

Business Planning 2013/14

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report invites the Board to express views about the shape of the LGA's Business Plan for 2013/14.

Recommendation

The Board provides views and guidance about the shape of the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14.

Action

Board views to be fed into the development of the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14.

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Business Planning 2013/14

Background

1. The process of developing the Business Plan for 2013/14 has begun and is due to be signed off by the LGA Executive in March 2013.
2. The LGA Leadership Board at its meeting on 17 October 2012r provided a high level steer on the LGA's priorities for 2013/14 (see **Appendix A**). The LGA Boards are now being asked to develop proposal for next year to inform the more detailed business plan and budget.
3. Members are invited to offer initial views in to the process. It is anticipated that the overall budget for 2013/14 will be broadly in line with this year's budget and that the five priorities remain relevant but with a sharper focus on economic growth, funding and public service reform.
4. By way of background Members will be aware that two of the five current outcomes relate directly to the work of the Improvement and Innovation Board. The current five priorities are:
 - 4.1 **Public service reform** – councils are at the centre, and seen to be at the centre, of public service reform and delivering more effective services for local people.
 - 4.2 **Growth, jobs and prosperity** – councils are recognised as central to economic growth.
 - 4.3 **Funding for local government** – reform of the public sector finance system so councils raise more funds locally, have confidence their financing is sustainable and fair, and greater ability to co-ordinate local public services.
 - 4.4 **Efficiency and productivity** – councils dramatically reduce costs in ways which minimise the impact on the quality of life for their residents.
 - 4.5 **Sector-led improvement** – councils are the most improved part of the public sector, and local politicians and senior managers lead the transformation of local places.
5. The Leadership Board's initial view is that the efficiency and productivity priority should become part of the Public Service reform objective and that sector-led improvement should be core to everything the LGA does and underpin all of the three priorities.
6. Boards are being asked to focus on the following questions in respect of the work of their Board:

Item 6

- 6.1 For the LGA's top priorities, what should we be focussing on and trying to achieve for maximum impact on behalf of our members?
- 6.2 What have we found out about what works and what doesn't work over the last year? What should we be doing more of? What should we be stopping or doing less of?
7. In thinking about how the Board contributes to the Plan, Members identified the following areas of work for the Board:
 - 7.1 Supporting and leading the sector in self-regulation through Taking the Lead offers, including stronger local accountability through transparency.
 - 7.2 Delivery of the Local Productivity programme.
 - 7.3 Ensuring the sector is supported to provide effective leadership to councils and local communities.
 - 7.4 Helping Councils to be innovative in order to transform services for the benefit of their users/residents.
8. At the mid (financial year) review stage members recognised that the overall picture of progress was good, particularly given the settling in of transitional arrangements from 1 June 2011, the reduction in staffing of around 40% and the creation of whole new teams of people working together for the first time.
9. In terms of thinking about the 2013/14, it is suggested that the current areas of work remain relevant but that the Board:
 - 9.1 will want to take account of the feedback from the evaluation of sector-led improvement and our specific offers;
 - 9.2 maintain a strong focus on helping councils deliver quality services and drive out efficiency savings; and
 - 9.3 consider further work to nurture and identify innovative practice.
10. It will be important that Members have regard to the RSG prospectus which was agreed with government and set out the funding from top slice for the period up to 2014/15. This included 3 key priorities which are relevant to the work of this Board:
 - 10.1 Local Productivity.
 - 10.2 Strong Political Leadership.
 - 10.3 Sector led improvement.

Item 6

Conclusion and next steps

11. Members are invited to offer views in to the process for developing the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14.

Financial Implications

12. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.