

Appendix A

promoting better local government

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Dear Andrew

As part of its “Raising Our Game” programme the LGA has recently completed a review of Beacons and Innovation and would now like to work with the CLG on the implementation of the recommendations emerging from that review.

Of particular significance are the review findings with respect to the Beacons Scheme. The LGA is keen to ensure that leading edge and innovatory practice is quickly identified, promoted/celebrated and then disseminated/deployed across the sector. While the Beacon Scheme meets some of this requirement, the LGA believes that the Scheme would benefit from a substantial refresh. Our understanding is that this analysis is shared, at least in part, by the existing membership of the Beacons Panel.

The LGA believe that a refreshed scheme needs to be better aligned to the new performance management system and the recently agreed National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy. In particular we would jointly develop the scheme to:

- Identify the leading edge innovatory practice needed to secure the delivery of central/local objectives expressed through the LAAs;
- Reflect the partnership arrangements between central and local government developed to deliver the NIES and, compared to current governance arrangements, secure greater sector ownership;
- Be aligned to the new improvement “architecture” taking into account in particular that architecture’s regional dimension;
- Be less expensive to both operate and participate in;
- Be more flexible and speedier in terms of capturing and disseminating leading edge innovatory practice;

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- Celebrate successful innovation, promoting that success to enhance the broader reputation of local government.

Developing the scheme along the lines described above would both ensure that it is updated to fit the current improvement priorities and guarantee that the scheme gets the full support of the LGA and its membership. I suggest the next step is a meeting between relevant officials from the CLG and officers from the LGA/IDeA to develop a detailed proposal.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Jones
Director of Finance and Performance