

Helping People, Improving Places: Joint Work Programme to support councils 2007/08 to 2009/10

Decision

1. To receive the Joint Work Programme 2007/08 to 2009/10 "Helping People, Improving Places".

Background

2. The **attached** report, "Helping People, Improving Places" sets out the first joint work programme of the LGA and central bodies, covering the three years beginning on 1 April 2007. It includes all work carried out by the six organisations whether funded by subscriptions, income from fees or other charges or grants, including Revenue Support Grant.
3. In 2004 the Local Government Association, Local Government Employers, Local Government International Bureau, Public Private Partnerships Programme, Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services and Improvement and Development Agency agreed to explore the potential for closer working, including more effective coordination of our work and the scope for efficiencies from sharing services. Results to date include shared services for finance, human resources, IT and publishing and production, and the rationalisation of office accommodation to two buildings – Local Government House and Layden House.
4. In April 2006, the bodies agreed to begin a process of integrating their business planning. This is intended to ensure that work across the family reflects shared priorities, to improve cross-organisational working (thereby reducing duplication and simplifying access for councils to services and support) and an integrated approach to performance management that monitors and can demonstrate the impact of the help provided.
5. The first step has been to pull together a joint work programme setting out the proposed work of the 6 organisations for the next three years in a common framework under 5 broad areas of activity:
 - **Supporting public service improvement**
 - **Representing local government nationally**
 - **Developing councils' capacity**
 - **Strengthening local governance and accountability**
 - **Developing leaders and the workforce**
6. On 2 November, the LGA Resources Panel confirmed the RSG allocations to the IDeA, LGE, LGIB, 4Ps and LACORs in line with the earlier agreement to an overall cash standstill for the three years 2006/07 to 2008/09. The next item on the agenda asks the General Assembly to agree a subscription for the LGA for 2007/08. Each organisation will now

develop a detailed work programme within the framework set by these decisions.

- 7. A draft of the work programme was posted on the local government family's website and an email with a link to an on-line survey sent by Paul Coen to all council leaders and chief executives and some other senior professionals. Comments are being collated and will inform the detailed development of each organisations work programme.*

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