

## Note of last LGA Leadership Board meeting

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**Title:** LGA Leadership Board  
**Date:** Wednesday 19 March 2014  
**Venue:** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this note

### Item Decisions and actions

#### Executive Director of Finance and Policy

As this was Daniel Goodwin's last meeting, Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman, thanked him for his contribution to the work of the LGA over the past sixteen months and wished him well for the future.

The Chairman welcomed Michael Lockwood, new Executive Director, Finance and Policy who started at the LGA the previous week.

#### 1 UK Forum

Ian Hughes, Head of Programmes, Economic Growth and International, introduced a report setting out headline issues from a recent meeting of the UK Forum, the annual meeting of the political leadership of the four UK local government associations.

Ian Hughes summarised the key issues currently being addressed by WLGA, CoSLA and NILGA, wider local government issues and how the Associations together might develop the work of the UK Forum.

Members had a full discussion on the mutual benefits of developing the LGA's relationships with the other three local government associations, and the potential for strengthening our arguments by speaking with one voice. However, members emphasised the differing bases on which those relationships stood. In particular Welsh authorities, as members of the LGA through the WLGA, were entitled to a distinct service and support from the LGA.

Members referred to the importance of local public service reform as one of the CoSLA's key arguments in the current Scottish referendum campaign. However, joint work on this issue is unlikely to be achievable until after the Referendum has taken place.

In summary, the Members acknowledged the value of continuing to develop our relationships with the WLGA, CoSLA and NiLGA. With this in mind, Members suggested that Chairman and Group Leaders meet with the Chairs of the other three associations as soon as possible after the Scottish Referendum on 18 September, to

take forward discussions.

Decisions

*The Leadership Board*

- **noted** the headline messages from the UK Forum: and
- **agreed** that the Chairman and Group Leaders meet with the Chairs of WLGA, CoSLA and NILGA shortly after the Scottish Referendum.

Action

Officers to take forward as set out above.

**2 LGA Business Plan 2014/15**

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the LGA's Business Plan for 2014/15 for recommendation to the LGA Executive.*

Action

LGA Executive to consider the Business Plan on 20 March 2014.

**3 LGA Budget 2014/15**

Helen Platts, Head of Finance and Business Management, introduced the budget book for 2014/15, setting out the LGA's financial strategy for the next two years and presenting proposals for the 2014/15 Budget.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the 2014/15 budget prior to this being presented to Executive for agreement.*

Action

LGA Executive to consider the 2014/15 budget on 20 March 2014.

**4 SPARSE Rural Special Interest Group**

The Leadership Board received a report setting out a request from the Rural Services Network to change the name of SPARSE Special Interest Group to the Rural Services Network SIG and to broaden its membership to include all councils with an interest in rural affairs.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the change of name from SPARSE Rural SIG to the*

*Rural Services Network SIG and the broadening of its membership to include all councils with an interest in rural affairs.*

Action

Officers to inform the SIG of Leadership Board's decision.

**5 Chief Executive's Monthly Report - March 2014**

The Leadership Board received the Chief Executive's monthly report for March 2014.

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, reported that Nottingham City Council and Rossendale Borough Council had confirmed that they were rolling over their notice for a further year.

The Chief Executive reported that she had written to those councils who had not yet formally withdrawn their notice and was awaiting responses.

Decision

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

**6 LGA Executive Agenda**

Decision

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

**7 Forward Plan**

Decisions

*The Leadership Board **noted** the Forward Plan.*

**PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL**

**8 Note of the last meeting**

Decision

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

**9 Strategic Partnership Agreements**

The Leadership Board **noted** the report and **approved** the recommendations.

**10 LGA Annual Conference & Exhibition - Forward Planning**

The Leadership Board noted the report.

## 11 Layden House Refurbishment

The Leadership Board **noted** the report.

## 12 Treasury Management- Early Payment of Pension Contribution

The Leadership Board **noted** the report and **agreed** the recommendation.

### Appendix A -Attendance

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