

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: LGA Leadership Board
 Date and Time: 23 October 2013 at 2.00pm
 Venue: Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2

Position	Councillor	Council
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 Light	Kirklees Council – via video-conference
Deputy-chairman	Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage BC “ “ “
Deputy-chairman	Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council “ “ “
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham Council

Apologies

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell (Chairman).

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, Councillor David Sparks OBE, Vice-chairman, chaired the meeting.

PART 1

1. Formal Constitutional Protection for Local Government

Rebecca Cox, Senior Adviser, introduced a report setting out proposed steps to stimulate Parliamentary interest and debate in constitutional protection for local government.

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock pointed out that the reference in Appendix 1 (Draft Bill) referring to an amendment to the Local Government Act 1972, did not apply to London Boroughs. Rebecca Cox undertook to raise this issue with the LGA's legal team.

Decision

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

Action

Members to inform officers if they have any further comments.

Board Members

2. LGA Membership Subscriptions (see part 2)

3. Business Plan and Budget 2014-15

Helen Platts introduced a report inviting Leadership Board's steer on the high level priorities for 2014/15, as the basis for the LGA's business planning process. Helen pointed out that the proposed priorities are based broadly on those agreed for the current year. Whilst the LGA's funding base was reasonably certain for the next eighteen months, it was less certain from 2015/16 when RSG topslice would need to be renegotiated. The LGA were continuing to engage with CLG and to make the case for funding for our improvement offer into the next spending review period.

Decisions

The Leadership Board

- **agreed** the high level steer provided in the report, as the basis for more detailed work on the business plan for 2014/15;
- **noted** the budget framework for 2014/15, prior to a more detailed budget being presented to the Leadership Board in January.

Action

Officers to action as set out in the report.

Helen Platts

4. Six month performance report: July 2013 – September 2013

Helen Platts introduced a report asking the Board to review the performance report for the second quarter.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the performance report for the year to date.*

Action

Officers to provide further quarterly reports.

Helen Platts

5. Communications Activity – quarterly report – July to September 2013.

David Holdstock, Director of Communications, introduced a paper outlining communications activity between July and September 2013. David pointed out that the majority of our media coverage was positive for this quarter. Of the negative coverage received, 50% related to heavy criticism over parking and parking fines. David highlighted the inclusion in the report of key findings from surveys of MPs and Peers, for the first time.

Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers. In particular members emphasised the need to continually develop our arguments – for example against criticism over parking - in order to defend the sector's position in the media.

Decision

The Leadership Board **noted** the communications activity for the period July to September 2013.

Action

Officers to continue to provide quarter reports to the Board.

David Holdstock

6. Forward Plan – Leadership Board, Executive, Councillors’ Forum

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **noted** the Forward Plan;
- **agreed** that Group Leaders would consider in November whether there was sufficient business for the December Leadership Board to proceed.

Action

Members to advise their group offices of any further items for the Executive and Councillors’ Forum.

Board members

7. Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – October 2013

Decision

The Leadership Board **noted** the Chief Executive’s report for October 2013.

8. LGA Executive agenda

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

PART 2

9. Autumn Statement Submission

Philip Mind, Senior Adviser, introduced a report asking the Board to comment on the Autumn Statement submission to the Treasury and commend it to the Executive for approval at its meeting on 24 October.

The Leadership Board **agreed** to commend to the Executive the LGA’s submission on the Autumn Statement.

2. LGA Membership Subscriptions

Helen Platts, Head of Finance and Business Management, introduced a report setting out the issues to be considered in framing a recommendation for LGA membership subscriptions for the year commencing on 1 April 2014.

*The Leadership Board discussed the options and **agreed** their preferred approach as the basis for further detailed work.*

10. Review of LGA Governance

Claire Holloway, Head of Corporate Governance, presented the Chairman and Group Leaders' recommendations for the Leadership Board's approval, prior to presentation to the Executive.

*The Leadership Board **endorsed** the proposed changes to LGA governance arrangements and **agreed** to commend them to the Executive.*

11. Proposed Cities and People and Places Board

Carolyn Downs introduced a draft discussion paper on the Cities and People & Places Boards.

*The Leadership Board **noted** the report as the basis for further detailed work;*

12. IDeA Pension Deficit

Cllr Gary Porter (South Holland); Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Portsmouth) and Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Lewisham) each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest.

Carolyn Downs introduced a report updating members on the IDeA pension position and related matters.

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

13. Knowledge Hub

Helen Platts introduced a paper updating members on progress with the transfer of Knowledge Hub to Liberata.

*The Leadership Board noted the current position and **delegated** authority to the Chief Executive to sign the legal agreements underpinning the transfer of Knowledge Hub to Liberata.*

14. Note of the Last Meeting

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

15. Revising the LGA Leadership Offer

Councillor Peter Fleming, Chairman of the Improvement & Innovation Board, introduced a report setting out the Improvement & Innovation Board's proposals for a revised programme of leadership development activities, courses, sessions and modules.

*The Leadership Board **agreed** that Group Leaders and Councillor Peter Fleming should meet for further discussion in order to achieve a consensus.*

16. External Audit Contracts

Michael Coughlin introduced a report setting out the key issues to consider in setting up a sector-led body to manage external audit contracts for local government.

*The Leadership Board **noted** the LGA's success in lobbying government to bring forward amendments to the Bill to allow for a form of national procurement and agreed actions to progress the creation of a sector-led body to procure external audit.*

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday, 20 November 2013