

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LGA Leadership Board
Date and time:	13 June 2012
Venue:	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2

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	Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Deputy-chairman	Steve Reed	Lambeth LB
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC
Deputy-chairman	Andrew Lewer (by video link)	Derbyshire CC
Deputy-chairman	Robert Gordon DL	Hertfordshire CC
Deputy-chairman	Robert Light	Kirklees Council

Apologies

Vice-chairman	David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
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Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman, welcomed Members, including Councillor Andrew Lewer who attended via Video link.

1. Improving Commissioning for Better Public Services

Brian Reynolds, Principle Advisor, Productivity introduced a report which set out a policy position on commissioning for local services.

The report invited Councillors to consider whether the LGA should partner the Cabinet Office in developing the Commissioning Academy and its two pilot projects. While the Home Office had initially concentrated on outsourcing services, the LGA's discussions had broadened this focus to include other models of service provision.

Members commented that the prospect of new provider arrangements still represented a big cultural shift for many councillors and staff. They emphasised the role of the LGA in supporting Members to make these changes in their authorities.

While they agreed to the LGA supporting the two academy pilots in principle, Members sought assurance that these would be properly evaluated afterwards to ensure that they provided value for money.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed**:*

- the proposed LGA policy position on commissioning; and
- that the LGA should partner the Cabinet Office in developing the Commissioning Academy.

Action

Officers to progress the proposed work programme in light of comments from members.

Brian Reynolds

2. Independent Local Government Campaign

Councillor Robert Light introduced this report. Graham Allen, the Chairman of the Constitutional Reform Select Committee, would attend LGA Executive the following day, when the Executive would be asked to mandate a cross-party group of members to seek to agree a formal response. Councillor Light outlined the suggested LGA position as set out in the private paper circulated to the Leadership Board.

Members questioned the enforceability of a code, arguing that changes should be kept at constitution level, and supported the stronger approach set out in the tabled paper.

On boundaries and the prospect of territorial autonomy, Cllr Light said that the boundary commission would retain ultimate responsibility for deciding regional borders to ensure independence was maintained.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** that the LGA set out a formal position at annual conference as suggested in the private paper circulated.*

Action

Officers to make arrangements for Councillor Robert Light and cross party group of Members to engage with the select committee.

Paul Raynes

3. Future of the Leadership Centre for Local Government

Joe Simpson, Principle Strategic Adviser, introduced a report updating members on the outcome of further discussions with the Chairman of the Leadership Centre Board of Trustees. He emphasised that under the proposals, the Leadership Centre would be supported by LGA staff but provide a thinking space on different issues outside of the public LGA position.

Decisions

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the approach set out.*

Action

Officers to action in line with the Leadership Board's decision.

Joe Simpson

4. Full Year Performance Report – 2011/12

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive introduced the full year report, saying that it was a huge credit to LGA staff and Members that so much had been achieved during a year of political and structural upheaval.

Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that BME staff were well represented within the LGA.

Carolyn responded that while BME employees had increased since the reorganisation, there were unlikely to be significant changes in the numbers and make-up of the workforce in the coming year. She affirmed the LGA's commitment to increasing the ethnic diversity within the organisation and developing current BME staff with talent.

Decision

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

Action

Members comments to inform delivery of the 2012/13 business plan and performance management in the year ahead.

Helen Platts

5. LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2012

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

Members asked officers to ensure that an adequate gender balance was achieved in the recruitment of speakers.

Decision

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

Action

Officers to liaise with Group Offices on a diverse bank of potential speakers for future events.

**Roberta Henry/
David Holdstock**

6. Special Interest Groups – Annual Reports

Members received tabled reports from each of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

Councillors asked whether the contact details of each group were made available to other public bodies which might benefit. Claire Holloway, Head of Corporate Governance said that Special Interest Groups are able to make their own links and that the LGA also puts organisations in touch with the relevant SIG where appropriate.

On the level of integration between Special Interest Groups and LGA Boards, Claire said that these were not mutually exclusive. A number of SIG members also sat on Boards, whilst CCN, DCN and SIGOMA has places on the LGA Executive.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** that it was satisfied with current arrangements regarding Special Interest Groups and that any invitations should take place on an ad hoc basis.*

Action

Officers to take forward in line with the Leadership Board's comments.

Cathy Boyle

7. Police and Crime Commissioners (oral report)

The Leadership Board received an oral update from Sir Merrick on the LGA's work on Police and Crime Commissioners. This included the following points:

- The APA/APCC have approached the Chairman to propose that the APCC becomes a member of the LGA under a corporate subscription arrangement (similar to WLGA). The rationale for this is that the APCC and the LGA each have a valuable contribution to make around policing and crime respectively.
- The Chairman explained that discussions had moved on to consideration of a joint venture. He proposed a workshop with Group Leaders and the APA/APCC in July to identify common ground, define the role of a national representative body and see if a partnership agreement could be established.
- The LGA's public message, including a joint statement at Conference, is that the two organisations are exploring a partnership as we recognise the valuable contribution of both organisations to this agenda.

Members endorsed the proposed approach and commented on the importance of establishing the right representation from both organisations in any agreement, and setting an appropriate financial contribution.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the update.*

Action

Officers to take forward in line with the Leadership Board's comments.

**Carolyn Downs /
Helen Murray**

8. LGA Forward Plan

The Leadership Board received the draft forward plan for the LGA Leadership Board, LGA Executive and the Councillors' Forum.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the topics set out in the Forward Plan.*

Action

Officers to brief Members and officers in line with steer.

9. LGA Executive agenda

Decision

*The Executive **noted** the Leadership Board agenda for the following day.*

10. LGA Energy Offer (see part 2)

11. Note of the last meeting - 16 May 2012

Decision

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

12. Public Affairs Review and Forward Plan

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the Public Affairs Review and Forward Plan.*

13. Chief Executive's Monthly Report – May 2012

The Leadership Board received the Chief Executive's June report.

Decisions

*The Leadership Board **noted** the Chief Executive's report for June 2012.*

Action

Chief Executive to provide monthly updates to the Board.

Claire Holloway

Part 2 - CONFIDENTIAL

10. LGA Energy Offer

Brian Reynolds introduced this interim report. Subject to Members' approval, a further and more detailed report would be presented to the Board in the Autumn.

Decisions

The Leadership Board **agreed** to receive a more detailed report in the Autumn.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed.

Brian Reynolds