

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

**Title:** LG Group Improvement Programme Board

**Date and time:** Tuesday 18 January 2011, 11.30am

**Venue:** County Hall, Preston

### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Cllr David Parsons	Leicestershire CC
Vice chair	Cllr Jill Shortland	Somerset CC
Deputy chair	Cllr Ruth Cadbury	Hounslow LB
Deputy chair	Cllr Jeremy Webb	East Lindsey DC
Members	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC
	Cllr Peter Goldsworthy	Chorley BC
	Cllr Robert Gordon	Hertfordshire CC
	Cllr Dr Andrew Povey	Surrey CC
	Cllr Tony McDermott	Halton BC
	Cllr Sir David Williams CBE	Richmond upon Thames LB
	Cllr Edward Lord JP	Corporation of London
In attendance	Cllr Geoff Driver	Lancashire CC
	Philip Selwood	LGID Board Member
Apologies	Cllr Richard Stay	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Tim Cheetham	Barnsley MBC
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City

**Officers:** Rob Whiteman, Dennis Skinner, Helen Platts, Jo Webb, Howard Davis (LGID); Stuart Young, Nick Easton, Liz Hobson, Paul Johnston (LGA); Sue Goss (OPM).

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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1	<b>LG Group Business Plan</b>	
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Members made the following comments on the LG Group Business Plan:

- 1.1 Referring to the Local Government's Group recent lobbying successes, Members said that the Plan needed to reflect both a greater sense of the value of LGA membership, and strike a more optimistic tone about the future for local government.
- 1.2 Members said that the Plan also needed to be appropriately framed for both internal and external audiences and that the corporate rebranding of the LG Group needed to be better reflected and promoted within the Plan.
- 1.3 Members queried the process for agreeing the Business Plan and expressed concern that the Plan had been noted at the LG Group Executive prior to the Board meeting. Officers stated that, constitutionally, responsibility for the Business Plan rested with the LG Group Executive, but said that Executive Members had agreed to invite other Programme Boards to contribute to the Plan, and welcomed the views of the Improvement Programme Board, particularly with regard to elements of the Plan concerning self-regulation and improvement.

***Decision***

*Members agreed the LG Group Business Plan, subject to the comments above being considered.*

*Members agreed that an update be presented to the next meeting of the Improvement Programme Board.*

**Action**

Officers to incorporate Members' comments into further developing the LG Group Business Plan and bring an update to the next meeting of the Board.

Helen Platts

## 2 Local Government Self Regulation and Improvement

Dennis Skinner, National Co-ordinator, Regional Associate, introduced the report, which set out the final LG Group proposals for sector-led self regulation and improvement, which had been revised in light of members' consideration of councils' responses at the Board's away day.

Members commented that this strand of the Board's work had been very successful in terms of reducing the amount of inspection and assessment that councils were subject to and that there had been an excellent level of response from councils to the Group's proposals on self regulation.

In terms of finalising and implementing the proposals, members commented that:

- 2.1 It would be important to protect the reputation of the sector by developing effective arrangements to manage the risk of underperformance and that the Group would need to work with regional and sub regional groupings to achieve this;
- 2.2 At the same time the Group should not overlook "coasting" councils, and needed to continue to promote innovation and improvement;
- 2.3 The final publication should highlight the offers being made to the sector and that take up was not mandatory – but the Group needed to be sure that it had the capacity to deliver the support proposed e.g. peer support to councils likely to change political control in the May elections;
- 2.4 It would be important to show how the tools being made available would enable councils to compare performance, in the absence of national indicators and inspection reports
- 2.5 The Group would need to develop a strong communications strategy to ensure councils were aware of the proposals and the Group "offer".

Members noted that the Political Groups had a key role to play in implementing the arrangements.

### ***Decision***

*Members agreed that the final document be agreed for launch – subject to final "testing" with a sample of member authorities.*

### **Action**

Officers to test the final proposals with a sample of councils and finalise for publication and launch.

**Dennis Skinner**

Lead members to discuss the proposals with respective LG Group Office Holders

### **3 Local Productivity Programme**

Officers introduced the report, noting that, following discussions at the Board away day in November, it was proposed that the workstreams for the second phase of the programme should be streamlined further.

Members said that they welcomed the further streamlining of workstreams. In particular, the barriers and burdens workstream had led to closer working between the LG Group and CLG, and Members said that closer working between the Group and Government departments was to be encouraged.

Commenting on the proposals for Phase Two, Members said that it was important that the workstreams did not duplicate current work elsewhere and that the third strand around children and adults should also deal with health issues where appropriate.

### **Decision**

*Members agreed the proposals for Phase Two of the Programme. They emphasised the importance of member leadership of the productivity programme.*

*Members agreed that it would be helpful to hold member led workshops to shape three developmental work programmes;*

*Members agreed that the programme be named the Local Productivity Programme;*

*Members agreed to report on progress to date and the proposals for phase two of the programme to the LG Group Executive.*

**Action**

Officers to progress as per the above.

**4 Community Budgets update**

Members noted the update, and stated that Members, not officers, should pursue the joint political governance of the programme if they were to ensure high-level political involvement in community budgets at national level and the objective of wider roll-out.

**5 Notes of last meeting and actions arising**

The note of the last meeting was agreed as a correct record, subject to amending the attendance membership on page 1 to reflect that Cllr Tim Cheetham represents Barnsley MBC, and Cllr Helen Holland represents Bristol City Council.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 21 March 2011**