

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Part 1: Improvement and Innovation and Community Wellbeing Board

Date: Friday 2 November 2012

Venue: Bevin Hall, Local Government House

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council / Representing
Chairman	Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC
Vice-Chairman	Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset CC
Deputy-Chairman	Ruth Cadbury	Hounslow LB
Deputy-Chairman	Jeremy Webb	East Lindsey DC
Members	Richard Stay	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
	Chris Hayward	Three Rivers DC
	Barry Wood	Cherwell DC
	Glen Miller	Bradford City
	Teresa O'Neill	Bexley LB
	Tony McDermott MBE	Halton BC
	Tim Cheetham	Barnsley MBC
	Helen Holland	Bristol City
	Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
	Rory Palmer	Leicester City
	Sir David Williams CBE	Richmond upon Thames
Apologies		
Observers/Other attendees	Cllr Paul Bettison	LGA Conservative National Lead Peer
	Philip Sellwood	Energy Savings Trust
	Richard Priestman	Lombard
	Oliver Mills	Towards Excellence National Programme Director
LGA Officers	Michael Coughlin, Dennis Skinner, Brian Reynolds, Nick Easton, Juliet Whitworth, Mike Short, Teresa Payne and Frances Marshall.	

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Councillor Rodgers, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and outlining the structure of the meeting. He highlighted the unique opportunity the meeting provided to discuss in detail such important across cutting issues.</p>	
2	<p>Sector-led improvement in Adult Services</p> <p>Dennis Skinner (Head of Leadership and Productivity) and Oliver Mills (Towards Excellence National Programme Director) introduced the report which provided an update on sector-led improvement in adult services being taken forward through the Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care (TEASC) programme board. In doing so, Dennis Skinner outlined the core principles underpinning the overarching sector-led improvement framework and the seven core components of the LGA's support offer to the sector. Oliver Mills contextualised the work of TEASC within this framework and highlighted the key priorities going forward.</p> <p><u>Decisions</u></p> <p>That the Boards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="272 1435 1225 1503">i. noted the progress made so far in sector-led improvement in adult services; and<li data-bbox="272 1536 1225 1603">ii. agreed that officers take this work forward as outlined in paragraphs 5 - 14.	
3	<p>Productivity Programme Update: Opportunities for efficiency savings in Adult Social Care</p> <p>In introducing John Bolton, a Professor at the Institute of Public Care who would be updating the meeting on the LGA's Adult Social Care Efficiency (ASCE) programme, the Chairman contextualised the ASCE programme within the financial landscape of reducing funding for adult and social care services and the impact on service provision.</p> <p>John Bolton summarised the ASCE programme's objectives, outlined the progress made thus far and highlighted a number of emerging lessons arising from the programme which involved 44 local authorities. In terms</p>	

of going forward, an event would be held on 27 November 2012 to launch a report summarising the early findings from the programme. A progress review was scheduled for summer 2013, with a final programme report, including details of efficiency savings achieved, planned for 2014. In concluding, John Bolton outlined the manner in which the learning from the programme would be disseminated within the sector and emphasised that the success of the programme was dependant upon the sector being open, self critical and willing to learning from each other.

Decision

That the Boards **noted** the report and progress made.

4 Sector-led improvement and Health reform

Alyson Morley (Senior Advisor – Health) outlined the report which sought Members' views on the future scope for sector-led support on the health improvement role for local authorities. She outlined key changes to the health system with single and upper-tier local government receiving new powers and duties under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to work with partners and communities to improve health outcomes for their local populations. In outlining the implications of these changes for the sector, she summarised the key areas of concern (Health and Wellbeing Boards, Commissioning, Public Health and Public Engagement) and noted the current support already available during the transition period. In terms of going forward, she welcomed Members' input and noted that any proposals for a sector-led improvement offer on the role of local authorities in health improvement would involve wide consultation with key groups within the sector.

Decision

That the Boards **noted** the key proposals outline in the report.

5. Discussions section and feedback

Councillor Fleming, Chairman of the Improvement and Innovation Board introduced the discussion and feedback session by reiterating the unique opportunity this session provided to push the debate forward regarding the role of the sector in self assessment, improvement and productivity. In small cross party groups, Members discussed the following questions and fed back to the full Board meeting on the key points raised during these break out sessions:

1. What are the key priorities that the LGA's sector-led improvement offer needs to address to help local authorities improve outcomes in adult social care and health?
2. What more does the LGA need to do to support councils in delivering savings in adult social care?
3. How can the LGA best help political leaders and councils improve local health outcomes through Health and Wellbeing Boards?

The notes from the break out sessions are attached at **Appendix A**.

Decision

The Boards **asked** that Members' comments be taken into account in developing and progressing: (a) the Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care programme; (b) the Adult and Social Care Efficiency programme; and (c) the LGA's sector-led offer to local authorities to improve health outcomes.

Title:	Part 2: Improvement and Innovation Board
Date:	Friday 2 November 2012
Venue:	Rathbone Rooms 1&2, Local Government House

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Members to the second part of the Improvement and Innovation Board meeting and noted that there had been a number of changes to the Board Membership as a result of the recent appointment of new national and regional lead member peers. The Chairman suggested that in future, given the important role of national and regional lead member peers, that they be invited to attend Improvement and Innovation Board meetings as observers.

5. Second Quarter Performance Report - 2012/13

Dennis Skinner presented the report which provided an overview of the LGA's progress in delivering the 2012-13 business plan priorities for the first six months of the financial year and on the financial performance in respect of the LGA's improvement programmes. Members were invited to review the second quarter performance report to the end of September 2012.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments and questions, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- With reference to expenditure on Peer Reviews, the Chairman encouraged Member to promote the LGA's offer of one free peer review over a 3 year period.
- In response to questions regarding the current underspend in the improvement programme budget, Dennis Skinner assured the Board that projected overall spend was set to be very close to meeting its target by the end of the financial year and that officers were monitoring spend closely.
- Dennis Skinner highlighted an amendment to the expenditure figure in the report on the waste element of the productivity programme.

Decision

That the Board **noted** the second quarter's performance report to the end of September 2012.

Action

Invite national and regional lead member peers to attend future Improvement and Innovation Board meetings.

Frances Marshall

6 Business Planning 2013/14

The Chairman introduced the report from the Leadership Board which provided a high level steer on the LGA's priorities for 2013/14. In doing so, the Chairman highlighted the key proposed changes which related specifically to the work of the Innovation and Improvement Board. Whilst noting the potential benefits of having sector-led improvement underpinning all of the LGA's priorities, he expressed concerns about the proposal that efficiency and productivity become part of the public service reform objective, rather than a stand alone priority. The Chairman sought Members views, which would then inform the business planning process.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments and questions, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

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- A number of different views were expressed regarding the proposal that efficiency and productivity priority become part of the public service reform objective. Whilst some Members were in support of it remaining a stand alone objective, other Members expressed the view that including it within the wider priority could potentially expanded the breadth of the work stream. Members were however clear, that the wording of the priority would be key to ensuring that efficiency and productivity were integral to the public service reform objective.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the omission of any reference to procurement from the initial business plan proposal. Members also noted the need to include references to protecting vulnerable individuals, addressing inequalities and encouraging political leadership.
- A Member highlighted the need to further raise the profile of the sector through lobbying activities.
- A number of different views were expressed regarding the proposal that sector-led improvement no longer be a stand alone priority. On the one hand, a Member indicated that removing it as a priority risked sending out the wrong message to external audience, particularly Government, in terms of the sector's commitment to sector-led improvement. However, other Members were more sympathetic to the Leadership Board's view that sector-led improvement should be core to everything the LGA does and therefore it was appropriate that it underpin the LGA's key priorities.
- Members were assured by officers that as the business planning process progressed, measurable targets and outcomes would be developed.
- In response to questions from Members, it was confirmed that the overall budget for 2013/14 would be less than the previous financial year.

Decision

That the Board **asked** that their comments about the shape of the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14 inform the business planning process.

Action

To feed the Board's views into the development of the LGA Business Plan for 2013/14.

Dennis Skinner

7. Update on Transparency

Councillor Tim Cheetham, lead Member for Transparency introduced the report which provided an overview of recent data transparency and policy developments. These included updates on: the results of the local government transparency survey; the open Data Strategy from government departments; the LGA's position for the consultation on the Code of Practice on Transparency; consultation on voluntary and community spending guide; LG Inform and the single data list; and INSPIRE. In particular he invited Members to contribute to the shaping of a policy position on transparency and he outlined the key themes and issues that arose from a workshop on transparency with representatives from the sector.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments and questions, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- In discussing the INSPIRE regulation, Members welcomed the fact that DEFRA was working with the LGA to develop a business case for a local government publishing service, however it was noted that the funding would only relate to elements of the regulations that went beyond the standard approach of publishing data under transparency. Although it was noted that authorities would benefit from INSPIRE because it would lead to better internal data management, a Member expressed the view that this would not amount to direct financial savings.
- With regard to the Government's consultation on the Code of Practice on Transparency, Members were united in their view that central Government should be subject to the same level scrutiny and data transparency obligations as local government.
- In discussing the development of a local transparency policy, a Member asked that health data be a key focus.

Decisions

That the Board:

- (i) **noted** the progress made and ongoing work of the transparency programme;
- (ii) **supported** the proposed transparency policy and principles and **asked** that their comment on the be taken into account;
- (iii) **supported** the formation of a Local Transparency Task and

Finish Group to co-ordinate the LGA's input into the overall governance structure for transparency;

- (iv) **endorsed** the LGA position in response to the Code of Practice on Transparency; and
- (v) **supported** the proposal to consider a local government publishing service to meet INSPIRE regulation, funded through new burdens assessment by DEFRA.

Action

The Research and Information Team will continue to develop the programme in the light of the Board's views. Research and Information Team

8. Local Government Knowledge Navigator - Update

Juliet Whitworth (Research & Information Manager) presented the report which updated the Board on the appointment of an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded Local Government Knowledge Navigator. In doing so she drew particular attention to how the LGA had been working with the ESRC to ensure that local government both inputs into and benefits from publically funded research programmes commissioned by the research council.

In the following discussion, Members commented on the anticipated project outcomes and emphasised the importance that the appointed Local Government Knowledge Navigator engages with the LGA and has an in-depth and practical understanding of the sector.

Decision

That the Board **noted** the forthcoming appointment of the Local Government Knowledge Navigator and planned programme of work; and **asked** that their comments be taken into consideration in taking this work programme forward.

Develop the programme in the light of the Board's views.

Research and
Information Team

9. Notes of the last meeting and actions arising

The Improvement Board **agreed** the note of the last meeting.

10. Date of next meeting - 11.00am Tuesday 15 January 2013