

Note of the last Executive meeting

Title:	LGA Executive
Date and time:	Thursday 24 October 2013
Venue:	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
------	-----------------------	--------

Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting by noting those apologies received and welcoming those new Members in attendance.

1. Finance Issues

Alan Finch (interim Head of Local Government Finance) introduced the report, which provided further clarification on the impact of the financial settlement on local authorities, in light of a number of varying figures quoted in recent months, and an update on the LGA's work on financial sustainability.

In the discussion that followed, Members expressed frustration and concern at the lack of transparency from Government in the presentation of the financial settlement figures and its failure to acknowledge the impact of continuous funding reductions on the financial sustainability of some local authorities. There was unanimous agreement for developing a coherent communications strategy to effectively convey these complex financial issues - and the implications they have for councils in different localities - to Ministers, local authorities and service users. In discussing the content on the communications strategy, a number of suggestions were made including: acknowledging that the financial sustainability of local authorities varies across the sector; providing examples of good practice from councils addressing the funding challenges; and making clear the vital importance of non-grant funding sources, such as parking charges, and that they are an issue for local discretion.

Alan Finch responded to a number of questions regarding: the distribution of the £3.8 Integration Transformation Fund; pension liabilities; and New Homes Bonus funding.

Decisions

The Executive:

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **agreed** that a communications strategy be developed to convey the complex financial issues outlined in the report to targeted audiences.

Action

Develop a communications strategy in line with Members' direction.

**Alan Finch /
David
Holdstock**

2. National Children and Adults Services Conference

Cllr David Simmonds, Chairman of Children and Young People Board and Cllr Katie Hall, Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board, updated Members on the 2013 National Children and Adults Services Conference which had taken place between 16 – 18 October. In doing so, they emphasised the optimistic atmosphere at the conference, the positive outlook of delegates and the number of examples of innovative practice shared by local authorities. Financial sustainability was a recurring theme raised by delegates as an issue for the LGA to take forward even more robustly in its lobbying work.

Decision

The Executive **noted** the update.

3. Law Commission's Programme of Law Reform: Consultation Response

Daniel Goodwin (Executive Director of Policy and Local Government Finance) briefly introduced the report, which set out the LGA's draft response to the Law Commission's consultation on new areas for legislative reform.

Members endorsed the key message within the consultation response that argued for a simplification and consolidation of the substantial number of laws pertaining to local government currently on the statute books. With reference to the Welsh Assembly's legislative programme, Members asked for clarification as to whether the consultation covered Wales and whether it also included the transposition of European legislation.

Decision

The Executive **endorsed** the LGA's submission to the Law Commission on areas of legislative reform.

Action

To confirm whether the consultation covers: (a) the transposition of European legislation; and (b) laws affecting Welsh local government. Officers to amend the list of legislation within the consultation response as required.

**Thelma
Stober**

4. LGA Outside Body Appointments 2013-14

The Chair briefly introduced the report, which summarised the LGA member appointments for the 2013/14 meeting cycle.

Members suggested that in future years, this information could be reported to the Executive in a more streamlined manner.

Decision

The Executive **noted** the list of outside bodies to which the LGA appointed to for 2013/14.

5. Note of the 23 October Leadership Board meeting

Members **noted** the minutes of the previous meeting of the Leadership Board from Wednesday 23 October 2013.

6. Note of last LGA Executive

Members **agreed** the minutes of the last LGA Executive meeting from Thursday 12 September 2013.

The Press and Public were excluded for the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda.

7. Autumn Statement Submission [CONFIDENTIAL]

8. Review of LGA Governance Arrangements [CONFIDENTIAL]

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21 November 2013, 2:00pm, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House.

Appendix A – Attendance

Position/ Role	Councillor	Authority
Vice-chairman (in the Chair)	David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
Vice-chairman	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Vice-chairman	Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire CC
Deputy-chairman	Robert Light	Kirklees Council
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham LB
Deputy-chairman	Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Members	Flick Rea	Camden LB
	Katie Hall	Bath and NE Somerset DC
	Chris White	St Albans DC
	Peter Box CBE	Wakefield
	Clarence Barrett	Havering LB
	Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham BC
	Sue Murphy	Manchester City
	John Hart	Devon CC
	Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
	Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding
	Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC
	Tony Jackson	East Herts DC
	David Philips	Swansea City
	David Hodge	Surrey CC
	Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
	Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City
	Paul Watson	Sunderland City
	Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
	Mayor Jules Pipe CBE	Hackney LB
	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
	John Clarke	Gedling BC
	Mike Jones	Cheshire West & Chester
	Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council
	Izzy Seccombe	Warwickshire CC
Apologies	Sir Merrick Cockell	RB Kensington & Chelsea
	Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage BC
	Peter Reeve	Cambridge
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City
	Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC