

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LGA Leadership Board
Date and time:	21 November 2012
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	Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Deputy-chairman	Robert Gordon CBE DL	Hertfordshire CC
Deputy-chairman	Robert Light	Kirklees Council
Deputy-chairman	Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Deputy-chairman	Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC

Apologies

Deputy-chairman	Steve Reed	Lambeth LB
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Also attended

Chairman of Resources Panel	Stephen Castle	Essex CC
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Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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1. Local Government Finance

Cllr Sharon Taylor, Chair of the Finance Panel, introduced a report, to be considered by the Executive on 22 November, setting out major developments in local government finance and funding and seeking Executive approval for the development of further focused lobbying. Cllr Taylor stressed the importance of getting across to Government the key messages set out in paragraphs 24.1 to 24.4 of the report.

The Chairman reported back on recent meetings with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, at which he had highlighted local authorities' deep concern over the late announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement (possibly 19 December).

The Chairman reported that Cllr David Simmonds, Chairman of the Children & Young People Board, had written to the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP expressing the LGA's deep concerns over the holdback of Early Intervention Grant.

Members made a number of detailed comments, including the following:

- Concern that government was using out of date data to calculate some areas of funding. Noted that Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office, had a particular interest in use of accurate data as a means to drive improvement.
- The need to articulate clearly and urgently to Government the magnitude of the further cuts that the sector now faces.;
- That in times of increased risk and uncertainty, local authorities will need for them to increase their reserves;

Stephen Jones reported that the Audit Commission would be publishing its report on council reserves on 10 December 2012.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the report **and commended** it to the Executive for approval*

Stephen Jones

Action

Chairman to raise the issue of government's use of out of date data in his meeting with Francis Maude.

2. LGA influence on EU policy developments – 2013 and beyond

Ian Hughes, Head of Programmes (European & International and Economy and Transport), introduced a report seeking the Leadership Board's recommendations for a fresh approach to the LGA's EU work, and suggesting policy priorities and roles for the LGA's leadership team, Boards and senior managers to maximise the impact of EU lobbying.

Members stressed the importance of effective EU lobbying and made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed***

- *the need to engage more effectively in Brussels;*

- *that the European & International Board should take a formal role in linking the work of the LGA's Boards with the work of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Council for Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) on specific issues in Brussels;*
- *the shortlist of priorities set out in the report;*
- *the recommendations in the report for refreshing the LGA's EU work, set out in paragraphs 13, 15 and 18 of the report.*
- *that representatives of the Leadership Board should meet with Commissioners and MEPs in Brussels, in the New Year, to discuss the LGA's policy priorities.*

Action

Officers to take forward the Board's recommendations.

Ian Hughes

3. Police and Crime Commissioners

Cllr Mehboob Khan, Chair of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board, introduced a report providing a summary of the results of the Police and Crime Commissioners' elections, an analysis of the manifestos of the winning candidates and some preliminary thoughts on the LGA's engagement with them. The report would be considered by the LGA Executive on 22 November.

Cllr Khan proposed that a watching brief be kept on Police & Crime Panels and how they operated in practice.

Members made detailed comments on the issues set out in the report, which were noted by officers.

Decisions

The Leadership Board

- **noted** *the results of the elections for Police and Crime Commissioners;*
- **agreed** *that guidance for councils on establishing and supporting Police and Crime Panels and scrutinising Police and Crime Plans should be provided on the LGA's website.*

Action

Officers to provide guidance for councils on the LGA's website.

Helen Murray

4. Reconstruction of the LGA's associated companies

Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, introduced a report proposing a reconstruction and simplification of the activities of the LGA's related bodies. The report proposed the transfer of the business and assets of LGE and LACORS to IDeA and LGA respectively and that steps be taken to achieve this by 31 March 2013.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **confirmed** in principle their agreement to the steps required to effect the reconstruction;
- **authorised** officers to prepare the necessary documentation to give effect to the reconstruction, undertake the relevant consultations with members of staff and others, in particular the company pension funds, and return to each Board with a further report when the documentation is ready for signature.

Action

Officers to action in accordance with the Board's decisions.

Stephen Jones

5. LGA Forward Plan

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

Decision

The Leadership Board requested that the following reports should be included in the Forward Plan:

LGA Executive – 10 January 2013

- Community Budgets

Paul Raynes

Councillors' Forum – 10 January 2013

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson would try to secure the attendance of the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg or the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander.

**Cllr Gerald
Vernon-
Jackson**

LGA Executive – 16 May 2013

- Police and Crime Commissioners (invite 2/3 PCCs to attend)

Helen Murray

Action

Members to give further consideration in their group meetings to items for discussion at Executive and Councillors' Forum in 2013.

**All Leadership
Board members**

6. LGA Executive agenda

Decision

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

7. Note of the last meeting – 17 October 2012

Decision

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

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL

8. Liberata Contract Renegotiation

9. Community Budgets

For Information

10. Chief Executive's Report – November 2012

Decision

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