



# **Improvement & Innovation Board**

Agenda

Wednesday, 21 February 2024  
11.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square (Smith Sq  
1&2) and Online

There will be a meeting of the Improvement & Innovation Board at **11.00 am on Wednesday, 21 February 2024** Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online.

### **LGA Hybrid Meetings**

All of our meetings are available to join in person at [18 Smith Square](#) or remotely via videoconference as part of our hybrid approach. We will ask you to confirm in advance if you will be joining each meeting in person or remotely so we can plan accordingly, if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please also remember to confirm whether you have any dietary/accessibility requirements. 18 Smith Square is a Covid-19 secure venue and measures are in place to keep you safe when you attend a meeting or visit the building in person.

[Please see guidance for Members and Visitors to 18 Smith Square here](#)

### **Catering and Refreshments:**

If the meeting is scheduled to take place at lunchtime, a sandwich lunch will be available.

### **Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:**

Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

### **Apologies:**

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:labgp@lga.gov.uk">labgp@lga.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.group@lga.local.gov.uk">independent.group@lga.local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

### **Attendance:**

Your attendance, whether it be in person or virtual, will be noted by the clerk at the meeting.

### **LGA Contact:**

Jonathan Bryant  
[jonathan.bryant@local.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.bryant@local.gov.uk) - 07464652746

### **Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme, a Carer's Allowance of National Living Wage and/or London Living Wage is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

## Improvement & Innovation Board – Membership 2023/24

[Click here for accessible information on membership](#)

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative</b>	
Cllr Abi Brown OBE (Chairman)	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Derek Bastiman	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Phil North	Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr Gwilym Butler	Shropshire Council
Cllr David Thomas	Torbay Council
Cllr William Nunn (Observer)	Breckland Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Louis Gardner	Cornwall Council
Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
Cllr Chris Boden	Fenland District Council
Cllr Nick Clarke	West Suffolk Council
<b>Labour</b>	
Cllr David Baines (Deputy Chair)	St Helens Borough Council
Cllr Jane Mudd	Newport City Council
Cllr Dr Beccy Cooper	Worthing Borough Council
Cllr Anthony McKeown	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Cllr Grace Williams	Waltham Forest London Borough
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE (Observer)	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Deirdre Costigan	Ealing London Borough
Cllr Carl Johnson	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Jane Gebbie	Bridgend County Borough Council
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	
Cllr Tim Pickstone (Vice-Chair)	Cumberland Council
Mayor Peter Taylor	Watford Borough Council
Cllr Mike Evely	Costwold District Council
Cllr Alan Connett (Observer)	Devon County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Independent</b>	
Cllr Alex Coley (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Rouse	Malvern Hills District Council
Cllr Adam Paynter (Observer)	Cornwall Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr James Hakewill	North Northamptonshire Council
Cllr Paul Hilliard	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Cllr Neil Gregory	Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Julian German	Cornwall Council
<b>Independent Observers</b>	
Philip Sellwood CBE	
Richard Priestman	

## Agenda

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### Improvement & Innovation Board

Wednesday, 21 February 2024

11.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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<b>CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS</b>	
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Helen Jenkins - Joint Head of Leadership and Interim Head of Improvement Coordination and Strategy	
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Dennis Skinner – Director of Improvement	
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The Lord Morse KCB – Interim Chair, Oflog Josh Goodman - Chief Executive, Oflog Juliet Whitworth - Head of Research and Information Heather Wills - Principal Adviser	
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Nicky Old – Director of Communications	
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Rebecca Clark – Adviser, Improvement Coordination  
and Strategy

**8. Any other business**

- Sustainability Hub – Grace Abel, Programme  
Manager - Productivity

**Date of Next Meeting:** Friday, 24 May 2024, 11.00 am, Hybrid Meeting - 18  
Smith Square and Online

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## Innovation Zone 2024 Update

### Purpose of Report

For direction.

**Is this report confidential? No**

### Summary

This report provides an update on the proposed approach to the Innovation Zone 2024 as part of the LGA Annual Conference. The report includes an outline of the purpose of the Zone and opportunities for member involvement, including through the Member Led Innovation Zone Working Group, set to meet this month.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Communications and events

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the board note progress to date on the Innovation Zone for 2024, with members encouraged to share reflections and consider opportunities for involvement on the day.

### Contact details

Contact officer: Rebecca Clark

Position: Improvement Coordination and Strategy Adviser

Phone no: +44 7795 102434

Email: [Rebecca.Clark@local.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Clark@local.gov.uk)

## Innovations Zone 2024-25

1. The Innovation Zone is a core part of the LGA's Annual conference, which will take place from 2 – 4 July 2024 in Harrogate. The Innovation Zone is a key attraction within the wider conference.
2. The programme offers wide ranging sessions across a range of current topics, providing delegates an opportunity to hear from others within the sector (and sector partners) about the latest innovations and approaches to address challenges and harness opportunities.
3. Newton Europe continues to support the Innovation Zone as our 2024 sponsor and funding negotiations are ongoing, with a strong possibility of increasing the size of the sponsorship package for 2024. Their contract once again includes the provision of a complimentary coffee station as part of the Innovation Zone.

## Update on Applications

4. Applications to hold a session at the Innovation Zone opened on 18 December 2023 and closed on 19 February 2024. We have received over **80 applications** to date, including applications from councils across all 9 regions, political groups and a range of council types; as well as partner organisations (e.g. GeoPlace). Emerging themes from applications review to date include digital/AI and sustainability. We will share the shortlisted programme sessions with the Member Led Working Group in due course.
5. Applicants were asked to give an outline of their innovative idea, the outcomes it has achieved, and how this is relevant to other councils to ensure learning is applicable. We will look to supplement these through proactive identification of further ideas and examples of innovative practice from across the sector. Sessions will be encouraged to be as interactive as possible to increase engagement with delegates and we will look to ensure sessions come from individuals and organisations with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences.

## Session format

6. The Innovation Zone will offer sessions in different formats. There will be IZ sessions, which focus on a particular project or approach and form the main part of the programme, as well as a Spotlight on series. Both types of session will be creative, interactive and provide delegates with opportunities to ask questions, with a particular focus on sharing learning that can be applied to improve services within local authorities.

7. 'Spotlight on...' sessions will be a key feature of the programme in this year's Innovation Zone. These talks are curated sessions that focus on big ideas or issues that challenge audience members to think differently and in greater depth about what is being discussed. Applications will be considered for 'Spotlight on...' sessions during the selection process.
8. We are looking to have an elevated Innovation Zone session potentially as a plenary following discussion with the Member Led Working Group.

### Board Opportunities

9. There is an opportunity for members of the Improvement and Innovation Board to be involved in shaping the Innovation Zone as well as speaking opportunities on the day.
10. A Member Led Working Group has been established with volunteers from this Board, including IIB Chairman Cllr Brown, with cross party representation. The Member led Working Group aims to meet 2-3 times in the coming months to discuss the approach to and format of the Innovation Zone, to finalise selection of sessions, and to update on the Innovation Zone at the end of the process. It is expected therefore to meet in February with a date to be fixed imminently. Thank you to volunteers.
11. There will be opportunities for members to be involved on the day including presenting sessions at the Innovation Zone. More information will be shared once the selection process is underway.

### Highlighting Sector Support

12. Responding to feedback from members of this board, we will also be using the Innovation Zone as an opportunity to platform LGA's sector support programmes, focusing on where programmes are providing vital learning to the sector.
13. Programmes have been encouraged to apply and will be considered alongside the wider pool of applications referenced above.

### Implications for Wales

14. Welsh councils will be encouraged to apply to take part in the Innovation Zone.

### **Financial Implications**

15. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Equalities implications**

16. The Innovation Zone welcomes applications from a diverse range of participants. Presentations will be supported to meet the LGA's accessibility standards.

### **Next steps**

17. Members are asked to note the approach for the 2024 Innovation Zone.
18. Members encouraged to attend the Innovation Zone and to encourage attendance.
19. The Innovation Zone Member Led Working Group to commence and provide advice and guidance where necessary, facilitated by LGA officers.