

## **Note of the last Executive meeting**

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<b>Title:</b>	LGA Executive
<b>Date and time:</b>	Thursday 18 July 2013
<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</b>
<b>1. Spending Review 2013</b>	<p>The Chairman briefly introduced the report which summarised the key Spending Round announcements for local government in 2015/17 and the key points in the LGA's response.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members endorsed the key messages in the LGA's response and asked that a report be brought to a future meeting comparing the LGA's lobbying asks with Spending Round outcomes and setting out the next steps to progress these lobbying objectives.</li><li>• Several members expressed concern regarding the unexpected inclusion of New Homes Bonus funding in the Single Local Growth Fund. These included: the impact of the redistribution of money between councils, the knock on effect on funding for local services; District Council representation on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the potential for discord between District and County Councils. With reference to the need for local flexibility and sector unity on the issue, the Chairman confirmed that the LGA would be hosting an event at which Greg Clark (Financial Secretary to the Treasury and the Minister responsible for cities policy), would be in attendance to listen to the sector's concerns.</li><li>• With reference to the disparity in local government spending per head in England compared with Scotland and Wales, Members discussed the need for a fair financial settlement for English local government and the devolution of powers to match those of the devolved nations. Whilst there were contrasting views as to whether the scope of the LGA 'English question' campaign should include the impact of devolution across the piece, or whether it should focus primarily on the impact of the Scottish independence referendum, there was</li></ul>	

cross party agreement that support should be provided to local authorities on the borders with the devolved nations. Members endorsed launching a campaign that was founded on the principles of a 'needs based' system that avoided disadvantaging any specific area.

### **Decisions**

That the Executive:

- i. **noted** the report;
- ii. **asked** that their comments inform the LGA's Spending Round work programme; and
- iii. **asked** that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the next steps following on from the 2013 Spending Round.

### **Action**

Submit a report to future meeting of the LGA Executive on the next steps following on from the 2013 Spending Round.

**Alan  
Finch**

## **2. LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2013**

Roberta Henry (Senior Events Organiser) introduced the report which set out initial delegate feedback on the 2013 Annual Conference.

Members shared their personal perspectives on the Annual Conference. Feedback had been overwhelmingly positive, with particular reference made to the Chairman's keynote speech and the Rewiring Public Services publications and video. It was noted that the tone of the conference had been optimistic and upbeat, which provided a good platform for the next 12 months. In terms of improvements for future years, it was suggested that time timing and scheduling of fringe events on the Wednesday evening be reviewed in light of the number of competing events and attendance numbers.

On behalf of the Executive, the Chairman thanked all those Members and officer who had been involved in the successful delivery of the Annual Conference.

### **Decisions**

That the Executive:

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **asked** that their comments inform the planning of future events.

**Actions**

Take forward in line with Members' direction.

**Roberta  
Henry**

**3. Rewiring Public Services: Next Steps**

Daniel Goodwin (Executive Director for Local Government Finance and Policy) gave a verbal update on the successful launch of the Rewiring Public Services publication at the Annual Conference, outlined the next steps for developing this into a wider campaign and invited Members' feedback on the publication and reaction to it.

Member felt that the publication had been well received, securing cross party support and that it was important to now build on this momentum. Whilst the widespread adoption of the phrase 'Rewiring' was seen as evidence of its success, Members made some suggestions for the next phase of the campaign, such as reviewing the use of certain terminology, synthesising the key messages into shorter themed documents, and seeking third party endorsements from key stakeholders.

**Decisions**

That the Executive **noted** the update and **endorsed** the next phase of the campaign.

**Action**

Take forward in line with Members' comments.

**Daniel  
Goodwin**

**4. LGA Boards Annual Review of the Year and current issues going forward**

The Chair or Vice Chair of each Board introduced their annual report by outlining a number of key achievements from the past 12 months and challenges for the forthcoming year, which Members were invited to comment on.

A number of key achievements were discussed, including: securing a significant refund for 101 local authorities as a result of the unfair academies top slice; the creation of a pooled budget for health and social care services to be shared between the NHS and local authorities; the successful transition of public health to local authorities; demonstrating the economic value of the visitor economy to the growth agenda; securing the devolution of funding and powers to more city areas and counties through CityDeals and the creation of Single Funding Pot; securing the removal of local authorities from an EU Directive on minimum energy efficiency levels which would have led to new financial burdens; the success of sector-led improvement in delivering favourable outcomes for councils facing performance challenges; responding robustly to the contamination of beef products with horse meat; and

securing agreement on a reformed Local Government Pensions Scheme design.

Going forward, a number of challenges and areas for focus were identified. These included: the expansion of Ofsted's remit in relation to improvement; supporting effective partnership working to enable successful health and social care integration; pressing for a more ambitious devolution of funding and powers to LEPs; promoting democratic accountability within LEPs; supporting local councils to invest in their cultural assets; maintaining the success of sector-led improvement, coupled with minimal government inspection; supporting councils to build resilient communities able to face the current economic and social challenges; and addressing the disparity in the top and bottom of the local government pay spine.

Members expressed their gratitude to officers for the support they had received over the past 12 months, and particular tribute was paid to Sir Steve Bullock for his contribution to the LGA during his tenure as Chair of the Workforce Board, a role he would be relinquishing at the end of July.

#### **Decision**

That the Executive **noted** the annual reports.

#### **5. Note of the 17 July Leadership Board meeting**

Members **noted** the minutes of the previous meeting of the Leadership Board from Wednesday 17 July 2013.

#### **6. Note of last LGA Executive**

Members **agreed** the minutes of the last LGA Executive meeting from Thursday 13 June 2013.

**Appendix A – Attendance**

<b>Position/ Role</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Chairman	Sir Merrick Cockell	RB Kensington & Chelsea
Vice-chairman	David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
Vice-chairman	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Vice-chairman	Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire CC
Vice-chairman	Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham LB
Deputy-chairman	Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council
Deputy-chairman	Robert Light	Kirklees Council
<b>Position/ Role</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Members	Flick Rea	Camden LB
	Mike Jones	Cheshire West & Chester
	Sue Murphy	Manchester City
	John Merry CBE	Salford City
	John Hart	Devon CC
	Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC
	Tony Jackson	East Herts DC
	Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough
	Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
	Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
	Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Paul Watson	Sunderland City
	Zoe Patrick	Oxfordshire CC
	Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Council
	Philip Atkins	Staffordshire CC
	Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney LB
	Alderman Sir David Wootton	Corporation of London
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>
	Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
	Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage BC
	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City
	Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC