

Minutes of last Resources Board meeting

Resources Board

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the Resources Board meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Cllr Amanda Serjeant and Cllr Jason Zadrozny.

Cllr David Leaf and Cllr James Hakewill were in attendance as substitutes.

No declarations of interest were made.

2 Local Government Finance Update

The Chairman invited Mike Heiser, Senior Adviser, to present the report which provided a summary of the work by the LGA on funding and finance issues since the previous meeting.

Members made the following comments:

- It was queried whether there was progress on the government's recent pledge to allow Ukrainian refugees on the family visa scheme to move to the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme which would prevent them from presenting as homeless to local authorities.
- It was raised that Afghan refugees were continuing to live in hotels.
- Delivering the council tax energy rebate had been a big administrative challenge.
- The possibility of exploring a council tax revaluation.

In response, officers made the following comments:

- The LGA had taken the government's promise as confirmation and continue to lobby for funding to support it.
- Conversations about Afghan refugees in hotels continued to be raised as a concern with government.
- There was currently no formal LGA line on council tax revaluation however this was something that could be explored by the Board.

- A welcome letter covering various issues faced by local government including those raised by Members had been written to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

Decision:

Members **noted** the update

3 Cost of Living Summary

The Chair invited Rose Doran, Senior Adviser, to give an update on the ongoing work on cost of living. Since the circulation of the paper, there were the following updates:

- As part of the grant determination, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) had agreed to fund debt maturity framework work and some case studies on cost of living.
- Action learning sets brought to previous boards have now concluded. A draft report would be circulated to lead members and go to the Cost of Living Advisory Group.

On the Cost of Living Advisory Group, Members expressed that they would like there to be political representation from each of the political groups. It was emphasised that the Advisory group would not be a decision-making body but aimed to connect the different boards across the LGA.

Decision:

Members **noted** the update.

4 End of Year Report 2021/22

The Chair invited Members to comment on the End of Year Report 2021-2022 which provided an overview of the work of the Board as well as areas of focus to consider in the coming year.

Members highlighted that the following should be a priority to the board:

- New Homes Bonus
- Support for funding leisure services
- National living wage.
- Adult social care reforms

In response, Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, gave the following response:

- New Homes Bonus and, funding of leisure services are considerations as part of the continued cost pressures work as well as the impact of the national living wage.
- Adult social care reform was a priority issue to the LGA and Community Wellbeing Board and Resources Board could

collaborate on it.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

5 **Audit Update**

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information relating to this item.

6 **Cost Pressures**

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information relating to this item.

7 **Workforce Update**

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information relating to this item.

8 **Workforce Update - Mileage Rates**

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information relating to this item.

9 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 2022**

Members **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate record.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Andrew Western	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Richard Wenham	Central Bedfordshire Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Members	Cllr Adrian Hardman	Worcestershire County Council
	Cllr Phillip King	Harborough District Council
	Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Jas Athwal	Redbridge London Borough Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Terry Paul	Newham London Borough Council
	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council

Apologies

Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE
Cllr Amanda Serjeant
Cllr Jason Zadrozny

Gloucestershire County Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Ashfield District Council

LGA Officers

Greg Burns
Naomi Cooke
Rose Doran
Mike Heiser
Bevis Ingram
Laura Johnson
Emilia Peters
Sarah Pickup
Jamie Saddler
Sam Swift