

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LGA Leadership Board
Date and time:	11 January 2011 at 2.00pm
Venue:	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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The Chairman informed the Leadership Board that Councillor Robert Light's son had recently been injured in Afghanistan. The Chairman asked that the Leadership Board's best wishes for Matt's recovery be passed to Councillor Light and his family.

Cathy Boyle

1. **Joint working with the House of Commons Select Committee on Political and Constitutional Reform**

The Select Committee had commissioned a draft code to form the basis of local government's relationship with central government. Graham Allen MP, Chairman of the Select Committee, joined the meeting to discuss how the LGA and the Select Committee could work together to give the proposed code wider prominence.

The Chairman welcomed Graham Allen to the meeting. Graham Allen told the Leadership Board that other Parliamentary

colleagues, including Ministers of both coalition parties and the Chairman of the Local Government Select Committee, were also interested in engaging in the debate on central local relations. The LGA was in a strong position to lead the reform and to underline the importance of local democracy and democratically elected councillors. A number of events, including roundtable discussions and Parliamentary events, were being arranged, leading up to a session at the LGA's conference in June.

Graham Allen thanked LGA officers for their work with his Committee in developing the plan of joint action so far.

During the discussion, Members

- expressed their broad support for the Select Committee's proposed plan of joint action
- highlighted concerns at current perceptions of the relationship between central and local government and the impact of those perceptions on the numbers of people wishing to become involved in local democracy.
- questioned whether codification was the best way to bring about a change in the relationships between central and local government.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed***

- *to support, in principle, the proposed plan of action to invigorate the debate at a national and local level, whilst not endorsing the draft code at this stage, pending the views of member councils.*

Action

LGA officers to work as part of a joint campaign team that would plan and deliver the proposed events, publications and media coverage.

Paul Raynes

2. LGA Vision and Priorities: Draft Business Plan 2012-2013

The Chairman introduced a report which presented the LGA's draft Business Plan for 2012/2013 for the Board's initial review

The Leadership Board discussed the report and made a number of detailed comments, which are set out in the decisions below.

The Chairman highlighted the need to clarify in the Business Plan that work on infrastructure funding includes pension funds.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- confirmed its support for the high level priorities in the outline business plan but asked for further work so that the plan is more focused and clearer about the key results the LGA is seeking to achieve in 2012/13. This will ensure that the LGA can be held to account and be clear to its membership about the impact it is having on their behalf.
- asked that the LGA's Programme Boards develop this more focused approach in reviewing their priorities for 2012/13 in the January round of meetings and ensure that all their priorities are outcome-focused.
- asked that adult social care, local government funding and economic growth are identified as campaign priorities for the year ahead with work to start immediately on making clear the added value the LGA delivers for its membership.
- asked that these campaigns are given full prominence in the business plan.
- requested more detailed information on the 2012/13 budget to be presented alongside the business plan.
- confirmed that a revised, more focused Business Plan should be presented to March Executive for final sign-off.

Actions

An amended outline budget for 2012-2013 to be tabled at the Executive meeting the following day.

Helen Platts

The final 2012/2013 Business Plan and Budget to be presented to the LGA Executive's March meeting.

Carolyn Downs

3. Public Policy Challenges in 2012

Luke Blair, the Association's Interim Director of Communications, introduced a report setting out potential opportunities for future LGA campaigns.

The Leadership Board made a number of detailed comments on the issues set out in the report, which were noted by officers.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** that the following issues should be the subject of future LGA campaigns:*

- *Adult Social Care*
- *Local Government Funding; and*
- *Economic Growth*
- *Public Service Reform and the impact on local government*

Action

Officers to work up more detailed proposals on the proposed campaigns for the February meeting of the Leadership.

Luke Blair

4. LG first

Gary Porter, who had requested the item, outlined his concern that *first* was not currently reflecting what were “hot topics” for councillors and did not include opportunities for political debate. The Leadership Board broadly supported this view.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed***

- *the need for **first** to focus more clearly elected members priorities and to include opportunities for the Group Leaders to debate key issues on a regular basis;*
- *that a meeting be arranged between the LGA’s Group Leaders and the magazine’s editorial Board to discuss the issues raised by the Leadership Board.*

Action

Officers to arrange for Group Leaders to meet the editorial board.

Luke Blair

5. Local Government Finance Task & Finish Group

Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, introduced a report seeking the Leadership Board’s approval of the Terms of Reference for the Task & Finish Group, to oversee more detailed work on local government finance over the next six months.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- ***approved** the terms of reference for Task Group;*

- **agreed** that the membership of the new Task and Finish Group should be based on a Panel.

Action

Political Group officers to seek nominations to the Task Group as soon as possible.

**Heads of
Group Offices**

6. LGA annual conference and exhibition 2012

Roberta Henry, Senior Events Organiser, updated the Board on progress on the LGA Annual Conference, taking place in Birmingham from 26-28 June 2012.

The Board discussed the Conference Programme and made a number of comments which were noted by officers.

Decisions

The Leadership Board

- **agreed** that an invitation to speak at the conference be extended to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon George Osborne MP.

Officers to take forward in accordance with the Boards discussion/decisions and to submit further progress reports in due course.

Roberta Henry

7. Chief Executive's Monthly Report – January 2012

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, introduced her first report to the Leadership Board, setting out the achievements over the past month of each of the nine programme boards and the LGA Executive based on the business plan priorities, The report also included performance against key corporate indicators, including membership and budget.

The Chief Executive invited feedback on the report, which would be an important vehicle for the Leadership Board to hold officers to account.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **received** the Chief Executive's report for*

January 2012.

Action

Further reports to be presented to the Leadership Board's monthly meetings.

Carolyn Downs

8. Visits to Member Councils

The Leadership Board received a report outlining the Chairman and Chief Executive's forthcoming visits to member councils.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed***

- *to receive a monthly schedule to include all the Leadership Board's, and the Chief Executive's visits.*
- *that the schedule of visits and activities around the country should be publicised more widely with the Association's membership*

Action

Officers to investigate ways of publicising the breadth of activity more widely, including on the LGA website

Claire Holloway

9. LGA Executive agenda for 12 January 2012

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, took the Leadership Board through the LGA Executive agenda for the following day.

10. Note of the last meeting

Decision

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