

LGA Constitution

Purpose of Report

For decision.

Summary

This paper puts forward the LGA Leadership Board's recommendations for a number of minor changes to the LGA Constitution, which require approval by the General Assembly. The proposed changes comprise:

- creation of a new Finance Panel to lead the Association's work on local government finance policy;
- deletion of the existing Audit and Scrutiny Panel; expansion of the remit of the Resources Panel to cover scrutiny and creation of a small dedicated Audit Committee.
- expansion of the LGA boards to increase the number of members activity engaged in the work of the LGA;
- addition of a membership scheme for Police and Crime Commissioners;
- addition of a corporate membership scheme for National Park Authorities.

Recommendation

That the General Assembly endorses the proposed changes to the LGA Constitution.

Action

Revise the Constitution in line with the General Assembly's decisions.
Introduce changes to the LGA's governance structures from 1 September 2012.

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LGA Constitution

Proposed amendments to LGA Governance structures

1. The current Governance arrangements were established in September 2009 and reviewed in 2010. Since then local government funding, currently within the remit of the LGA Executive, has become increasingly critical.
2. Following the creation of an Interim Finance Task & Finish Group earlier in the year, the LGA Leadership Board, at its meeting on 16 May, considered the longer term arrangements for leading the Association's work on local government finance and agreed to recommend the following set of proposals to the General Assembly:
 - 2.1 That a new Finance Panel be created, reporting to the LGA Executive, with a remit to cover external local government finance issues;
 - 2.2 That the remit of the Resources Panel be expanded to include the scrutiny role currently undertaken by the Audit & Scrutiny Panel;
 - 2.3 That a small Audit Committee, comprising one representative from each of the four political Groups, be established to deliver the audit requirements of the LGA and its company board structure;
 - 2.4 That membership of the existing nine Boards be increased from 14 to 18 places.

Proposed amendments to LGA Membership schemes

Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

3. On 22 November 2012 police authorities in England and Wales will be abolished and replaced with directly elected Police & Crime Commissioners (except in London where the role of PCC has been undertaken by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime since 16 January 2012).
4. At its meeting on 8 February 2012, the LGA Leadership Board confirmed its commitment to an LGA membership offer for PCCs. Discussions are continuing and a draft membership offer has been developed.
5. Pending a final decision on the preferred membership scheme, it is proposed that provision is made in the LGA Constitution for a new Associate membership scheme for Police and Crime Commissioners (replacing the former scheme for Police Authorities) and for a Corporate scheme via a new national body for Police & Crime Commissioners.

Item 4

National Park Authorities

6. The LGA Constitution includes an Associate membership scheme for National Parks Authorities. Discussions are taking place on the potential for a corporate membership scheme for National Park Authorities through their national representative body the English National Parks Authorities Association (ENPAA). The ENPAA Board will consider the proposals in July 2012.
7. Pending the outcome of ENPAA's discussion, it is proposed that provision is made in the LGA Constitution for a new Corporate membership scheme for English National Parks Authorities through ENPAA.

Conclusion

8. Changes to the LGA's governance structures would come into effect from 1 September 2012. New Membership schemes will be introduced in discussion with the relevant bodies.
9. Extracts from the LGA Constitution, covering revisions to the membership schemes and revised governance structures, are attached at **Appendix 1**.