

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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**Title:** LGA Leadership Board Awayday

**Date and time:** 14 September 2011

**Venue:** Terrace Lounge (7<sup>th</sup> floor)

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Sir Merrick Cockell	RB of Kensington & Chelsea
Vice chairman	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Vice-chairman	Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City
Vice chairman	Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire CC
Deputy chairman	Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Deputy chairman	Robert Gordon DL (until 3.00pm)	Hertfordshire CC
Deputy chairman	Robert Light (until 12.30pm)	Kirklees Council
Deputy chairman	Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Deputy chairman	Steve Reed (until 1.30pm)	Lambeth LB
Deputy chairman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC
<b>Apologies</b>	David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman, **welcomed** the LGA Leadership Board and, in particular, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson who was attending his first meeting as Leader of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group and Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE, who was recently elected by the Liberal Democrat Group as a Deputy Chair of the LGA.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Leadership Board, also welcomed Carolyn Downs, who was recently appointed as the new Chief Executive of the LGA and who would take up her new position towards the end of the year. Carolyn Downs is currently Chief Executive of the Legal Services Commission.

The Chairman informed the Leadership Board, that Lord Best, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel, who recently

submitted its report on the Review of LGA Members' Remuneration, would join the meeting at 1.00pm for a discussion on the Panel's recommendations.

**1. LGA/LG Group – name of the organisation [CONFIDENTIAL]**

**2. LG Group Membership**

The Chief Executive provided an update on the current position on LGA Membership. He informed the Leadership Board that it was likely that Torrington District Council would shortly rejoin the Association. John commended Cllr Gary Porter, Conservative Group Leader, on the work that he had done on behalf of the Association in encouraging Torrington to reconsider their position.

Members and officers were also exploring with King's Lynn & West Norfolk BC, North Somerset Council and Doncaster MBC the possibility of their rejoining the Association.

The Chairman reported that he was following up with his contacts the potential for the LGA to host the new membership body for elected police commissioners, through a form of corporate membership of the Association.

Decision

*The Leadership Board*

- **noted** the report and the update on LGA Membership;
- **agreed** that, in the event that Torrington District Council rejoins the Association on 1 October 2011, their subscription fee for 2011/2012 would be 50% of the annual fee for their authority.
- *In the case of authorities rejoining the Association in the future, their subscription charges would be calculated on a pro-rata basis, according to the date of rejoining.*
- **agreed** that the LGA must continue to demonstrate to all member authorities the benefits of membership of the Association.

Action

Members and Officers to continue to emphasise to councils out of membership or on notice the benefits of membership.

**Office  
Holders/Claire  
Holloway**

### 3. LG Group governance arrangements

John Ransford introduced a report which set out the current governance arrangements, along with any feedback received over the past 12 months, as the context for the LG Group's planned autumn review. John informed the Board that it was in the remit of the Executive to recommend to the General Assembly for decision any proposed changes to governance arrangements.

Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers.

#### Decision

*The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** to recommend to the Executive that the Councillors' Forum be opened up to any interested councillor in a member authority to attend;*

*The LGA Leadership Board also **agreed***

- that a report be brought to the next meeting of this Board, setting out the existing terms of reference for the LGA Leadership Board and the LG Group Executive and possible amendments to them;*
- to consider at the next Board meeting a list of corporate tasks and to discuss whether the Leadership Board or the Executive should hold responsibility for each of them;*
- the need to clarify the respective roles and reporting arrangements between the Programme Boards and the Group Executive*
- that further consideration be given to how we deal with structures for corporate bodies in membership eg. fire and rescue and police authorities;*
- that a coherent and simplified structure diagram, setting out the current governance arrangements, be brought to the next meeting.*
- to give further consideration to the appropriate structure for consideration of local government finance issues;*

#### Action

Officers to action in accordance with the Leadership Board's decisions set out above.

**Claire  
Holloway**

**4/5 Independent Review of Members' Remuneration  
[CONFIDENTIAL]**

**6 Strategic Priorities**

The Chairman initiated an indepth discussion on strategic priorities. A full report of the discussion will be provided to the Leadership Board over the next few days.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the need to establish a core set of priorities and ensure that the LG Group's resources are used effectively to support them.*

Officers to provide a full note of the discussion over the next few days.

**Helen Platts**

**7. Communications**

Luke Blair, a Board Director of London Communications Agency, was introduced to the Leadership Board. Luke set out his role over the next few months, which would include taking forward the recruitment of a full time Director of Communications.

The Leadership Board had a detailed discussion on communications issues and how communications could support the Association's objectives. The Board agreed the importance of getting on the front foot and leading on issues of importance to the Association. They concurred that the convention of seeking consensus on many issues is sometimes a barrier to a successful statement or press release

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** to receive a communications report, including forward planning and media monitoring, to future meetings of the Board.*

**Jo Miller/Luke  
Blair**