

the Independent Commission



LGA INDEPENDENT COMMISSION

Rising to the Challenge

**Lord Best
Chair**

Background to the Commission

- Reviewing the LGA's relationships with member authorities, central bodies, partners and government
- What support and representation does local government require in next 5-10 years?
- Commissioners
- How we are going about our work

Context

- The LGA's achievement to date
- White Paper and the promise of devolution
- The biggest opportunity for a generation – it needs to be grasped
- The LGA's pivotal role:
 - delivery on the devolutionary promise
 - motivating and enabling councils to grab the opportunity

Emerging Propositions

1. Sustaining an assertive and self-confident approach to government

- Effective lobbying: not in supplicant mode
- Members of Parliament too

2. Supporting and Challenging Councils' relationship with the public

- continuing the Reputation Campaign
- sustaining communication to influence public understanding
- influencing government through the wider public

3. More use of the expertise and practice of the sector

- contributions from individual Councils
- national Ambassadors and Advisers

4. Leading the debate on the most important issues

- developing public debate on climate change / the ageing population / anti-social behaviour / inward migration / community cohesion
- developing an “LGA Futures” capacity

5. Leading and joining more national coalitions of partners

- strategic alliances to shape policy
- a national Public Service Partnership board

6. Leadership on poor performance in the sector

- upholding the reputation of local government
- but not becoming a regulator
- support through peers

7. Leadership on the recruitment of future Councillors

- the visible representatives of local government
- talent and diversity
- working with the political parties

8. The importance of the LGA Chairman and Group Leaders

- proper support and compensation
- framework for profile, remuneration, renewal, back-up

9. Diversity and flexibility in representation for local government

- well served since 1997
- engaging active leaders
- use of senior officials too

10. *Greater focus for support bodies*

- central bodies to focus on benchmarking and facilitating to assist improvement
- and identifying overarching needs and commissioning support
- greater clarity in roles

11. *Clarity on relationships with groups of member authorities*

- value of Commissions, Special Interest Groups, Regional LGAs
- regional-central links
- but not new federal constitution

Next Steps

- Interim Paper issued to Councils and Stakeholders
- Consultation events – with member councils – regionally based – in January and early February
- Other partner consultation events
- Report to LGA Executive at end of February 2000
- Written comments to www.campaigns.lga.gov.uk/commission
- Report to LGA Executive at end of February 2007