

Note of last LGA Leadership Board meeting

Title: LGA Leadership Board
Date: Wednesday 22 January 2014
Venue: Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item Decisions and actions

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman, on behalf of the Leadership Board, congratulated Cllr Marianne Overton and Cllr Andrew Lewer, who each received an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

The Chairman informed the Board that Daniel Goodwin, Executive Director (Finance and Policy) would be leaving the LGA in March and that Michael Lockwood, currently Chief Executive of the London Borough of Harrow, would join the LGA on an interim basis from 1 March to cover Daniel's post.

The Chairman asked that the Board's best wishes be passed to Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, who was recuperating from a recent operation.

1 Local Government Finance Settlement

Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE, Chair of the Finance Panel, summarised LGA activity on the Local Government Finance Settlement and the LGA's response, which had been by Finance Panel Office Holders. Some of the key points in the response had been raised by the Chairman in his meeting with Brandon Lewis MP on 13 January.

Cllr Taylor set out the key lobbying points in the LGA's response to the Settlement and emphasised that the Association would continue to press Ministers and officials on these issues in the run up to the Settlement being approved by Parliament in the second week of February.

Members made a number of detailed comments on:

- the need for a longer term funding settlement for councils;
- the impact on council budgeting of the late announcement of the council tax cap;
- Better Care Fund and funding for the Care Bill;
- the future of the New Homes Bonus;
- the Welfare Payment Scheme

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **endorsed** the response to the Local Government Finance Settlement and the LGA response;
- **noted** that lobbying would continue on key issues in the run-up to the Settlement being approved by Parliament in the second week of February.

Action

Officers to provide briefing for the Final Settlement debate. **Mike Heiser/Alan Finch**

2 **Business Plan and Budget report**

Michael Coughlin, Executive Director, Workforce, Leadership and Productivity presented the LGA's draft Business Plan and Budget for 2014/15, for the Board's initial review. The draft Business Plan reflected the LGA's overall strategy as set out in the 'Rewiring' documents and was informed by the priorities of the Boards. The Budget was broadly in line with the current allocation.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, thanked officers for their work in developing the Business Plan and Budget.

The Leadership Board discussed the report and made a number of comments, which were noted by officers. In particular Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE asked for the section on EU funding (P38) to be strengthened to include a commitment to ensure that LEPs recognise local authorities as significant partners in delivering the growth agenda associated with EU funding.

Councillor David Sparks OBE, Vice-chairman, asked that further information be provided to the Board on the LGA's relationships with Wales. Officers undertook to bring a report to the next meeting.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the draft Business Plan and Budget for 2014/15, prior to presentation of the final Business Plan and Budget to the Leadership Board and Executive in March for final agreement.*

Action

Officers to provide a report on the LGA's relationship with Wales to the next meeting. Final Business Plan and Business Plan and Budget for 2014/15 to be presented to the Leadership Board and Executive in March. **Helen Platts**

3 **Nine Month Performance Report**

Helen Platts, Head of Business Development, introduced a report inviting the Board to review the performance report for the third quarter, which reported back on the delivery of the business plan.

Decision

The Leadership Board **agreed** the performance report for the year to date.

Action

Officers to provide further quarterly reports.

Helen Platts

4 Communications Activity - quarterly report October to December 2013

David Holdstock, Director of Communications, introduced a paper outlining communications activity between October and December 2013. David referred to the draft annual membership survey report emailed to members earlier in the week. The key findings in the report were positive and the headline figures would be included in this year's membership packs. A full report, with analysis, would be presented to the Board's February meeting.

Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers. In particular Councillor David Sparks asked officers to explore the potential for increasing LGA coverage on regional television.

Decision

The Leadership Board **noted** the communications activity for the period October to December 2013.

Action

- Officers to continue to provide quarterly reports to the Board.
- Officers to explore the potential for increasing LGA coverage on regional television.
- Officers to present a report on the Membership Survey to next meeting.

David Holdstock

5 Chief Executive's Report

Michael Coughlin introduced the Chief Executive's report for January. Michael highlighted the reduction in the number of councils on notice from 21 to 15.

Decision

The Leadership Board **noted** the Chief Executive's report for January 2014.

6 LGA Executive

Decision

The Leadership Board **noted** the LGA Executive agenda for the following day.

7 Forward Plan

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **noted** the Forward Plan and **agreed** the addition of the following item:

February - Leadership Board

LGA and its relationship with Wales.

PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL

8 Note of the last meeting

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the note of the last meeting*

9 Local Government Pensions Committee

The Leadership Board noted the report and **endorsed** recommendations

10 Audit Committee Minutes

The Leadership Board **noted** the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting on 12 November.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell	Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Lord Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
	Cllr David Sparks OBE	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council
	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Members	Cllr Andrew Lewer MBE	
Apologies		
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		