

22 November 2004

Key Objectives for 2005

Decisions

1. To consider whether the vision identified in paragraph 10 adequately capture the key characteristics of a vision for 5–10 years hence consistent with the vision set out in the LGA manifesto and if so to agree the recommendation.
2. To consider and agree on the Board's key objectives for 2005 (paragraphs 11 to 13)
3. To agree on a small number of issues for promotion in pre-election debate and for inclusion in party manifestos (Paragraph 14).

Actions

4. To submit the Board's recommendations for its vision, key objectives and pre-election issues to the LGA Executive for consideration.

Action by: Secretariat

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Summary

1. At its first meeting the Board considered the objectives and work programmes of predecessor bodies (the Fire Executive, Public Protection Executive and Community Safety Panel) and made initial decisions on priorities. The Board also asked members to submit their own views on future priorities and 'manifesto' objectives. The LGA Executive has now asked the Board to firm up on three key objectives for 2005. This paper now sets out initial recommendations for the Board's long-term vision and key objectives.

Background

2. On 28 October, the LGA Executive agreed that each Board should identify around 3 priority objectives for achievement during 2005. In reaching a decision, the board should ensure that it has:
 - a clear vision of the future direction of the outcomes and services within its remit looking 5-10 years ahead;
 - that is consistent with the framework established by the LGA manifesto; and
 - to which the priority objectives will contribute.
3. These objectives should also help to identify a small number of issues to be promoted in the pre-election period and for inclusion in party manifestos.
4. The LGA Executive will review the objectives agreed by each of the Boards on 25 November and satisfy itself that, taken together, they address the key issues for local government for the year ahead and can be recommended for adoption by the General Assembly as the framework for the 2005 LGA Business Plan.
5. A lead board will be identified for each objective and charged with commissioning a programme of relationship management and project work to ensure its achievement, and reporting progress to the General Assemblies in July and December through the Summer and Winter Reviews.
6. At its last meeting the Board made some initial recommendations on its objectives and work programme, in particular that:

A project on police reform be established (this has now been approved by the LGA Executive) and that the following ongoing projects should continue:

- A new Deal for Emergency Planning Project
- Ahead of the Game (Prostitution) Project
- Domestic Violence Project

- Safer and Stronger Communities Shared Priority Project (those elements that had not been transferred to the single Shared Priorities Project)
- Working with the Correctional System Project

That the following ‘maintenance’ activities be directly overseen by the Board:

- Developing a coherent approach to, and raising the profile of, regulatory services.
 - Developing crime reduction strategies at both local and strategic level.
7. Other ‘maintenance’ activities were to be overseen by a lead member or members who would report to the Board as necessary;
- LACORS activities (Cllr Caroline Seymour)
 - Building control (subject to the submission of further information. This is set out in a in a separate report)
8. The Board agreed that members be asked to submit ideas for future priorities and ‘manifesto’ objectives ahead of this meeting. A summary of responses is **attached** as appendix 1. The Board will wish to consider these in the light of previous decisions about projects and the handling of ‘maintenance’ work, and the request of the LGA Executive to identify three key objectives for the year ahead.
9. Set out below are some initial proposals for a vision and key objectives set out in the light of decisions already made.

Vision

10. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following long term objectives
- That local government plays a key role, in equal partnership with central government, on a range of harm reduction activities (through the prevention, and mitigation of the consequences of, crime and anti-social behaviour fire and other emergencies, and through licensing and regulation)
 - That key decisions on priorities are made by local communities through their representatives, who will be fully accountable to the communities they serve.
 - That funding for these activities is adequate and flexible and supports, rather than controls, locally agreed priorities.

Key Objectives for 2005

11. The following are possible candidates for key activities for the following year for discussion in the light of further proposals that members may put forward:
- Police Reform
 - Working positively to reduce youth offending (in collaboration with the Children and Young People’s Board)
 - Developing a coherent approach to, and raising the profile of, regulatory services.

12. It has also been suggested that issues relating to working with the correctional system be further developed. This project is shortly to come to an end and the Chair of the Task Group (Mr Melvyn Smith JP) has therefore been invited to attend the meeting to discuss with members whether, and in what way, this work can be taken forward.
13. Members will also wish to confirm the high priority of the work on fire modernisation, for which the Fire Modernisation Task Group have been given primary responsibility (see appendix 1).

Strategic relationship management

14. Strategic relationship management, alongside projects, is an important lobbying tool to help the Board to deliver its key objectives during 2005 and a full report will be prepared for the next meeting of the Board outlining a strategy for each of the three objectives.
15. The aim of strategic relationship management is to establish and maintain a set of relationships with key individuals, organisations and institutions to communicate our messages effectively and influence current and future thinking and decision-making. The central planks of strategic relationship management programme should be to ensure that the LGA delivers on its short term aims (what we will achieve by the end of 2005) and to position the LGA to be influential on behalf of local government in the future (ie where we want local government to be in five years time).
16. Appendix 2 **attached** to this paper provides an initial 'scan' of the key target audiences and individuals for the priority areas covered by this board.

Pre-election debate and party manifestos

17. Members are invited to discuss those issues that are most appropriate for pre-election debate and inclusion in party manifestos, on the basis of decisions made at this meeting. For the purpose of this discussion they may wish to consider the following:
 - To ensure a commitment to shift the focus of strategies for crime reduction and anti-social behaviour towards positive prevention activities, with local government playing a key role
 - To provide more flexible funding for all harm reduction activities.

Implications for Wales

18. There are no specific implications for Welsh as distinct from English authorities.

Financial/Resource Implications

19. By setting a limited number of clear priorities, the Board will assist the Association make more effective use of its limited resources.

Contact Officer: John Ransford