

Note of decisions taken and actions required

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| Title: | LGA Executive |
| Date and time: | Thursday 15 March 2012, 2.30pm |
| Venue: | The Westminster Suite, Local Government House |

Attendance

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

| Item | Decisions and actions | Action by |
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1. **Whole Place Community Budget Pilots - update**

Cllr Peter Martin and Joanna Killian, Leader and Chief Executive of Essex County Council, introduced this report setting out the priorities and the approach that Essex have taken to Community Budgets. Cllr Martin told members that this was an ambitious project and required reform. However it was an opportunity for local government.

Members agreed that community budgets presented a real opportunity to deliver things differently. However, new ways of working would need to be developed to ensure that their introduction was a success.

Members raised concerns about the level of support amongst different Government departments for community budgets and described some of the difficulties they had faced.

Decision

Members agreed the importance of community budgets to the sector and agreed to have community budgets on future agendas going forward as a standing item

Action

Officers to ensure community budgets are on future agendas of the LGA Executive.

**Claire
Holloway**

2. **Sector-led improvement**

Cllr Peter Fleming introduced this item for discussion detailing the proposed new framework for sector self-improvement and outlining the key features of the LGA's new corporate peer challenge offer to the sector, including:

1. Councils are entitled to a free peer challenge at a time of their choosing in the next 3 years.
2. That the offer is flexible and tailored, allowing councils to use the peer challenge to focus on those local priorities, outcomes and ambitions which are important locally.
3. The offer can be delivered for single councils, groups of councils or with their strategic partners.
4. All corporate peer challenges will include a core component that looks at issues of leadership and corporate capacity and whose absence is linked to organisational failure.
5. The offer is forward looking and non-bureaucratic (moving away from KLOEs/ self assessments/ evidence gathering requiring excessive documentation).
6. The offer is delivered by the sector for the sector – using a peer-based approach.
7. The results of the peer challenge are fed back to and owned by the authority.
8. The peer challenge is voluntary – its primary aim is as an improvement tool.
9. Peer challenge is not a sector-owned form of inspection.

Graham Farrant, Chief Executive of Thurrock Council, attended the meeting to present Thurrock's experience of sector-led improvement including recently having one of the new corporate peer challenges. Cllr Fleming noted that this was a large-scale change for the sector and was an opportunity for local government.

Members supported the sector-led approach and welcomed the role of the regional structures and networks in the proposed new framework. They agreed that it was important that the process was member-led, to ensure that the process was bottom-up and sector-led.

However, members felt the message that peer challenge was not a sector-owned inspection tool needed to be emphasised in the LGA's communications with the sector.

Decision

Members welcomed the feedback from Thurrock about their improvement journey and the value of the LGA's new corporate peer challenge offer and agreed the importance of peer challenge as an improvement tool, rather than a sector-owned form of inspection.

Members welcomed and agreed with the proposals for a single overarching narrative aimed at Leaders and Chief Executives describing a joined up approach to sector led improvement across corporate, children's and adults improvement.

Members agreed that

- 1. sector-led improvement should be led politically;*
- 2. there should be a consistency in the support offer across corporate, adult and children's improvement; and*
- 3. that this work should be communicated to the sector in a consistent and mutually reinforcing way.*

Action

Officers to develop a single narrative describing sector-led improvement across corporate; children's and adult social services.

**Dennis
Skinner**

3. Update on the adult social care campaign publication 'Guide to the care and support white paper'

Cllr David Rogers outlined the work of the adult social care campaign that had been undertaken since the last Executive meeting. There were five strands to the campaign:

1. A guide to the white paper setting out what we hope to see in the document and tests we will use to judge its likely effectiveness.
2. Analysis of the current funding situation facing adult social care along with projections of future costs.
3. Polling to gauge the public's level of understanding of how the system works, preparations they are making for their possible future care needs, and preferences for how their potential needs will be addressed in the future.
4. Making the economic case for reform based on current workforce levels and projected job creation to meet the needs of our changing demography.
5. Developing the message that the cost of reform is a cost worth paying by comparing it to areas of wasteful public spending.

It was noted that the Guide to the care and support white paper had now been published and the polling had taken place. Work was also progressing on the rest of the strands.

Members agreed that this issue remained critical and emphasised the importance of local government in these reforms.

Decision

Members agreed the importance of this issue to the sector and their continuing support for the adult social care campaign.

Action

Officers to continue work on the adult social care campaign.

Sandie Dunne

4. Regional Report – West Midlands Councils – Cllr Philip Atkins

Cllr Philip Atkins set out the work of West Midlands Councils and in particular the effective joint working initiatives in which the councils in the region had been involved with. Cllr Philip welcomed the direct input into the LGA that West Midlands Councils had enjoyed but suggested the LGA still needed further understanding of the different challenges facing each of the regions.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers to continue to ensure that the LGA worked collaboratively with the regional groupings of councils.

Heads of Programmes

5. LGA Business Plan 2012/13

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, presented the updated business plan to the Executive. It was noted that the business plan now:

1. focuses on the top priorities for the LGA, rather than including all the priorities for each programme area;
2. includes feedback from the January meetings of the LGA Boards;
3. expresses the LGA's priorities in terms of the outcomes and impact we are seeking to achieve, rather than the activity we will be undertaking;
4. includes the LGA's campaign priorities for 2012-13 as agreed by Leadership Board.

Some members raised concerns about the public health allocations, and asked how the LGA was addressing this issue. Cllr David Rogers OBE replied that the Community Wellbeing Board was aware of the issues and had been promoting the principle that future allocations should be made on health needs rather than historic spending levels.

Decision

Members agreed the updated business plan.

Action

Officers to implement the business plan.

Helen Platts

6. 2012-13 Budget

Cllr Stephen Castle, Chairman of the Resources Panel, introduced this item, thanking the rest of the Resources Panel its supporting officers for

their work on this area. It was noted that the programme budgets had still to be finalised but that this work would be completed by May.

Decision

Members endorsed the budget report.

Action

Officers to continue work to finalise the programme budgets for 2012/13.

Helen Platts
Heads of
Programmes

7. The LGA's Membership Offer

Carolyn Downs introduced the new LGA Membership offer that would be personalised for each council when asking for subscriptions.

Decision

Members agreed the new Membership Offer.

Action

Officers to ensure that the Membership Offer is sent out to councils.

Claire
Holloway

8. Note of the LGA Leadership Board

Decision

Members agreed the note of the last LGA Leadership Board meeting held on 14 March 2012.

9. Note of last LGA Executive

Decision

Members agreed the note of the last LGA Executive meeting held on 9 February 2012.

Attendance list

| Position/ Role | Councillor | Authority |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vice-chairman | David Sparks OBE | Dudley MBC |
| Vice-chairman | Marianne Overton | Lincolnshire CC |
| Vice-chairman | Gary Porter | South Holland DC |
| Deputy-chairman | Andrew Lewer | Derbyshire CC |
| Deputy-chairman | Robert Gordon DL | Hertfordshire CC |
| Deputy-chairman | Sharon Taylor | Stevenage BC |
| Deputy-chairman | Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE | Watford BC |
| Position/ Role | Councillor | Authority |
| Members | Stephen Houghton CBE | Barnsley MBC |
| | Paul Bettison | Bracknell Forest Council |
| | Flick Rea | Camden LB |
| | Dave Wilcox OBE | Derbyshire CC |
| | Angus Campbell | Dorset CC |
| | David Rogers OBE | East Sussex CC |
| | Peter Martin | Essex CC |
| | Stephen Castle | Essex CC |
| | Mayor Jules Pipe | Hackney LB |
| | Roger Phillips | Herefordshire CC |
| | David Simmonds | Hillingdon LB |
| | Paul Carter | Kent CC |
| | Mehboob Khan | Kirklees Council |
| | Steve Reed | Lambeth LB |
| | David Parsons CBE | Leicestershire CC |
| | Mayor Sir Steve Bullock | Lewisham LB |
| | Martin Hill OBE | Lincolnshire CC |
| | Gerald Vernon-Jackson | Portsmouth City |
| | Neil Clarke | Rushcliffe BC |
| | Peter Fleming | Sevenoaks DC |
| Position/ Role | Councillor | Authority |
| Substitutes | Sue Murphy | Manchester City |
| Apologies | Councillor | Authority |
| | Sir Merrick Cockell | RB Kensington & Chelsea |
| | Ian Greenwood | Bradford MDC |
| | Robert Light | Kirklees Council |



Lord Peter Smith
Edward Lord OBE JP
Sir Richard Leese CBE
Paul Watson
Peter Box CBE

LG Leadership
Local Partnerships
Manchester City
Sunderland City
Wakefield Council