

Relationship management and Appointments to outside bodies

Decisions

1. *Members are invited to appoint a representative to the Urban Commission Steering Committee and appoint a social inclusion and equalities representative*
2. *Members are asked to discuss the suggestions in this report and to:*
 - *Consider appointing Board champions for particular policy areas where significant high profile activity is expected;*
 - *Approve and re-confirm appointments to outside bodies;*
 - *Agree that decisions about any further appointments to outside bodies will be made by the Board Office Holders jointly.*

Actions Required

2. Officers to action as directed by the Board.

Action by: *LGA Secretariat*

Contact Officer: *Liz Hobson (liz.hobson@lga.gov.uk 0207 664 3229)*

11 September 2006

Relationship management and outside bodies

Summary

1. *This report sets out proposals for managing the relationship with external organisations, including the development of advisory networks to support both priority interventions and other issues within the Board's remit and also sets out recommendations for representation on outside bodies*
2. *Members are asked to discuss the proposals, to consider appointing Board champions for particular policy areas and approve appointments to outside bodies*

Background

3. *Developing good relationships with outside organisations is a key factor for the LGA in influencing policy for the benefit of councils and their local communities. This applies both to the Board's priorities and to the wide range of other issues that fall within the Board's remit. A number of external organisations can be identified where effective and regular liaison will be essential and Members will play a significant role in developing those key relationships. This includes Government departments and their agencies, professional associations including those for Police and Fire, inspectorates, partner and third sector organisations. There may also be areas where we need to pursue new linkages. This should be done within the context of the current independent review of the LGA's relationships with the external environment which is underway (see separate agenda item) which is due to report by the end of the year*
4. *Work is also in hand to ensure that the Board has appropriate advice both at a strategic level and at a technical and specialist level. To take this forward four business managers have been appointed to steer this activity across the LGA. These business managers (working closely with Programme Directors and colleagues across the organisation) are responsible for ensuring that each key policy agenda is supported by appropriate expert and specialist advice (drawn from a wide range of sources) and strategic advisory panels whose role would be to challenge and advise on both current and future issues.*
5. *For the Safer Communities Board existing advisory arrangements include the key policy areas of community safety, emergency planning, building control, licensing, cemeteries and crematoria, coroners and domestic violence. There are also a number of professional associations e.g. for community safety, emergency planning and building control. The potential for establishing contractual relationships with some of the professional bodies is being explored, to include drafting responses to technical consultations in line with LGA policy.*
6. *Members may wish to consider appointing Board champions to be the lead member spokespeople for particular policy areas, such as emergency planning and the Coroners Bill which are likely to be "hot topics" where significant high profile activity is expected in forthcoming months*

Outside bodies – representation

7. Following the last meeting of the Board in July, Office Holders of the outgoing Board received a paper outlining the portfolios and related external appointments to bodies. They were asked to confirm whether these appointments represent the best distribution of duties in relation to the Board's agreed priorities for 2005/06. Office holders were also asked to consider a table listing officers' recommendations for changes to appointments to outside bodies. An updated list reflecting those decisions is included as **Appendix 1 (attached)**. It is suggested that any future member appointments that arise during the year will be referred to the Board's office holders.

Office Holders took the following decisions:

Table 1

HO National Offender Management Service Programme Board

The LGA would be represented by the Board Chair. The Vice-Chair of the Board would substitute for the Chair when necessary.

HO Prolific and Priority Offenders' Programme Board

The LGA would be represented by the Board Chair. The Vice-Chair of the Board would substitute for the Chair when necessary.

HSC/Local Government Liaison Panel

The Board is asked to appoint four members to this panel, chaired by Cllr Geoffrey Theobald (Chair, LACORS).

HSC Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances

The LGA would be represented by officer/s and not members.

British Board of Film Classification

LGA representation on this outside body should be passed to the new Culture, Tourism and Sport Board.

National House-Building council – NHBC Governance Council

Members agreed that this is a building control regulation issue and questioned whether SCB should withdraw and leave it to the Building Regulations advisers. Members agreed that an LGA adviser should attend and that further opportunities to meet and influence this body should be considered by the Task Group suggested to be set up to take on the issue of fire suppression systems.

Table 3

DCMS Alcohol and Entertainments Licensing Advisory Group

Officers suggested that licensing issues should be in the remit of the Culture, Tourism and Sports Board and LACORS once the matter of licensing fees is resolved.

HO ACPO Safer Parking Scheme Steering Group

Officers advised that the Steering Group's discussions were becoming increasingly technical and suggested that LGA send Barry Nelms (LB Camden) to attend this body.

8. At the conclusion of the meeting, members agreed that, in the light of Councillor's Rudkin standing down for the Board, any invitations received in the post addressed to the Chair should be given to the business manager in the first instance who would liaise with office holders about representation.

Implications for Wales

9. No specific implications.

Financial/Resource Implications

10. This work is to be carried out within existing budgets.

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