

Business Plan Priorities for 2011/12: 6 Month Update

Purpose of report

To inform the Board of progress against the Business Plan priorities and to discuss progress prior to a summary being submitted to Audit and Scrutiny Panel (December 2011).

Summary

This report provides Members with a mid financial year update of the progress on the LGA's overall business plan that is relevant to the work of the Improvement Programme Board. The progress is captured in **Appendix 1**. A summary of progress will be forwarded to the Audit and Scrutiny Panel for their meeting in December 2011 as part of the LGA's performance monitoring arrangements.

Recommendation

That members should note and discuss progress made against Improvement Board's 2011/2012 business plan targets as set out in Appendix 1.

Action

Officers to take forward in line with Members' discussion.

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Background

1. The LG Group Business Plan agreed by the Executive earlier in the year and reported to previous meetings of the Improvement Board sets out the LGA's (formerly LG Group's) strategy and priorities.
2. The overarching priorities for the LGA have been agreed as:
 - 2.1 representing and advocating for local government and making the case for greater devolution; and
 - 2.2 helping councils tackle their challenges and take advantage of new opportunities to deliver better value for money services.
3. The Business Plan also identifies a number of key areas that fall under the responsibility of the Improvement Programme Board. These can be summarised as follows:
 - 3.1 Supporting and leading the sector in self-regulation through Taking the Lead offers.
 - 3.2 Delivery of the Local Productivity programme.
 - 3.3 Ensuring the sector is supported to provide effective leadership to councils and local communities.
 - 3.4 Helping Councils to be innovative in order to transform services for the benefit of their users/residents.

Mid (financial) Year Progress

4. Each Improvement Board meeting considers progress in relation to the above priority areas. Some issues are considered in more detail than others over the course of the year as key milestones arise.
5. Agendas for Improvement Board have more recently been co-ordinated under the following headings; Leadership, Productivity, Innovation, Improvement and Transparency.

6. **Appendix 1** summarises the 6 month progress of all the key areas.
7. Overall the picture is one of good progress, particularly given the settling in of transitional arrangements from 1 June 2011. Members are reminded that the new structure saw a reduction in staffing of around 40% and the creation of whole new teams of people working together for the first time.
8. All staff across the Leadership and Productivity Division have worked tremendously hard to keep the show on the road since the major restructuring that took place only a few months ago. The new offers that we committed the organisation to delivering under the Taking the Lead offer are all now available and are being taken up by councils.

Conclusion

9. The Board's reflections are sought prior to a summary of **Appendix 1** being submitted to Audit and Scrutiny Panel in December 2011.

Financial Implications

10. The costs of meeting the programmes set out in this report are contained within the LGA's overall budget.