

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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<b>Title:</b>	LGA Executive
<b>Date and time:</b>	Thursday 8 December 2011, 2.30pm
<b>Venue:</b>	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

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### Attendance

An Attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decisions and actions</b>	<b>Action by</b>
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**1 - 3 Report of the Children and Young People Programme Board  
Adoption update**

**Progress report from the Children's Improvement Board (CIB)**

Councillor David Simmonds, Chairman of the Children and Young People Programme Board, introduced these three items for discussion together. Cllr Simmonds set out the main lobbying successes of the Board as well as outlining the key challenges facing the sector.

In discussion members raised a number of questions and issues, including:

- What powers would councils have to intervene in academies that were experiencing difficulties and how would they identify these academies?  
Cllr Simmonds stated that local authorities still had a range of powers to intervene in academies where they foresaw difficulties. The relationship between the schools and the local authorities would be key in identifying where support was needed.
- The value of a sector-led approach to children's improvement.  
Two councillors from the Children and Young People Programme Board held places on the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) and provided member oversight and scrutiny on the Board's activities. Noted that in its first year of operation, the CIB had achieved some notable successes although there were still further improvements to be made.
- The CIB has identified adoption as a priority for policy implementation through the sector-led improvement programme for children's services. Noted that the Secretary of State had been positive about local government's reaction to the Government's

- position on adoption rates.
- The importance of providing independent careers advice to young people in schools – members expressed support for the careers summit the Children and Young People Programme Board would be hosting.

**Decision**

*Members agreed that a paper on capital and academies funding would be brought to a future Executive meeting.*

**Action**

Officers to progress all aspects in line with Members' steer.

**Helen  
Johnston**

**4 Autumn Statement update**

Paul Raynes, Head of Programmes for Localism and Finance, introduced this item outlining the impact of the Autumn Statement on local government. The key changes compared with the position set out in the 2010 Spending Review were:

- a switch of about £3.7 billion over the period to 2014-15 from current spending into capital spending; and
- further cuts in current spending in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The Chancellor's announcement on the Government's spending plans for 2015-16 and 2016-17 stated that total Government expenditure would fall by 0.9% p.a. in real terms in each of those years. This was in line with the rate set out in the 2010 Spending Review.

It was noted that these proposals could lead to higher levels of the 'set-aside' which had been highlighted as a significant issue in the LGA response to the recent Local Government Resource Review consultation.

Members raised concerns about the assumptions made by the Treasury regarding the possible savings from public sector pay restraint. Some members felt that this may lead to further spending cuts for councils. Members suggested that there needed to be further examination of Whitehall spending.

Members discussed the implications of the Barnett Formula and asked for a further report to be brought to the Executive.

**Decision**

*Members noted the report and confirmed their commitment to greater devolution of funding.*

**Action**

Officers to provide further report on the Barnett Funding formula.

**Paul  
Raynes**

**5 Regional Report: Cllr Martin Hill OBE, EM Councils**

Cllr Martin Hill OBE, EM Councils representative, introduced the first of the new regional reports, updating members on the work currently being undertaken by East Midlands Councils.

Members welcomed the opportunity to share expertise and strengthen the links with the regions.

***Decision***

*Members agreed on the importance of maintaining strong links with the regions.*

**Action**

Officers to co-ordinate forward programme of reports from the regions.

**Claire  
Holloway**

**6 LGA Membership Subscriptions**

Cllr Stephen Castle, Chairman of the Resources Panel, introduced this item summarising the proposed LGA membership subscription structure for the year commencing 1 April 2012. It was noted that a reduction of more than 7% in subscription levels was proposed for 2012-13 and that the subscriptions would average out to approximately 20p per resident in England, and around 8p per resident in Wales.

Cllr Castle thanked Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, for his work on subscription levels.

***Decision***

*Members noted the report and agreed the subscription level.*

**Action**

Officers to notify all member authorities of their 2012/13 subscription.

**Stephen  
Jones**

**7 Note of the LGA Leadership Board 7 December 2011**

Members **agreed** the note of the last LGA Leadership Board meeting.

**8 Note of last LGA Executive 10 November**

Members **agreed** the note of the last LGA Executive meeting.

**Attendance list**

**Position/ Role**

Chairman  
Vice-chairman  
Vice-chairman  
Vice-chairman  
Vice-chairman  
Deputy-chairman  
Deputy-chairman  
Deputy-chairman

**Councillor**

Sir Merrick Cockell  
Gary Porter  
David Sparks OBE  
Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Marianne Overton  
Robert Light  
Steve Reed  
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE

**Authority**

RB Kensington & Chelsea  
South Holland DC  
Dudley MBC  
Portsmouth City  
Lincolnshire CC  
Kirklees Council  
Lambeth LB  
Watford BC

**Position/ Role**

Members

**Councillor**

Paul Bettison  
Ian Greenwood  
David Wilcox OBE  
Angus Campbell  
David Rogers OBE  
Peter Martin  
Stephen Castle  
Mayor Jules Pipe  
Roger Phillips  
David Simmonds JP  
Mehboob Khan  
David Parsons CBE  
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock  
Martin Hill OBE  
Sir Richard Leese CBE  
Neil Clarke  
Peter Fleming  
Jill Shortland OBE  
Paul Bettison  
Ian Greenwood  
David Wilcox OBE  
Angus Campbell  
David Rogers OBE  
Peter Martin

**Authority**

Bracknell Forest Council  
Bradford MDC  
Derbyshire CC  
Dorset CC  
East Sussex CC  
Essex CC  
Essex CC  
Hackney LB  
Herefordshire CC  
Hillingdon LB  
Kirklees Council  
Leicestershire CC  
Lewisham LB  
Lincolnshire CC  
Manchester City  
Rushcliffe DC  
Sevenoaks DC  
Somerset CC  
Bracknell Forest Council  
Bradford MDC  
Derbyshire CC  
Dorset CC  
East Sussex CC  
Essex CC

**Apologies**

Stephen Houghton CBE  
Robert Gordon DL  
Chris White  
Paul Carter  
Lord Peter Smith  
Edward Lord OBE JP  
Philip Atkins

Barnsley MBC  
Hertfordshire CC  
Hertfordshire CC  
Kent CC  
LG Leadership  
Local Partnerships  
Staffordshire CC



Sharon Taylor  
Paul Watson  
Peter Box CBE  
Robert Dutton OBE

Stevenage BC  
Sunderland City  
Wakefield Council  
Wrexham County Borough