

## **LGA Membership**

### **Purpose of report**

For information and discussion

### **Summary**

The LGA is the membership arm of the LG Group. In 2011/12 it will generate £10.869 million for the LG Group via the voluntary subscriptions of member councils.

This time last year, we had four councils out of membership and ten on notice. We now have seven out of membership, 21 on notice to leave on 31/3/12 and a further 6 from 31/3/13. Although the majority cite financial reasons, this is now reaching a critical point.

This paper summarises the current position.

LGA Leadership Board are asked to steer and shape our future approaches to LGA membership in the light of the current membership position and our membership offer

### **Action**

Office Holders and Officers to take forward in line with the discussion

**Contact officer:** Claire Holloway  
**Position:** Head of Corporate Governance, LG Group  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3156  
**E-mail:** [claire.holloway@local.gov.uk](mailto:claire.holloway@local.gov.uk)

## **LGA Membership**

### **Background**

1. The LGA is the membership arm of the LG Group. In 2011/12 it will generate £10.869 million for the LG Group via the voluntary subscriptions of member councils.
2. Although the majority of our 419 members are councils, we also have fire, integrated transport, police and national parks authorities in associate membership, along with one town council and the 22 Welsh authorities in corporate membership through the WLGA.

### **The issue**

3. This time last year, we had four councils out of membership and ten on notice. This year we have seven out of membership, 21 on notice to leave on 31/3/12 and a further nine from 31/3/13 (**Appendix 1**). Of these four rolled over their notice from last year. The majority cite financial reasons, with many saying this is a precautionary measure only.
4. The Metropolitan Fire Authorities have challenged their subscription levels. The Resources Panel, who undertook a thorough review of council subscriptions in 2009, will review fire subscriptions later this year.
5. A number of National Parks Authorities have indicated that with current financial constraints they are unable to afford the LGA subscription.
6. The Metropolitan Police Authority has been asked to look at establishing a representative body for the 42 commissioners. This may offer an opportunity for the LGA. Deputy Mayor Kit Malthouse has a key role in establishing the new body.

### **Actions to date**

7. In 2011/12, the LGA reduced subscriptions overall for the second year running and committed to further reductions in future. We also introduced a 5% early payment discount for councils paying by 30 June. 99% of income had been collected or was being processed by the deadline.

**Item 3**

8. In response to feedback from some councils that lobbying benefits are felt by all not just those in membership, we have sharpened the tangible benefits of membership across the LG Group (**Appendix 2**). Councils querying the benefits of membership receive a tailored response which outlines not only the lobbying successes, but also the tangible financial gains as a result of that lobbying.
9. The political groups have processes in place to talk to those councils expressing concerns about membership. This is supplemented by an officer network of principal advisers (formerly regional associates) and account managers.

**Financial Implications**

10. Further reductions in membership will have a direct impact on subscription income and may have longer term implications for the membership body.

**MEMBERSHIP WATCH LIST**

**Councils out of membership**

- London Borough of Bromley
- North Somerset Council
- Torridge District Council
- King's Lynn & West Norfolk District Council
- Slough Borough Council (from 1/4/11)
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (from 1/4/11)
- Doncaster Metropolitan Council (from 1/4/11)

**Councils on notice to withdraw from 1 April 2012**

- Rutland CC
- Elmbridge BC
- Birmingham City
- Brighton and Hove City
- Rochford District
- Amber Valley DC
- London Borough of Richmond
- Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames (rolled over notice from last year)
- London Borough of Sutton (rolled over notice from last year)
- London Borough of Barnet (rolled over notice from last year)
- Rossendale BC
- Sefton MBC
- Test Valley DC (rolled over notice from last year)
- Tyne & Wear ITA
- London Borough of Greenwich
- West Lancashire BC
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Southampton City Council
- Cotswold District Council
- West Sussex County Council

**Councils on notice to withdraw from 1 April 2013:**

- Darlington Borough Council
- London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
- Waverley Borough Council
- Runnymede Borough Council
- East Staffordshire Borough Council
- West Berkshire Council
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Northumberland National Park Authority
- Broads National Park Authority