

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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**Title:** LGA Leadership Board  
**Date and time:** 16 March 2011  
**Venue:** Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Baroness Eaton DBE	City of Bradford MDC
Vice chairman	David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
Vice chairman	David Shakespeare OBE	Buckinghamshire CC
Vice chairman	Keith Ross	West Somerset DC
Deputy chair	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Deputy chair	Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Deputy chair	Steve Reed	Lambeth LB
Deputy chair	Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City
<b>Observer</b>	Edward Lord JP	City of London Corporation
<b>Apologies</b>	Richard Kemp	Liverpool City
	David Parsons CBE	Leicestershire CC
	Robert Light	Kirklees Council

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	<b>Part 2</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>LGA Budget 2011-2012</b>	
	<p>Cllrs Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Portsmouth) and Gary Porter (South Holland) each declared a person, non-prejudicial interest in this item.</p> <p>Stephen Jones, Group Finance Director, introduced a report which set out a provisional LGA Budget for 2011-2012. The report sought the Board's approval for the Budget and for the process to develop and agree a final version of the budget at the Board's meeting in May.</p>	

Stephen Jones paid tribute to the Resources Panel for their guidance and support, and the challenges they presented, in the development of the LG Group and the LGA Budgets for 2011-12.

Stephen Jones responded to a number of questions and comments made by members on a number of issues, particularly including pension costs.

## **Decision**

The Leadership Board

- 1.1 Noted the work done under the guidance of the LG Group Resources Panel to reduce overhead costs, including in particular pension costs ;*
- 1.2 Approved the provisional LGA budget, subject to their comments, and;*
- 1.3 Approved the proposed timetable and method for concluding the agreement of the final budget once the outcome of the work currently in progress to make a substantial reduction in staff numbers across the LG Group has been assessed.*

## **Action**

Officers to continue to develop the budget and seek the Board's approval of a final version at their May meeting.

**Stephen Jones**

## **2. Councillor development – the LG Group offer**

Cllrs Gerald Vernon-Jackson and Gary Porter each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item.

Rob Whiteman, Executive Director, LGID, introduced a report which set out proposals for the LG Group's future offer to support the strengthening of local government political leadership, following wide ranging discussions and consultations with the sector and with past participants in the leadership programmes. Joe Simpson, Director, Local Government Leadership, expanded on issues around new approaches to community leadership.

Leadership Board members made a number of detailed comments, which were noted by officers.

## Decision

### 2.1 *The Leadership Board*

2.2 **endorsed** the LG Group's proposed councillor development offer, subject to their comments;

2.3 **agreed** that options be considered for the renaming of the "Leeds Castle" programme, for approval by members;

2.4 **agreed** to receive a report to a future Board meeting setting out what the LG Group's is doing to engage with and support Local Enterprise Partnerships.

## Action

Officers to work with political groups and peers to develop and deliver the offer through the business planning process.

**Sara  
Williams/Joe  
Simpson  
Paul Raynes**

Officers to submit a report to a future Board meeting on Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Officers to clarify with members the reference to £825k savings in paragraph 19 of the report.

**Rob Whiteman**

Officers to continue actively to pursue ways to reduce pension costs

**Stephen Jones**

## 3. **LG Group annual conference and exhibition 'Localism works'**

Jo Miller noted a number of detailed comments which would be taken into account in the development of the conference programme.

Members asked that an opportunity be taken at the General Assembly to debate the impact of the depth of the cuts to local government funding and, in particular, the front loading of the cuts.

Members also requested that arrangements be made for a focus group of young councillors (eg. a cohort of the Next Generation Programme) to have an input into the content of the annual conference programme

Members raised the issue of the Government's "Big Society" drive and suggested that fuller consideration be given to a LG Group approach to the characteristics of a civil society.

## Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the draft annual conference programme and asked that their comments be taken into account as the programme is developed.*

## Action

Officers to finalise speakers, work to increase delegate numbers and to identify press and media opportunities around the conference.

**Jo Miller/Paul  
Comer/Roberta  
Henry**

Officers to take forward the Board's request to include a debate on the cuts to local government funding at the General Assembly on 28 June.

**Cathy  
Boye/Claire  
Holloway**

## 4. Application to form a Research Special Interest Group

The Leadership Board received a report which set out an application to form a Research Special Interest Group, which is currently supported by 21 member authorities of the LGA.

## Decision

*The LGA Leadership Board*

*4.1 **agreed** to the establishment of a Research Special Interest Group.*

*4.2 **agreed** to review this Special Interest Group after twelve months operation.*

## Action

Inform the lead authority of the Board's decision .  
Review the SIG after twelve month's operation.

**Tim Allen  
Chief  
Executive**

## 5. Special Interest Groups

John Ransford, Chief Executive, introduced a report which asked the Leadership Board whether they wished to invite a number of Special Interest Groups to present their work to the LG Group Executive.

## Decision

*The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** that the following Special Interest Groups be invited to present the work of their Group to the LG Group Executive, over the coming months.*

5.1 *Local Authority Pension Funds*

5.2 *Integrated Transport Authority SIG*

5.3 *SPARSE Rural*

## Action

Officers to invite the above Special Interest Groups to present their work to the LG Group Executive.

**Cathy Boyle**

## 6. LG Group Executive agenda

John Ransford, Chief Executive, took the LGA Leadership Board through the agenda for the LG Group Executive the following day.

Following an introduction by Rob Whiteman, the Leadership Board had a detailed discussion on progress in the 16 first phase areas due to receive community budgets on 1 April 2011.

## Decision

*The LGA Leadership Board*

6.1 **noted** *the agenda for the LG Group Executive which would take place the following day.*

6.2 **agreed** *to receive a report on Community Budgets to its next meeting;*

## Action

Officers to submit a report on Community Budgets to the 13 April meeting of the LGA Leadership Board

**Rob Whiteman**

## 7. Note of the last LGA Leadership Board meeting

### Decision

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

8. **Additional Items**

**LGA Membership**

John Ransford gave an oral update on LGA membership issues. A list of authorities and the current state of play regarding their membership was tabled at the meeting.

**Decision**

*The Leadership Board **noted** the update on membership provided by the Chief Executive.*

**Action**

Members and Officers to continue to work towards maximising local authority membership of the Association.

**Board  
Members  
Officers**

**Audit Commission**

Stephen Jones informed the Leadership Board of a recent request by CLG for the LGA to advertise a vacant Commissioner appointment on the Association's website.

**Decision**

*The Leadership Board **agreed** that the LGA would advertise the vacant position on its website but it should be made explicit on the website that the position is advertised at the request of the CLG.*

**Action**

Officers to progress as set out above.

**Stephen Jones**