

Note of last LGA Leadership Board meeting

Title: LGA Leadership Board
Date: Wednesday 16 September 2015
Venue: Rathbone Rooms 1&2, 7th 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

1 Declarations of Interest

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in Items 12 and 15 as a member of an LGA pension scheme (Item 12) and Director of AMA (Properties) Ltd (Item 15). Sir Steve also declared an interest in Item 11 – IDeA's Revenue Support Grant 2016/17 onwards.

2 Centre for Public Scrutiny: Annual Report

Jacqui McKinlay, Executive Director, thanked the LGA for the opportunity to address the Board. Jacqui informed Members that Lord Bob Kerslake took on the role of Chair of CfPs when Nick Raynsford MP stood down and that she had become Executive Director of the Centre following the departure of Jessica Crowe. She explained that Trustees were confident that these changes put CfPS in an excellent position to build on its track record to date but also adapt quickly to meet the changing demand from local government and the wider public sector.

Cllr Tony Jackson, Member of CfPS Board presented the Centre's Annual Report. Cllr Jackson set out the Centre's activities in 2013/14 arising from its partnership with the LGA and its planned work programme for 2014/15 which had been discussed and agreed with LGA's representatives.

With regard to the sector led improvement agenda, Cllr Jackson highlighted the comprehensive support delivered by the Centre to a number of local authorities on issues including, expert assistance on devolution and governance, particularly governance change.

Concluding his presentation, Cllr Jackson thanked the Leadership Board for the LGA's continued support and contribution to the work of CfPS.

Jacqui McKinlay responded on a number of comments made by members on issues including local public accounts committees and the scrutiny of health and wellbeing boards.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the performance of the Centre for Public Scrutiny in 2013/14.*

3 **Local Partnerships: Annual Report**

Alderman Sir David Wootton presented Local Partnerships Annual Report on the achievements of 2014/15, both in terms of benefit to local government and on the final performance for the year, including how the LGA's RSG contribution was used.

Sir David was pleased to report that Local Partnerships performed well against its four main objectives for 2014/15 and drew attention to its financial performance. In particular, they developed and supported new programmes of housing and regeneration support and another supporting Growth Fund transport projects by LEPs and their local authority delivery partners.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **noted** the performance of Local Partnerships in 2013/14;
- **agreed** to continued future working between the LGA and Local Partnerships to their mutual benefit.

4 **"Investing in our nation's future" - the first 100 days of the new government**

Laurence Meehan, Head of Campaigns and External Communications, introduced a report which looked at the achievements and activities of the LGA's campaign, "Investing in our nation's future, the first 100 days of the new government." The LGA Executive would consider this report on 17 September.

Cllr Jim McMahon (Oldham) stressed the need to continue to monitor the LGA's "100 Days" "Asks."

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the outcomes of the campaign, "Investing in our nation's future, the first 100 days of the new government."*

Action

Officers to progress as directed by members.

5 **LGA's Spending Review Work**

Stephen Hughes, Executive Director, introduced a report highlighting the LGA's formal submission to the 2015 Spending Review process and setting out the planned work programme of engagement and media work throughout the autumn. This report would also be considered by the LGA Executive on 17 September.

Stephen Hughes referred in particular to the need for Government to provide full funding of the adult social care funding gap which was growing by just over £700 million a year on average. This was set out in the 'Adult social care, health and wellbeing: A Shared Commitment' (a joint paper with the Association of Directors for Social Services).

Cllr Sharon Taylor (Stevenage), on behalf of the Board, thanked officers for their work on the spending review submission over the summer time.

Members made a number of detailed comments, which were noted by officers, on issue including:

- the changes to housing finance and the implications for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA);
- the costs of additional school places;
- the need to ensure that all New Burdens are fully funded.
- the escalating costs of Adult Social Care;
- the recent EU ruling that for workers with no fixed office, travel should be counted as working time, and its implications for employers;
- the lack of affordable housing.

Referring to the spending review submission from the LGA/Chief Fire Officers' Association, Councillor David Hodge (Surrey County Council) expressed his disappointment at the lack of ambition in the submission.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the content of the report..*

Action

Officers to proceed as directed by members.

6 Chief Executive's Monthly Report - September 2015

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the Chief Executive's report for September 2015 and in particular that the LGA was developing a new finance peer challenge product for local authorities.*

7 Forward Plan

The Board considered the Forward Plan of the Leadership Board, LGA Executive and Councillors' Forum and requested that the Forum discussion on 22 October 2015, to which Brandon Lewis, Minister of State for Housing & Planning, had been invited, should include consideration of housing finance.

8 Note of the last meeting

Decision

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

Matters arising under the Minutes – Policy Priorities in 2015/16

Ian Hughes, Head of Programmes, referred to the Leadership Board meeting in July, when members agreed four policy priorities to steer Board work programmes: devolution/housing/adult care and finance. Leadership Board had asked officers to develop the detail of their proposals at the first Board meeting in September. At this meeting each Board would discuss the four priorities and their contributions, following which a report would be brought back to the Leadership Board on the Boards' proposals.

9 Annual Conference & Exhibition 2015 - Review

David Holdstock, Director of Communications, introduced a report which summarised feedback from the 2015 Annual Conference & Exhibition.

Members made a number of comments and suggestions which were noted by officers.

Leadership Board paid tribute to Roberta Henry, Deputy Head of Events, for the many successful LGA Conferences that she has delivered over the years and wished her well for the future, as she would be leaving the LGA shortly.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **noted** feedback from this year's Conference;
- **requested** that their comments be taken into account for the 2016 Conference
- **agreed** the recommendations set out in the report.

Action

Officers to progress plans for Annual Conference 2016 in line with members' comments and decisions.

10 LGA Commercial Strategy

Stephen Hughes, Executive Director, introduced a report updating the Board on current commercial initiatives.

Decision

The Leadership Board

- **noted** the report;
- **endorsed** the approach taken to advance these commercial opportunities;
- **agreed** to receive a further report to the Board in the autumn.

Action

Officers to take forward in line with the Board's decisions.

11 IDeA's Revenue Support Grant 2016/17 onwards

Dennis Skinner, Head of Improvement, introduced the report.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **noted** the work underway to make the case for RSG funding for the IDeA for 2016/17 onwards.*

12 LGA Pensions Position and Strategic Options to consider

The Board received an update report on the LGA and IDeA pensions' position.

Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers.

Decisions

The Leadership Board agreed the recommendations set out in the report.

13 Liberata contract - final payment

Stephen Gray, Programme Director, introduced a report.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** recommendations as set out in the report.*

14 Local Government House - charges to 3rd parties

Paul Brack, Strategic Finance Adviser, introduced a report.

Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers.

Decision

The Leadership Board **agreed** the new charging model for LG House tenants.

15 Local Government House - ACC and AMA Loan Agreements

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Lewisham Council) introduced a report.

Decision

*The Leadership Board **agreed** the recommendations set out in the report..*

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Jim McMahon OBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council