

Note of the last Executive meeting

Title: LGA Executive
Date and time: Thursday 20 September 2012, 2.15pm
Venue: The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

Attendance

An Attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1.	<p>Membership and Terms of Reference 2012/13</p> <p>Decision <i>Members noted their membership and Terms of Reference for the 2012/13 political cycle.</i></p> <p>Action No further action required.</p>	
2.	<p>Local Government Resource Review Consultation</p> <p>Cllr Sharon Taylor, Chair of the Finance Panel, updated the Executive on the work that had been done since their last discussion in June.</p> <p>Whilst the move to localise business rates was generally felt to be positive, under current proposals only 50% of business rates would be returned to councils. The proposals also gave the Treasury further powers to reduce funding to local government over the period to 2020, which would diminish the potential growth incentive. The proposals were also complex, difficult to understand and lacked transparency.</p> <p>Members expressed concern that the current proposals fell far short of what local authorities would like to see in a number of key aspects. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councils should have full access to real terms business rates growth in 2013-14 and 2014-15, without cuts in other funding, so that the scheme offers genuine rewards for promoting growth.• Holding back a further £345 million, as the Government's consultation	

now proposes, represents an additional cut to services to local services.

- The continuing reduction in local authorities' funding outside of business rates is a cause for concern. Long term the proposals could impact on the viability of some councils.

It was noted that the LGA had been lobbying both the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Treasury to address the concerns raised by member councils. Members agreed that the LGA should continue to press for changes during the consultation period and that an evidence based approach should continue to be used to ensure that government understood the full implications of the proposals in their current form.

Decision

The Executive endorsed a strategy that, in the medium term, pursues improvement of the current proposals for business rates retention whilst recognising their significance as a step towards desirable reform.

In the short term, the focus should be on immediate improvements to:

- *improve the clarity and transparency of the growth incentive by giving local government full access to all real terms business rates growth without compensating cuts in other funding;*
- *de-risk the scheme by a Government guarantee that local authorities' funding will not, because of wider economic events outside their control, fall below the amounts announced in the Spending Review;*
- *remove the entirely unjustified hold-back of £345 million proposed in the July consultation; and*
- *provide a greater degree of assurance and stability over the future funding of local government.*

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

**Stephen
Jones**

3. Public Health Funding

Cllr David Rogers OBE, Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board, updated members on progress since the last report to LGA Executive in July.

Cllr Rogers outlined the four key issues for further work:

- The formula requires further adjustment to provide an effective

resourcing allocation for sexual health services.

- Whilst the Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR) for those aged under 75 years may be a reasonable starting point for the construction of a needs based formula, the weighting suggested to help reduce inequalities must be reconsidered.
- More work is needed to establish the correct baseline level of public health spending.
- The LGA calls for a clear commitment from the department for an increase in resources to a level that will maximise the value for money available from well targeted investment in public health.

Members were pleased with the progress of the work on public health funding, and the transfer of public health to local government. Members agreed that the transfer of public health to local government would give better value for money and allow for greater transparency.

Members discussed the possibility of working across boundaries to deal with issues in public health. Cllr Rogers said this work was already happening in a number of places and that Health and Wellbeing Boards would help to drive further change.

Decision

Members agreed the four key issues for future work (set out above).

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

**Stephen
Jones**

4. Community Budgets update

Members noted that work was continuing in this area, with the four pilots meeting with Ministers regularly. Members were happy with the progress made.

Decision

Members noted the progress being made.

Action

Officers to continue to provide updates to the LGA Executive on a regular basis.

Paul Raynes

5. Police & Crime Commissioners update

Cllr Mehboob Khan, Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, updated members on the work that had been done with the Association of

Police Authorities (APA) and its successor body the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). It was noted that the LGA and the APCC were considering a new Strategic Partnership Board between the LGA and APCC that would enhance the work and activity of both organisations and would support the working relationship of PCCs and local authorities.

Decision

Members endorsed the creation of a Strategic Partnership Board with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

**Helen
Murray**

6. Note of the LGA Leadership Board

Decision

Members agreed the note of the last LGA Leadership Board meeting held on 19 September 2012.

7. Note of last LGA Executive

Decision

Members agreed the note of the last LGA Executive meeting held on 12 July 2012.

Attendance list

Position/ Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Sir Merrick Cockell	RB Kensington & Chelsea
Vice-chairman	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Vice-chairman	David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
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	Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Deputy-chairman	Steve Reed	Lambeth LB
Deputy-chairman	Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC

Position/ Role	Councillor	Authority
Members	Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
	Flick Rea	Camden LB
	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
	Angus Campbell	Dorset CC
	David Rogers OBE	East Sussex CC
	Stephen Castle	Essex CC
	Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney LB
	Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham LB
	Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City
	Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC
	Philip Atkins	Staffordshire CC
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Council
	Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough

Position/ Role	Councillor	Authority
Substitutes	Simon Henig	Durham CC
	Chris White	Hertfordshire

Apologies	Councillor	Authority
	Mike Jones	Cheshire West & Chester



Robert Light
Tony Jackson
Paul Watson
Keith Wakefield
Edward Lord OBE JP
Lord Peter Smith
Neil Clarke

Kirklees Council
East Herts DC
Sunderland City Council
Leeds City Council
Corporation of London
Wigan MBC
Rushcliffe BC