’s resources where they can make most impact, to “do less, but better”. It is proposed to continue this approach into 2006. Each Board and the LGA Executive has identified a small number of key interventions that can best contribute to the achievement of the LGA’s strategic objectives as derived from the manifesto. Their proposed work programme is set out at Appendix 2. The General Assembly is asked to endorse it.*

Contact Officer: Matthew Warburton tel: 020 7664 3097 email:
matthew.warburton@ga.gov.uk

Appendix 1: LGA Key objectives to 2009

Our manifesto proposes:

Action for councils

1. *Establish a clear set of ambitions for the locality and community*
2. *Work with partners to ensure that ambitions are achieved.*
3. *Strengthen public accountability to local people.*
4. *Devolve power where appropriate to local people and communities*
5. *Improve local services and develop the capacity to lead and innovate.*

Action for government

1. *Reduce national targets and transfer visible accountability to local councils.*
2. *Replace CPA with an independently-assured improvement framework overseen by local government.*
3. *Develop LAAs into agreements to deploy the totality of local public resources.*
4. *Support the reconfiguration of local public services for greater effectiveness and efficiency.*
5. *Introduce a fair and sustainable system of local government finance.*

To encourage, support and achieve this action we will:

- *Work with the Improvement and Development Agency and other local government central bodies to support improvement in local government's capacity, performance and reputation;*
- *Work with the Treasury and other government departments to achieve a fundamental reform in the national system of targets, standards and performance indicators as a key outcome from the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review;*
- *Work with the Audit Commission, ODFM and others to replace CPA by 2008;*
- *Work with member councils, the ODFM and others ensure that each successive phase of local area agreements marks a new step forward towards our ambition;*
- *Lobby to remove the obstacles to effective collaboration among local public services;*
- *Work to ensure the Lyons review brings forward proposals acceptable to local government that are implemented by the government at the earliest opportunity;*
- *Work in the meantime to ensure that adequate resources are made available to councils through the present system.*

Appendix 2: LGA Work Programme 2006

Board	Priority interventions for 2006
<i>LGA Executive</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Neighbourhood governance (including safer neighbourhoods)</i> ▪ <i>Spending pressures 2006/07 and 2007/08</i> ▪ <i>Comprehensive spending review 2007 and efficiency programme</i> ▪ <i>Lyons review</i> ▪ <i>Reputation project (including Local Democracy week 2006)</i>
<i>Children & Young People</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“Respect” and young people</i> ▪ <i>Joining up children’s and health agenda</i> ▪ <i>Looked after children</i>
<i>Community well-being</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Strategic vision for social care (including funding for social care)</i> ▪ <i>Public health</i>
<i>Environment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Greening communities campaign</i> ▪ <i>Sustainable communities (including infrastructure funding and the strategic housing role)</i> ▪ <i>Transport (to be scoped)</i>
<i>Improvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>A new central-local performance framework</i> ▪ <i>Local area agreements and public service boards</i> ▪ <i>Advising and supporting poorly-performing councils</i>
<i>Regeneration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Thriving and sustainable local economies (including city-regions) (to be scoped)</i> ▪ <i>2012 Olympics – spreading the benefits</i>
<i>Safer communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Safer neighbourhoods (including neighbourhood governance)</i> ▪ <i>Reducing re-offending</i> ▪ <i>Modernising regulatory services</i>

In addition, work will continue where necessary to complete 2005 priority projects, including the Education White Paper/Bill, Police reform, Asylum and Licensing.