

Note of decisions taken and actions required

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| Title: | LGA Leadership Board |
| Date and time: | 8 February 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 | Sharon Taylor | Stevenage BC |
| Deputy-chairman | Robert Light | Kirklees Council |
| 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 |

Also attended

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| Chair, Community Wellbeing Board | David Rogers OBE | East Sussex CC |
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| Item | Decisions and actions | Action by |
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1. LGA Campaigns for 2012-2013

Luke Blair introduced a report which set out draft proposals for eight possible campaigns, building on the four broad policy areas agreed at the Board's last meeting.

The Leadership Board agreed six campaigns and made a number of comments which were noted by officers for inclusion in the next stage of development of the campaigns.

Members agreed that each campaign should be sponsored by a member of the Leadership Board and identified one sponsor for each campaign, subject to ensuring a proportionate spread across the groups.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **agreed** six campaigns, set out in the **Appendix** to this note, along with a named Leadership Board sponsor for each campaign
- **Noted** that the next stage of development would include further work on the titles, objectives and approach for each campaign.

Action

Officers to take forward as outlined in the Appendix to this note.

**Luke Blair/
David Holdstock**

Heads of Group Office to ensure political balance across campaign lead members.

HGOs

2. Adult Social Care

Councillor David Rogers OBE, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, introduced this item, which summarised the events over the last eighteen months that will culminate with the Spring White Paper. The report also set out suggestions for future activity to maintain momentum up to the White Paper.

Andrew Cozens, Strategic Adviser for Health and Children's & Adult Services, highlighted that the LGA had succeeded in moving Government to a formal recognition that there is a funding gap in Adult Social Care. The LGA was continuing to maintain a lead role on the issue, including holding a roundtable with MPs and speaking at events at both member and officer level. Andrew Cozens concluded that the LGA's goal for Adult Social Care was stability/predictability and transparency.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the report*

Action

Officers to take forward as set out in the report.

Andrew Cozens

3. LGA Business plan 2012-2013

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, presented the LGA's draft Business Plan for 2012-2013.

In the light of the LGA's reduced budget and reduced staff resources, Carolyn undertook to bring a detailed workplan to the Board's March meeting, mapping staff and budget to the LGA's

priorities and highlighting resource pressures.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **agreed** the LGA Business Plan for 2012/2013 for presentation to the LGA Executive in March.

Actions

- Officers to present a detailed work plan to the next meeting of the Leadership Board.
- The final 2012/13 business plan and budget to be presented to the LGA Executive in March.

Helen Platts

Helen Platts

4. Chief Executive's Monthly Report – February 2012

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, introduced her February report to the Leadership Board. The report summarised the main achievements over the past month of each of the nine Boards and the LGA Executive against the business plan priorities, along with performance against key indicators, including membership and budget.

The Chief Executive provided a further update on progress of discussions on the transfer of public health staff between Primary Care Trusts and local authorities.

Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources updated members on current discussions with the Department of Health on public health grant allocations

Decision

*The Leadership Board **received** the Chief Executive's report for February 2012.*

Action

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

Carolyn Downs

5. Welfare Reform – impact on local government and the communities they serve

Paul Raynes, Head of Programmes, introduced a report which summarised the key issues, including possible new burdens and proposed mitigating actions for councils and the LGA in the light of the Government's welfare reform agenda.

Paul Raynes said that discussions were continuing in Parliament on Council Tax Benefit (CTB) and Universal Credit (UC). Ministers in the DWP were now acknowledging the experience councils have in working with local people in the delivery of housing and council tax benefit and were now open to councils playing a role in the delivery of UC.

Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers. In particular, Members stressed the important role for the LGA to play in ensuring that local authorities were well prepared to address the issues that will arise from the Bill.

The Chairman stressed the need to provide Government with sound evidence on the effects of council tax benefit localisation and referred to some recent work undertaken by London Councils on the impact of Universal Credit.

Decision

The Leadership Board agreed

- *to refer the report for further consideration to the LGA Executive the following day;*
- *to provide the Executive with evidence on the effects of council tax benefit localisation;*

Actions

Group Leaders agreed to raise the issues for discussion at their Group meetings prior to the LGA Executive.

Group Leaders

Offices to circulate the report and evidence of the effects of council tax benefit localisation to the LGA Executive.

Paul Raynes

6. A new conduct regime for councils

Paul Raynes, Head of Programmes, introduced a report which set out two illustrative options for the structure and tone of an LGA template code of conduct to be made available for local authorities to use if they wished. The report updated members on the LGA's discussions with other interested groups and sought views on handling questions of conflicts of interests, and possible guidance material to accompany a template code.

The Leadership Board discussed the benefits and disbenefits of each of the two template code options.

Decisions

The Leadership Board

- **noted** the revised timescales for implementation of the new standards provisions and the outcome of the LGA's meeting with stakeholders;
- **agreed**, by majority vote, that both options should be made available to member authorities, in order that they might choose which to adopt or amend as they see fit, to meet their new duties on standards under the Localism Act.

Action

Officers to action as set out in the decisions above.

Paul Raynes

7. National representative body for Police and Crime Commissioners

Helen Murray, Head of Programmes, tabled a draft prospectus setting out the LGA's draft membership offer for Police and Crime Commissioners.

The Chairman of the LGA had held initial discussions with Kit Malthouse, London Deputy Mayor, on the LGA's offer, had written to the Policing Minister, Nick Herbert and had met Mark Burns-Williamson, Chair of the Association of Police Authorities.

Decision

The Leadership Board discussed the proposals set out in the draft prospects and

- **confirmed** its commitment to a membership scheme for PCCS;
- **agreed** that the proposals in the draft prospectus should be shared more widely.

Action

Officers to continue to progress the LGA's offer to Police & Crime Commissioners in line with the Leadership Board's decisions. **Helen Murray**

8. Public Affairs Review and Forward Plan

The Board received a report which set out activities, events and legislation from January to May 2012.

The Leadership Board discussed the report.

Decisions

*The Leadership Board **noted** the contents of the plan.*

Action

Officers to provide further reports as necessary. **Tim Hamilton**

9. LGA Forward Plan

The Leadership Board considered the forward plan of items to be considered by Leadership Board, the LGA Executive and the Councillors' Forum.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed***

- *that the report on the LGA's membership offer due to be considered by Leadership Board in March should also be presented to the LGA Executive;* **Claire Holloway**
- *that Adult Social Care should be the main topic for discussion at the March Councillors' Forum;* **Joe Simpson**
- *that the LGA's campaigns and business plan priorities should shape the future agendas for the Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.* **Carolyn Downs**

Action

Officers to update the forward plan. **Claire Holloway**

10. Smith Square Debates Spring Season 2012

The Leadership Board received the proposed programme of four Spring 2012 Smith Square Debate

Decisions

The Leadership Board

- **noted** the content of the report;
- **asked** that further consideration be given to the titles of debates.

Action

Officers to action in accordance with Members' discussion.

Tim Hamilton

11. LGA Executive agenda for 9 February 2012

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

Academies Top Slice and Capital

Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, informed the Board that Government had not yet taken a decision on the DfE's proposals for Academies Top-Slice for 2012-2013.

12. Note of the last meeting

Decision

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

The next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 14 March 2012

LGA CAMPAIGNS 2012

Campaign 1: SECURING THE FUTURE OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

¹Leadership Board Sponsor: Cllr Marianne Overton, Vice-chairman

Lead Officer: Sandie Dunne, Head of Programmes

Link to Business Plan: Adult Social Care/Public Services Reform

Campaign 2: SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leadership Board Sponsor: Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman

Lead Officer: Paul Raynes, Head of Programmes

Link to Business Plan: Finance

Campaign 3: PLANNING OUR WAY TO GROWTH/ LOCAL ECONOMIES, LOCAL GROWTH

Leadership Board Sponsor: Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE, Deputy Chair

Lead Officer: Ian Hughes, Head of Programmes

Link to Business Plan: Growth and prosperity.

Campaign 4: HOUSING THE NATION

Leadership Board Sponsor: Cllr Sharon Taylor, Deputy Chair

Lead Officer: Sandie Dunne

Link to Business Plan: Growth and prosperity.

¹ Note: All Leadership Board sponsors subject to final confirmation

**Campaign 5: INDEPENDENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT/
KEEP IT REAL (Responsible, Efficient, Accountable, Local)**

Leadership Board Sponsor: Cllr Robert Light, Deputy Chairman

Lead Officer: Paul Raynes, Head of Programmes

Link to Business Plan: Public Service Reform

Campaign 6: HIDDEN TALENTS

Leadership Board Sponsor: Cllr Steve Reed, Deputy Chair

Lead Office: Ian Hughes, Head of Programmes

Link to Business Plan: Growth and Prosperity/Public Services Reform.