

Improvement Programme Board Priorities 2012/13

Purpose of report

For review and direction.

Recommendation

To provide a steer on priorities for 2012/13 in the light of the direction of travel for local government and the LGA presented in the outline business plan.

Action

To feedback the Programme Board discussion to Leadership Board, to inform the final business plan which is due to be signed off by the LGA Executive in March.

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Priorities 2012/13

Summary

1. Work is currently underway on the LGA's Business Plan for 2012/13. As part of this, each of the Programme Boards is asked to identify the headline priorities for their areas of work for next year in the light of the LGA's overall direction of travel.
2. An outline business plan, attached as an **Appendix** to this paper, is being presented for initial review at the January Executive. This has been developed by an iterative process with members, in discussions at Leadership Board and through the political group offices. This work has informed the statement of our vision for local government and, given this, initial proposals as to where the LGA can have most impact.
3. Through this work, six priorities have emerged as the focus for the LGA's work in 2012/13:
 - 3.1 Public Service Reform
 - 3.2 Growth and Prosperity
 - 3.3 Funding for local government
 - 3.4 Efficiency and Productivity
 - 3.5 Sector-led Improvement
 - 3.6 The LGA's own effectiveness and efficiency.
4. Heads of Programmes have already fed in the known priorities for their area in the light of the Programme Board issues already identified by members. For the Improvement Programme Board, these were:
 - 4.1 Helping councils save at least £150m over the next 3 years by supporting pathfinder programmes, productivity master classes and good practice.
 - 4.2 Roll-out of the capital assets programme with a particular emphasis on councils using their assets to generate economic growth.

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- 4.3 Providing free of charge tools such as LG Inform to allow councils to benchmark costs and performance information against other authorities.
 - 4.4 Continuing to support the Creative Councils programme to help turn their ideas into action and share the outcomes with the rest of the sector.
 - 4.5 A programme of over 100 peer challenges in each of the next 3 years for councils and fire and rescue authorities.
 - 4.6 Maintaining an overview of the performance of local government and providing tailored support to councils that face significant challenges.
 - 4.7 Support to enhance councils' accountability to local people including support to strengthen scrutiny, including working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny.
 - 4.8 Providing a range of development programmes for elected members, and one free/subsidised place to every council for each of the next 3 years.
 - 4.9 Offering every council over the next three years a member development workshop to support councils to become "champions of their patch".
 - 4.10 Working with the national parties and others to increase the diversity of people standing for public office through our "Be a Councillor" programme.
 - 4.11 Offering member mentoring free of charge for any council where there is a change of political leadership.
 - 4.12 Providing development programmes which bring together elected members and officers through programmes such as our Leeds Castle programme.
 - 4.13 Attracting new talent into the public sector through programmes such as the National Graduate Development programme.
5. Programme Boards are asked to review these business plan priorities for 2012/13.