
LGA Independent Commission

- 1 In September of this year, the LGA Executive agreed to establish an Independent Commission under the chairmanship of the LGA President, Lord Best, to explore the role of the LGA in respect of its members and partners. The review was to examine the LGA's need to:
 - strengthen its capability to influence and change thinking in Whitehall, Westminster and partners and be an organisation which stakeholders and partners value working with;
 - In September of this year, the LGA Executive agreed to establish an Independent develop capability with member councils and partners to change the public's attitude to councils and their work and role;
 - ensure it is engaging councillors, member authorities and their staff, effectively in its work using their experience to enhance policy capability, improve its lobbying and offering councils a service they want to receive;
 - promote the achievements of councils and lead the sector to higher and more consistent levels of performance;
 - ensure it and local government's central bodies are providing value for money and maximising their contribution to the broader public service improvement agenda.
- 2 The formal terms of reference for the Commission are attached at annex a. The Commission members are:
 - Lord Best (Chairman)
 - Cheryl Coppell (Chief Executive, Slough Borough Council)
 - Clare Tickell (Chief Executive of National Childrens Homes)
 - Irene Lucas (Chief Executive of South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council)
 - Paul Kirby (Partner, KPMG)
 - Peter Hetherington (Journalist and former Regional Affairs Editor of The Guardian)
- 3 The Commission began its work in the middle of September. It has held discussions with leading figures in local government, central government and external partners. It has also met with the Chairman of the Association, Group Leaders, other members playing various LGA roles, regional groupings of councils and has held sessions with staff at the LGA and central bodies.
- 4 The Commission intends to issue an interim paper following the meeting of the General Assembly in December. It will set out its direction of travel on a number of the key issues it has been asked to consider. It will invite comments on the interim paper from member authorities and partners. The Commission has a series of regionally based consultation events planned during January and early February. It plans to bring its work together in the second half of February and submit a report to the LGA Executive at that time.

- 5 Lord Best will be making a presentation to the General Assembly summarising the emerging views of the Commission to date and the likely contents of the interim paper.

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