

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - Annual Reports

Purpose

To provide the LGA Leadership Board with the 2011 Annual Reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups.

All Special Interest Groups are required, under the LGA Constitution, to submit a full report to the LGA Leadership Board each year. The LGA requires that these reports should feature the key aims and objectives of the group, its current membership and lead authority and a description of key activities and outcomes of any work undertaken during the past year.

Copies of SIGs' 2011 annual reports will be available at the Leadership Board meeting.

A copy of the LGA's Statement for Special Interest Groups is **attached** at **Appendix A**, for information.

Recommendations

The LGA Leadership Board is asked to consider this report and indicate

- whether it has any future requirements in respect of Special Interest Groups (SIGs);
- whether it wishes to invite any special interest groups (other than the Local Authority Pension Funds Forum, Integrated Transport Authorities SIG, and SPARSE Rural, who are already scheduled to present to the Executive over the coming months) to a future Executive meeting to discuss their work.

Action

Officers to take forward in accordance with the Leadership Board's views.

Contact officer: Cathy Boyle
Position: Manager, Member Services
Phone no: 020 7664 3205
E-mail: cathy.boyle@local.gov.uk

Item 6

Background

1. The LGA Constitution provides for member authorities with common characteristics to be able to form groupings of authorities to express a sectional interest. A list of the current groupings, which were approved by the LGA Executive and established as Special Interest Groups since the LGA was formed in April 1997, is **attached** at Appendix B. [The Affordable Loans Network and the Research SIG have only recently been approved as Special Interest Groups and are not required to report until 2012].
2. The Leadership Board, at its meeting on 16 March, agreed that the following Special Interest Groups be invited to present the work of their SIG to the LG Group Executive over the coming months.
 - Local Authority Pension Funds Forum
 - Integrated Transport Authority SIG
 - SPARSE Rural
3. Cllr Ian Greenwood, (City of Bradford) and Chair of the Local Authority Pension Funds Forum (LAPFF) will present the SIG's work to the LGA Executive on 19 May. Cllr Roger Begy, Chairman, SPARSE Rural, will come to the Executive on 14 July to present SPARSE work. The Integrated Transport Authorities SIG have asked if they could present their work at the September 2011 Executive meeting, when their new Chair will be in place.
4. The Executive may wish to consider whether it wishes to invite representatives from any of the other Special Interest Groups to future Executive meetings to discuss their work.

Financial/Resource Implications

5. Special Interest Groups are encouraged to raise their own resources from their membership and administer these resources themselves. However, the LGA does offer limited administrative support and the use of meeting rooms, free of charge. The LGA does not pay any allowances or travel and subsistence costs to members attending SIG meetings.