

Note of Actions and Decisions

Title: Workforce Programme Board
Date and time: 12 April 2011, 11.30am
Venue: Local Government House, Smith Square

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	LB Lewisham
Vice Chair	Steve Comer	Bristol UA
Deputy Chairs	Norman Murphy	Scarborough BC
	Roger Phillips	Herefordshire UA
Members:	Sir Merrick Cockell	RB Kensington & Chelsea
	Ken Thornber CBE	Hampshire CC
	Nick Small	Liverpool City
	Ian Greenwood	Bradford MDC
	Sue Murphy	Manchester City
	Simon Shaw	Sefton MBC
	Stephen Knight	LB Richmond upon Thames
	Gordon Kemp	Vale of Glamorgan County BC
Substitute:	Chris Saint	Stratford on Avon DC
Participating Observers:	David Simmonds	LB Hillingdon
Apologies:	Jane Storey	Suffolk CC
	Jack Richardson	Barrow-in-Furness BC
	Geoffrey Driver	Lancashire CC
	Ivan Ould	Leicestershire CC
	Maurice Heaster	LB Wandsworth
	Brian Baldwin, OBE	Wigan MBC

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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Responding to the sad news that Sir Simon Milton, former Chairman of the Local Government Association, had passed away, Sir Steve Bullock (Chairman) asked Members to hold a minute's silence.

The Chairman informed Members of changes affecting officers within the LG Group as part of the Getting Closer change programme. With effect from 1 June 2011, Sarah Messenger would be Head of Workforce. Members noted Helen Newman's planned departure from the organisation and thanked her for her valued contribution to the work of the Board.

1 Negotiations Update (Confidential item)

Members received an update on the latest position and developments in key negotiating groups.

Decision

Members discussed the report and considered the issues raised.

Action

- Officers to proceed with negotiations under the aegis of the various employers' sides, informed by members' observations.

Sarah
Messenger

2 Pensions (Confidential item)

The following declared non-prejudicial personal interest in this item:

Members: Sir Steve Bullock; Cllr Comer; Cllr Greenwood, Cllr Phillips, Sir Merrick Cockell, Cllr Simmonds, Cllr Thornber, Cllr Shaw and Cllr Knight.

LG Group Officers: Terry Edwards, Sarah Messenger, Jan Parkinson, Helen Newman, Fatima de Abreu and Phil Bundy.

Members noted recent developments and considered key issues arising on the:

Proposed Increase in Employee Pension Contributions;
Final Report from Lord Hutton's Public Service Pensions Commission;
Consultation on the Fair Deal Policy;
Consultation on the Discount Rate;

The Board discussed potential implications for local government, its workforce and the wider economy and agreed the need to re-enforce to Government the differences between the Local Government Pension Scheme and other public sector schemes.

Decision

Members discussed the report and recommended that Baroness Margaret Eaton (LGA Chairman) and Sir Steve Bullock (Chair, Workforce Programme Board) write to Eric Pickles MP (Secretary of State, CLG) emphasising members' concerns.

Action

- Officers to draft a letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for members' consideration;
- On members' behalf, the Chairman to respond to the recommendations made in the final report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission in so far as these relate to the Local Government Pension Scheme;
- Officers to respond to the Consultation on the Fair Deal Policy.

Terry Edwards

3 LG Group and Audit Commission Workforce Study (Confidential item)

The Board received this report on the purpose, scope, methods, outputs and timetable of the LG Group and Audit Commission workforce study.

Decision

Members noted the study and agreed that Workforce Programme Board Lead Members would approve and sign-off the final report once available.

Action

- Officers to forward the final study report to Lead Members for approval.

Sarah Messenger

4 Place Based Productivity Programme – Workforce and Skills Workstream

The Board received an update of the research findings and noted future plans for delivery.

Decision

Members acknowledged the value of the work undertaken and agreed the importance of relationship management in dissemination of this information to the sector.

Action

- Officers to continue their work in taking forward the Workforce and Skills Workstream into the wider Place Based Productivity Programme and to disseminate the learning to date to the sector.

Nigel Carruthers

5 LG Group Business Plan and Workforce Priorities 2011/12

Members received an update on the LG Group business plan and budget for 2011/12.

Members noted the next steps underway to inform the final strategy, business plan, programme plans and budget for 2011/12 which would then be presented for final approval to LG Group Executive on 19 May, followed by the individual company Boards in June.

Decision

Members noted the update and reviewed performance against the 2010/11 workforce programme plan.

Action

- Officers to present the 2011/12 strategy and business plan, programme plans and budget for the LG Group for final approval to the next meeting of the LG Group Executive on 19 May.

Jan Parkinson

6 Notes from the Previous Meeting

The note of the last meeting was agreed.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21 June 2011 at 11.30am, Local Government House