

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>LGA Leadership Board</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	19 September 2012
<b>Venue:</b>	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2

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### 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	Robert Gordon CBE DL	Hertfordshire CC
Deputy-chairman	Robert Light	Kirklees Council
Deputy-chairman	Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Deputy-chairman	Steve Reed	Lambeth LB
Deputy-chairman	Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC

### Apologies

Deputy-chairman	Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
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Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman, on behalf of the Leadership Board, welcomed Councillor Mehboob Khan (Kirklees Council) to his first Board meeting as a Deputy Chair of the LGA.	
<b>1.</b>	<b>‘Collective Switching’ of Energy</b>	
	Michael Coughlin, Executive Director, Policy & Development, introduced a report which sought the Leadership Board’s views on whether the LGA should become involved in collective energy switching, and if so, at what level.	
	The Board, at its May meeting, received a presentation from IChoosr, a Belgian company, who organise collective switching for consumers, and asked for a report back. In particular, the Board wished to consider whether the LGA should take a direct role in assisting its members in this exercise.	

The Chairman, referred to a recent meeting with Ed Davy MP, the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change, who spoke of the Government's interest in the potential for promoting energy switching.

The Chairman said that he was keen to test out more fully the Government's appetite for this venture and whether they would be willing to support the LGA. The Chairman proposed the setting up of a contract framework for the provision of the Scheme, on behalf of member authorities, subject to receiving clarity on the legal issues involved, and to further discussions with Government.

The Leadership Board discussed the options set out in paragraphs 33-35 of the report. They broadly agreed that there was a role for the LGA in promoting collective switching and supporting local authorities who wished to be involved in the scheme.

Councillor Gary Porter indicated his preference for direct involvement in running collective energy purchasing and urged the Board to proceed as quickly as possible.

### Decisions

#### *The Leadership Board*

- **noted** the report;
- **agreed** to seek further discussions with Government about taking this venture forward;
- **agreed** to receive a further report to its next meeting

### Action

Officers to take forward in line with the Boards decisions.

**Michael  
Coughlin/Brian  
Reynolds**

## **2. Independent Local Government**

Councillor Robert Light, the Leadership Board's sponsor of the Independent Local Government campaign, introduced this report. Councillor Light took members through the draft submission to the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee Inquiry into codifying the relationship between central and local government.

The Leadership Board welcomed the paper. They made a number of comments, including the need to strengthen the reference in the submission to the principle of subsidiarity. They asked that the LGA's strong cross-party support for the decentralising of powers to the lowest appropriate level should be included in the five points in the code set out in page 4 of the submission. The Chairman suggested that the references to growth set out in the submission, should be changed to "economic sustainability".

#### Decisions

*The Leadership Board **agreed***

- *the substance of the Select Committee submission;*
- *a small number of changes to the wording of the submission as set out in the comments above.*

#### Action

Officers to prepare a final Select Committee submission.

**Paul Raynes/  
Rebecca Cox**

### **3. Police and Crime Commissioners**

Councillor Mehoob Khan, Chairman of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board, introduced a report which outlined the current situation regarding the Association's work to establish a national representative body for police and crime commissioners. Councillor Khan proposed setting up a Strategic Partnership Board with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

#### Decision

*The Leadership Board*

- ***noted** the update report;*
- ***endorsed** the principle of an APCC/LGA Strategic Partnership Board as a mechanism for both organisations to come together to use their respective strengths and expertise;*
- ***agreed** to report their views to the Executive meeting the following day.*

#### Action

The Board's views to be reported to the LGA Executive on 20 September.

**Cllr Mehboob  
Khan/Helen Murray**

#### 4. Public Affairs Review and Forward Plan

David Holdstock, Director of Communications, summarised the forthcoming events, legislation and announcements up to December 2012, for review by the Board. David also took members through the results of the Attitudes and Awareness Parliamentary Monitor, an LGA survey of MPs which took place IN May, 2012.

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

##### Decision

###### *The Leadership Board*

- **noted** the content of the Public Affairs Review and Forward Plan.
- **agreed** that future reports should include reference to the LGA's European activities;
- **agreed** to review the way that we lobby on European issues, and in particular how we use the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) to pursue the LGA's objectives.
- **agreed** that the relevant local MPs be invited to the LGA's regional meetings;
- **noted** the results of the Attitudes and Awareness Parliamentary Monitor Survey.

##### Action

Officers to action in accordance with the decisions above. Further reports to be provided on a quarterly basis.

**David Holdstock**

#### 5. Proposed LGA perceptions survey 2012

David Holdstock outlined a proposed member authority perceptions survey.

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

##### Decision

*The Leadership* **agreed** that the LGA should proceed with the member authority perceptions survey.

Officers to take forward in accordance with the Leadership Board's decision/s.

## 6. Review of LGA Annual Conference 2012

David Holdstock introduced a report summarising the feedback from the LGA Annual Conference 2012. Overall, delegates felt the conference was successful and that it had a strong theme that showcased the LGA well.

Leadership Board Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers. In particular, Councillor David Sparks OBE stressed the need to include an International dimension in future Annual Conferences.

### Decisions

#### *The Leadership Board*

- **noted** with satisfaction the feedback received from Conference delegates;
- **noted** that a review of a full programme of LGA events would be undertaken;.
- **agreed** the recommendations set out in the report.

The Chairman asked Board Members to provide David Holdstock with any individual views or ideas for future Conferences.

**Board Members**

Officers to provide details of this year's Annual Conference profit to Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

**David Holdstock**

### Action

Officers to progress in line with members' comments.

## 7. 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** that a report on the LGA's offer on economic growth should be included on the agenda for the LGA Executive on 18 October.*

Officers to progress in accordance with the Board's decision.

**Cathy Boyle**

The Board then had a short discussion on the role of local government in economic growth.

The Chairman informed members that the LGA and the British Property Federation would co-host an event on economic growth on 30 October, at which Danny Alexander, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, would speak. The event would bring together senior figures from local government, the property industry and the wider business community to explore how councils, the private sector and government can work together to overcome barriers and develop mechanisms for raising finance and ensuring investment is targeted towards unlocking growth.

**8. LGA Executive agenda**

Decision

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

**9. Note of the last meeting - 11 July 2012**

Decision

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

**Part 2 - CONFIDENTIAL**

**10. Liberata Contract Renegotiation**

Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, introduced a report which outlined progress on the Liberata Contract renegotiation. Stephen Jones provided further details by way of a verbal update.

**11. Chief Executive's Monthly Report – September 2012**

Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE congratulated the Chairman, Chief Executive and Directors on the very full programme of visits that they made this year to LGA member authorities.

Decision

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

Action

Chief Executive to provide a further report to the Board's October meeting.

**Chief Executive**



**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 17 October 2012 at 2.00pm.**