

Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

Title:	Improvement & Innovation Board
Date:	Tuesday 14 July 2015
Venue:	Smith Square 3&4, 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	Action
1	Declarations of Interest The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Innovation in councils Cllr Peter Fleming and Rhian Gladman introduced the report which provided members with an update on the LGA's work to support innovation in councils. The successes of the Innovation Zone at Annual Conference were highlighted. Members discussed how best to promote the Innovation Zone and disseminate its work. Action The Chairman to write a letter of thanks to Maggie Philbin (Teen Tech) and Hewlitt-Packard for their contributions towards the Innovation Zone at Annual Conference. Officers to provide an update on the Design in the public sector programme, to the next meeting. Decision Members noted the report.	
3	Launch of the 2015/16 Highlighting Leadership offer Cllr Judi Billing introduced the report which outlined the LGA's political and managerial leadership offer for 2015/16 and initial take up from bookings to date. Cllr Billing noted that since the publication of this report sign-up for the Leadership Essentials course have more than doubled to 265.	

Members discussed the value of working with a variety of councillors, from across authorities and parties, and the importance of the offer for members in opposition as well as in power. The role of the political group offices in promoting awareness of the programmes was noted.

Action

Officers and Members to promote the offer further particularly engagement of the North East region.

Decision

Members **noted** the report.

4 Sector-led improvement: finance support for councils

Cllr Jill Shortland introduced the paper which reported back to members on the progress of work to develop the sector-led improvement offer with respect to financial issues.

Members welcomed feedback from the pilot Financial Reviews as a great example of the effectiveness of sector-led improvement.

Issues raised included:

- The importance of keeping under review the interaction of the Financial Reviews with Corporate Peer Challenges.
- The need for resource implications on peers to be taken into account and the need to attract new finance peers
- The value of the ongoing feedback process in enabling us to articulate value.

Action

Board Members to put recommended member and officer finance peers in touch with officers.

Decision

Members **agreed** the next steps as outlines at para 11 to the report.

5 Productivity programme

Cllr Shirley Pannell introduced the report which updated the Board on the progress being made in the Productivity Programme.

The Board welcomed Chris Bradley, Senior Commercial Manager at Surrey County Council, and Stephen Hughes, Interim Executive Director, LGA. Each presented briefly on their work with the Advanced Commercialisation Group (ACG).

Decision

Members **noted** the report and asked for consideration to be given to developing guidance setting out the sort of issues councils would need to address when considering taking a more commercial approach to activities.

6 Collective Switching Framework

Cllr Shirley Pannell introduced the report which set out the options available to the Board once the current collective switching framework comes to a natural end in November 2015. The report also set out a number of additional ways in which councils could help their residents to save money on their energy bills.

Members made a number of comments about the collective switching framework, including:

- The market has moved on beyond what the existing Collective Switching Framework currently offers
- Questioning the value for the LGA of continuing to involve itself directly in collective switching. The means by which councils can support residents in managing their energy bills had diversified since the framework was established such that the LGA should be promoting a wider range of methods to councils
- The importance of ensuring that the councils currently using the existing Collective Switching Framework are not disadvantaged by any decision.
- Option A endorses a single provider when there are others on the market.

Members went on to discuss how the LGA could support councils to help their residents to save money on their energy bills. It was noted that there were a diverse range of good practice across the country and members felt the LGA should publish further details of these to enable councils to identify the most appropriate local approach.

It was **agreed** that:

- (i) the collective switching framework come to an end in November 2015 with a vote of 8 in favour and 7 against.
- (ii) officers collate and publish details of the various schemes and options available to councils wanting to support their residents in reducing their energy bills, linking to good practice across the country

7 LGA Boards' improvement activity

Nick Easton introduced the report which detailed the improvement activities undertaken by the LGA Boards since the last meeting of the Board.

Members discussed:

- The value of detailed evaluation of different mayoral models to inform the devolution debate
- The importance of fostering mutual understanding between Health Sector and Local Government in improving Health and Wellbeing

Action

Officers to take forward work on governance models in the context of the broader support offer on devolution being developed by the City Regions and People and Places Board.

8 Annual review of the year

Dennis Skinner introduced the Annual Review of the Year, looking at the key Board achievements of the year. The report will also be considered by the LGA Executive in September 2015.

Particular achievements highlighted include:

- 132 Peer Challenges in 2015/15 and 3,200+ days of senior councillor and officer time dedicated to Corporate Peer Challenge teams since 2011.
- 577 councillors from 241 councils attended leadership development programmes in 2014/15.
- LG Inform has 97% of councils registered with 500,000+ hits since its launch
- A refreshed shared services map identifying 416 shared services arrangements resulting in £462m efficiency savings.

Decision

Members **noted** the report.

9 Note of the previous meeting

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

Members thanked Cllrs Peter Fleming and Jill Shortland since it was their last meeting as Chairman and Vice-Chair respectively.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Shirley Pannell	North Kesteven District Council
Members	Cllr Claudia Webbe	Islington Council
	Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Darren Cooper	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Cllr Bob Price
Cllr Sue Whitaker
Cllr Sue Woodward
Cllr Roy Perry
Cllr Glen Miller
Cllr Tony Jackson
Cllr Barry Wood
Cllr Laura Conway
Mr Richard Priestman

Cllr Paul Bettison
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE

Oxford City Council
Norfolk County Council
Staffordshire County Council
Hampshire County Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
East Herts Council
Cherwell District Council
North Kesteven District Council
Local Government Improvement and
Development
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Apologies

Cllr Keith Glazier
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
Cllr Richard Stay
Cllr Theresa Higgins
Cllr John Blackie
Mr Philip Sellwood
Cllr Bryony Rudkin

East Sussex County Council
Bexley Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Essex County Council
Richmondshire District Council
Energy Saving Trust (EST)
Suffolk County Council