

Note of last LGA Leadership Board meeting

Title: LGA Leadership Board
Date: Wednesday 20 July 2016
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

1 Welcome and Congratulations

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Peter Box CBE who had been newly appointed as a member of the Leadership Board for 2016/17.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman congratulated Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE and Cllr Anne Western CBE who had received their respective honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

2 Declarations of Interest and Apologies

No declarations were made.

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Cllr Philippa Roe, Con, Westminster City Council;
- Cllr Anne Western CBE, Lab, Derbyshire County Council; and
- Cllr David Hodge, Con, Surrey County Council.

3 Chief Executive's Report - July 2016

Mark Lloyd (Chief Executive) introduced the report which set out the LGA's main achievements against the business plan priorities since the last meeting in June. In doing so, he provided some initial reflection on the LGA's Annual Conference and highlighted the importance of political engagement in the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP).

In the discussions that followed, Members shared their reflections from conference and put on record their thanks to all those involved in organising it. Comments included: positive reflections on speakers from outside of local government; the need for a greater balance of diversity in speakers in terms of gender and ethnicity; and the value of longer plenary sessions. With reference to STP, Members echoed the importance of the issue to local government.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the Chief Executive's report for July 2016.

4 Membership, Terms of Reference and 2016/17 Meeting Cycle

Claire Holloway (Head of Corporate Services) briefly introduced the report which set out the Leadership Board's Terms of Reference, membership and meeting dates for 2016/17.

The report was agreed without further comment.

Decisions

The LGA Leadership Board:

- i. **agreed** its Terms of Reference for 2016/2017;
- ii. **noted** its Membership and dates of future Leadership Board, Councillors' Forum and Executive meetings; and
- iii. **noted** that the location of these meetings would be confirmed pending a start date for the refurbishment works at Local Government House.

5 LGA Leadership Board - Review of the Year 2015/16

The report, which summarised the work of the Leadership Board over the past 12 months, was moved by the Chairman, and agreed by Members without further comment.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the report.

6 LGA Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was moved by the Chairman without further comment.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** the forward plan.

7 LGA Executive (See Executive Agenda)

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the LGA Executive agenda for the meeting on 21 July.

8 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - 2016 Annual Reports

The report, which invited Members to review the annual reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups (SIGs), was moved by the Chairman without further comment.

Members recorded their thanks to those SIGs that had submitted annual reports and suggested that a similar reporting mechanism be developed for LGA Task Groups.

Decisions

The LGA Leadership Board:

- i. **noted** the annual reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups; and
- ii. **agreed** that those Special Interest Groups that had not submitted annual reports be contacted with a view to removing them from the LGA's list of Special Interest Groups.

Actions

A letter of thanks be sent to those SIGs that had submitted an annual report.

Those SIG that had not submitted annual reports be contacted with a view to removing them from the LGA's list of Special Interest Groups.

LGA Task Groups that do not already report into the LGA's formal governance structure be invited to do so.

9 Confidential

The following items were confidential and therefore considered under Part 2 of the meeting.

10 Priority work in the LGA over the coming months

Ian Hughes (Head of Policy, Place) introduced the report which suggested some priority areas of focus for the LGA and local government within the context of the recent EU Referendum result and appointment of the new Prime Minister and Cabinet. Members' views were sought to help inform future LGA priorities.

There followed a detailed and confidential discussion in which Members' provided a steer to inform the LGA's work programme and draft LGA Autumn Statement submission. A further discussion would take place with members of the LGA Executive on 21 July 2016.

Decisions

The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** that their comments inform:

- i. the development of an LGA's work programme on the implications of Brexit for councils and representing England and local government in Brexit negotiations;
- ii. a programme of work on building relationships with the Prime Minister and relevant new Ministers; and
- iii. the LGA's submission to Government in advance of the Autumn Statement.

Actions

- Develop a work programme on the implications of Brexit for councils and representing England and local government in the Brexit negotiations.
- Develop a programme of work on building relationships with the Prime Minister and relevant new Ministers.
- Draft Autumn Statement submission for the September Leadership Board for clearance.

11 Note of the last meeting

Decision

The Leadership Board **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 June 2016.

12 Local Government Business Rates Retention

Nicola Morton (Head of Local Government Finance) introduced the report which updated on the joint working between the LGA and DCLG on the proposals for local government business rates retention, including the launch of a summer consultation.

There followed a detailed and confidential discussion in which Members' provided a steer to inform the LGA's response to the Government consultation paper. A further discussion would be held with members of the LGA Executive on 21 July 2016.

Decisions

The LGA Leadership Board:

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **agreed** their comment inform the LGA's response to the Government's Consultation on Business Rates Retention.

Action

Draft LGA response to the Government's Consultation on Business Rates Retention to be submitted September Board for clearance.

13 LGA Financial Strategy: 2016/17 to 2018/19

Paul Brack (Strategic Finance Manager) introduced the report which sought approval to explore in more detail a potential option relating to the LGA's approved Borrowing Strategy.

The report was agreed without further comment.

Decision

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

Action

A report on Financing the two Property Projects to be brought to the September Board meeting.

14 Note of the last Audit Committee

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 6 June 2016.

15 Note of the last Commercial Advisory Board

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the minutes of the previous meeting of the Commercial Advisory Board held on 23 May 2016.

16 LGA Governance: Meeting Frequency Review

The report, which set out the cost implications of potentially increasing the frequency of LGA board/committee meetings, was moved by the Chairman without further comment.

In the discussion that followed, Members were united in the view that four Board meetings per annum was insufficient to maintain pace with the fast moving policy agenda.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** to increase the meeting cycle frequency of the LGA's nine Boards and one Fire Services Management Committee to five formal Board meetings and five lead member meetings per annum, with effect from the 2016/17 meeting year.

Action

To set future Board/Committee meeting schedules at five meeting per political cycle, to take effect from 1 September 2016 and adjust resourcing levels accordingly.

Appendix A -Attendance

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