

Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Title: LGA Executive
Date: Thursday 17 September 2015
Venue: Westminster Suite, 8th 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

No declarations were made.

2 LGA's Spending Review Work

Cllr Claire Kober, Chair of the Resources Portfolio, introduced the item which presented the LGA's formal submissions to the 2015 Spending Review process and set out the proposed programme of engagement and media work in support of this. Submissions had been sent to the government but would be published over the following 6-8 weeks to maximise media coverage. A further report on 'unintended consequences' was still in preparation.

In the discussion which followed, Members made a number of comments including:

- That the submissions provided a good evidence base for lobbying work on the Spending Review. It was requested that Members be made aware of when the reports would be published in advance.
- That 'Prevention – a shared commitment' would build on the good work that the LGA had led on sustainable investment for adult social care, and that it was important for the LGA to ensure that the transformation fund was in place to provide confidence to partners.
- Sales of high value council housing would significantly impact upon councils who had invested in improvements to housing stock, and on forward building programmes.
- The LGA would lobby against any policy to reduce housing benefit as this would have a negative impact on councils' ability to provide good housing stock for residents to ensure that families had a good quality of life in all respects.
- The government had a lack of appreciation of how reduction in housing benefit would impact upon provision of temporary accommodation.

- References relating to housing for veterans were welcomed.
- One member commented that the 'service for the future' report on the fire service lacked ambition. Areas such as equality and diversity in the fire and rescue service should be addressed outside of the Spending Review submission.
- On care provided by the voluntary sector, it was highlighted that many charities which had taken over services from councils were struggling to provide cost effective services and this could increase with further reductions in funding. The voluntary sector also had a key role in transformation.
- The Chairman asked that a timeline for the publication of submissions and associated communications be circulated to members.

Decision

The LGA Executive endorsed the 2015 Spending Review submissions and the engagement strategy.

Action

Circulate a timeline for the publication of Spending Review submissions and associated communications to the LGA Executive.

3 Devolution Deals

Sir Richard Leese, Chair of the City Regions Board, and Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chair of the People and Places Board, introduced the report which summarised current issues around devolution, such as the government's ability to match the ambitions of groupings of councils who were submitting bids, and the LGA's offer of support to councils who had come forward with a wide variety of ambitious proposals. Fiscal and constitutional reinforcement of devolution was vital for it to succeed in the longer term and the process would not be simple. Although the LGA did not favour a 'one size fits all' approach it was in the interest of councils to look at streamlining the process and increasing Whitehall's appetite to negotiate 'at scale'.

In the discussion that followed Members made a number of comments, including:

- Some councils who had signed devolution deals had found engagement with some government departments to be difficult.
- Contact with member local authorities and other relevant organisations on devolution should be maintained, and two-way communication should be improved. Communication to member councils could be made through the People and Places and City Regions Boards, or more centrally from the LGA.
- Early thinking about the place of combined authorities in the LGA should be undertaken given the number of combined authorities was expected to increase over the next twelve months.
- That devolution alone would not be enough to close the funding gap.

- The LGA should help councils which were starting to formulate ideas and share best practice amongst bids. It was important for the LGA to maintain a focus on the outcomes and benefits to local residents ahead of process and structure.
- It was suggested that the City Regions and People and Places Boards may wish to consider lessons learned from the formation of Local Economic Partnerships.
- Consideration should be given to the different approaches to devolution and the different approaches to scrutiny of these. The government was interested in economic growth and public sector reform, and this placed importance on the local coordination of services.

Decision

The LGA Executive's comments on devolution deals to be taken into account by the LGA's Boards, in particular the City Regions and People and Places Boards, when considering devolution at forthcoming meetings.

Action

Early thinking about the place of combined authorities in the LGA should be undertaken given the number of combined authorities was expected to increase over the next twelve months.

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

Laurence Meehan, Head of Campaigns and External Communications, introduced the item which considered the achievements and activity of the LGA's campaign 'Investing in our nation's future, the first 100 days of the new government'. The first 100 days of the new government had ended, but the campaign would continue to impact upon current campaigns on the Spending Review and Devo Next. The success of the campaign would be seen over the life of the parliament when it was clear what legislation would be brought forward.

In response to a question it was confirmed that letters of congratulation had been sent out to the new leaders of the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, and the new leadership teams of each party would meet LGA representatives at the forthcoming party conferences. Engagement with all parties on ongoing campaigns would continue through the Chairman and political group offices.

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the outcomes of the campaign 'Investing in our nation's future, the first 100 days of the new government'.

5 Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments to the LGA's Governance Structures for 2015/2016

The LGA Chairman moved the report which asked the LGA Executive to note its Membership and Terms of Reference for 2015/16. A list of all

appointments to the LGA's Board and Portfolios for 2015/16 was also included for information.

The report was agreed without comment.

Decision

The LGA Executive noted its Membership, Terms of Reference and the appointments to the LGA's governance structures for 2015/16.

6 Annual Review of 2015/16 - LGA Boards/Portfolios

The LGA Chairman moved the report which included the 2014/15 annual reports of each LGA Board/Portfolio. The reports outlined the work each Board/Portfolio had overseen during the previous meeting cycle and outlined key achievements.

The report was agreed without comment.

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the Boards'/Portfolios' achievements and reflections on the 2014/15 meeting year.

7 Note of LGA Leadership Board Meeting

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the minutes of the LGA Leadership Board meetings held on Wednesday 15 July and Wednesday 16 September 2015.

8 Note of the last LGA Executive meeting

Decision

The LGA Executive agreed the minutes of the LGA Executive held on Thursday 11 June 2015.

9 Dates of Future Meetings

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the dates of Councillor's Forum and LGA Executive for 2015/16.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
	Cllr Gary Porter (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
	Cllr David Hodge (Vice Chairman)	Surrey County Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe (Deputy Chairman)	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming (Deputy Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Jim McMahon OBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Vice-Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council and Community Wellbeing Board
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey LB and Resources Board
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council and City Regions Board
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
	Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	East of England Local Government Association (EELGA)
	Cllr Nicolas Heslop	South East England Councils (SEEC)
	Cllr Paul Watson	Association of North East Councils
	Cllr Barrie Grunewald	North West Regional Leaders Board
	Mayor Jules Pipe	London Councils
	Cllr Aaron Shotton	Welsh Local Government Assoc. (WLGA)
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	SIGOMA
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	District Councils Network
Apologies:	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr John Hart	South West Councils
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH)
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	East Midlands Councils
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	West Midlands LGA
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	County Councils Network (CCN)
	Alderman Sir David Wootton	Local Partnerships