

Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

Title:	Improvement & Innovation Board
Date:	Tuesday 10 May 2016
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	Action
1	Welcome and Declarations of Interest The Chairman welcomed board members to the meeting and began proceedings with a tribute to Cllr Darren Cooper, a valued board member who passed away earlier this year, followed by a minute's silence. The Chairman also introduced Will Brooks from the LGA on his appointment to the position of Principal Adviser of the Leadership team. There were no declarations of interest .	
2	Devolution: Support Offer The Chairman and Rebecca Cox introduced the report summarising the LGA' s devolution support to councils. Rebecca Cox stated that the LGA' s support is demand led and that the LGA is currently engaged with approx. half the devolution deals in the sector and is keen to engage with the second half going forward. She further invited the board to express their views on the work programme, and how the LGA support offer aligns with the devolution agenda. Members made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The LGA has a valuable role to play in sharing information and lessons learnt between devolution areas especially in the following areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Different mayoral models- How oversight and scrutiny works in devolved settings- How LEPs are engaging with devolution deals- Devolution of health and social care.• Lobbying for the transfer of skills funding should be prioritised by the LGA.• The focus of devolution should be on how it will improve the lives of residents and communities. Developing successful devolution deals	

takes time – authorities must lay the foundations for success.

- How to ensure non-executive members were aware of the LGA's work and support offer on devolution
- The combination of the era of austerity and devolution in local government presents a challenging environment for councillors. What will the role of councillors in a devolved setting be?

Decision

Members **noted** the work on the LGA's devolution support offer to councils.

Action

Officers will feed the boards comments back to the City Regions and People and Places Boards.

3 Productivity Programme

The Chairman and Alan Finch introduced the report which set out the progress made on the LGA's productivity programme and the main elements of the intended programme in the coming year. Cllr Shirley Pannell drew members' attention to the forthcoming launch of the updated shared services map.

The Chairman further informed members that the LGA's negotiations over its government grant have been completed, and funding for improvement support to the sector has now been secured. Due to this late announcement, Alan Finch mentioned that the forward programme for productivity was still largely in development.

Board members made the following comments:

- The importance of the work on demand management and looking at how to take demand out of the system, not simply how to manage increasing demand for services.
- The important role of District councils in delivering preventative outcomes around health and social care. Moreover, more joined up thinking should be espoused including promoting a closer working relationship between social care and health.
- Community engagement is an under exploited resource due in part to the huge pressure in local authorities to outsource services.
- The importance of effective working with partners locally and the difficulties in engaging with the health sector which was leading to difficulties in some areas in providing GP surgeries.

Decision

Members **noted** the updates and progress on the Productivity Programme.

Action

Officers to pursue the activities outlined taking account of members' guidance.

4 Sector-led Improvement Evaluation: Proposal for a Research Programme

The Chairman and Juliet Whitworth introduced the report which invited members' comments on the proposed second phase of evaluation of sector-led improvement and the LGA's support offer.

The Chairman commented that four years takes us into the next general election, at which point the LGA will need a substantive piece of work such as this to demonstrate its value added to improvement in local government. Further, Juliet Whitworth stated that there will be a 2 year interim report to gauge the success of the approach, a balance of internally and externally led research, and a full spectrum of research carried out in order to draw useful comparisons.

The board members made the following comments:

- Focus on recipients of the support and their perceptions of its value, as well as factual data around the support offer.
- Focus on outcomes. The research should focus more on what has been achieved on the ground through the LGA's improvement and leadership programmes, and emphasise outcomes. It is important to be able to demonstrate the difference the support has made.
- There should be a strong element of external independent rigor to the programme – with a balance between perceptions and data.
- Our ability to draw in member peer support in our improvement work is unique and we should consider how to evaluate the success of this contribution.
- Diversity in local government. The Leadership programme's diverse outreach strategy should be commended, although some clarification on where local government is on bringing more diversity into local politics would be welcome.
- The research needs to be flexible enough to reflect the diversity of improvement needs across the country.

Action

The Research and Information team will progress the research project taking the board's comments into account.

5 LGA Boards' Improvement Activities

The Chairman introduced the report, which detailed the improvement activities undertaken by other LGA Boards.

Members asked if there were examples of a single contact number for adult social care and health enquiries as part of the work on local digital roadmaps to support the NHS five year commitment that by 2020 all health and care records will be digital and interoperable.

Decision

Members **noted** the report.

Action

Officers to respond to members requests.

6 Note of the Previous Meeting

Board members made the following comments:

- In item 3 of the minutes, it was agreed that it might be helpful for members at the beginning of each political cycle to review the leadership programmes for that year.
- Cllr Dominic Gilham noted that his attendance is incorrect on the minutes.
- Cllr Sue Whitaker noted that her name is spelt incorrectly on the minutes.

Decision

The note of the previous meeting was **agreed**.

Action

Officers to take action based on the above three points.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Shirley Pannell	North Kesteven District Council
Members	Cllr Robert Gould	Dorset County Council
	Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
	Cllr Barry Wood	Cherwell District Council
	Cllr Dominic Gilham	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Janet Blake	Aylesbury Vale District Council
	Cllr Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council
	Cllr Claudia Webbe	Islington Council
	Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Bob Price	Oxford City Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Sue Whitaker	Norfolk County Council
	Cllr Colin Glover	Carlisle City Council
	Cllr Mike Haines	Teignbridge District Council
	Cllr Cherry Beath	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	
	Mr Richard Priestman	Local Government Improvement and Development
	Mr Philip Sellwood	Energy Saving Trust (EST)
Apologies	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	OBE	
	Cllr Linda Robinson	Wychavon District Council
	Cllr Lewis Herbert	Cambridge City Council
	Cllr John Blackie	Richmondshire District Council