

LGA General Assembly: Motions for Annual Meeting

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

The LGA's General Assembly meets once a year and acts as the 'parliament' for local government. This year, the meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 July 2016 at Bournemouth International Centre.

The LGA's Standing Orders provide for Motions to be moved at any meeting of the LGA General Assembly. The deadline for submitting Notices of Motions has now passed; three Motions have been received as follows:

1. Public Health: Cambridge County Council (**Appendix A**)
2. Duty to keep land and highways clear of litter: Dover District Council (**Appendix B**)
3. Action on low pay: Kirklees Council (**Appendix C**)

It is in the remit of the LGA Executive to determine whether Motions should:

- a) receive consideration by the General Assembly on 5 July; or
- b) be remitted to the LGA Executive or the relevant LGA Board/Portfolio for consideration instead.

With consideration of the tight timetable for General Assembly business and mindful of providing sufficient time for debate, LGA Group Leaders are recommending to the LGA Executive that the Public Health Motion be submitted to the General Assembly for debate, with the remaining two Motions remitted to the relevant LGA Board/Portfolio for consideration.

Recommendations of LGA Group Leaders

That the LGA Executive **agree**:

- i. to refer the 'Public Health' Motion to the LGA General Assembly for discussion;
- ii. to remit the Motion on 'Duty to keep land and highways clear of litter' to the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board; and
- iii. to remit the 'Action on low pay' Motion to the Resources Portfolio.

Action

Officers to submit the Motions to the relevant LGA Governance Structures in accordance with LGA Executive's decision.



Contact officer:

Position:

Phone no:

Email:

Claire Holloway

Head of Corporate Services

020 7664 3156

claire.holloway@local.gov.uk

Appendix A

Motion 1: Public Health

Councillor David Jenkins, Chairman Health Committee, Cambridgeshire County Council supported by Councillor Colette Wyatt-Lowe, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health , Hertfordshire County Council

Proposes that

This Association recognises the beneficial impact that Public Health and other ‘prevention’ activities have on long term outcomes including: reduced health and social care costs, improved individual quality of life and increased workforce productivity. We also recognise the work of Health and Wellbeing Boards and their importance in embedding Public Health measures.

Whilst we recognise the excellent work being done at present to maintain and improve such outcomes this association has expressed concern that reductions to the public health budget for 2016/17 and 2017/18 will have a significant impact on the essential prevention and health protection services provided by councils.

There is a case to be made that public health spend has historically been too low to achieve a significant and sustained positive impact on health outcomes and on health inequalities. Looking forward it will be important to ensure that the total resources available for public health are sufficient to meet needs. Councils in some areas have serious and well-founded concerns that the future public health investment in their communities could fall well behind likely need.

We recognise that providing additional financial support is exceptionally challenging, especially given the financial pressures across the public sector. However, the alternative is that without resources specifically for primary and secondary prevention, there is a risk that we won’t see the radical step change required to reduce impacts on the NHS and adult social care.

The LGA in its paper ‘Prevention: A Shared Commitment’ has identified key pieces of evidence that highlight the cost effectiveness of prevention. Through a number of case studies it illustrates how £ 1 billion could be spent to generate benefits of £7.19 billion over a five year period.

This association therefore:

- Encourages councils to bring forward coherent projects as investments to enable such radical step changes
- Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to make available substantial grant funding to finance such projects.

Appendix B

Motion 2: Duty to keep land and highways clear of litter

Dover District Council

Background

Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, sets out the various responsibilities with regard to the “**Duty to keep land and highways clear of litter**”, with the responsibility to ensure that the highway or road is, so far as is practicable, kept clean split between:

- a) Each local authority, as respects any relevant highway or relevant road for which it is responsible,
- b) The Secretary of State, as respects any trunk road which is a special road and any relevant highway or relevant road for which he is responsible.

(Special Roads are roads on which certain types of traffic are prohibited, under the Highways Act 1980. All motorways are Special Roads, together with some high-grade dual carriageways. It is understood that the only non-motorway special road that has been identified is the A282 in Essex and Kent, between M25 junction 30 and south of M25 junction 1b. This section of road includes the Dartford – Thurrock River Crossing.)

Issue

The operational impact of this arrangement is that the simple designation of the road can mean that the burden and cost of keeping the highway and adjacent verges clear of litter on the strategic road network falls unfairly on some local authorities. For example within Kent responsibility for cleaning the M2 and M20 rests with Highways England acting on behalf of the Secretary of State whereas cleaning the A2 and A20, both strategic dual carriageways leading to Dover, become the responsibility of the individual authorities concerned.

Proposal

It is proposed that the LGA should lobby Government to require them to amend the legislation and place the duty to keep land and highways clear of litter on all trunk roads with the Secretary of State alone.

Appendix C

Motion 3 – Action on Low Pay

Cllr David Sheard, Leader of Kirklees Council, seconded by Cllr Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council

Proposes that

“Local authorities should lead by example when it comes to tackling the problems of low pay in their areas. For this reason, the Council’s of the West Yorkshire and York Combined Authority developed the West Yorkshire Low Pay Charter – No Silver Bullet. Conference is asked to support the West Yorkshire Authorities and York in their efforts to tackle low pay in their organisations and give consideration to adopting the charter in their Authorities.” The recommendations of the Charter are:

- Review existing pension information to make the case for membership from a low pay perspective and proactively target communication at lower paid workers to drive up-take.
- Commit to proactively communicating the positive relationship between skills and opportunity; and to ensuring that lower paid staff are supported to reach their potential through implementation of a strategy for inclusive personal and professional development.
- Proof all HR policies for their impact on lower paid workers, with particular focus on progression and reducing institutional barriers such as constrained career structures.
- Deliver excellent management and leadership practices as standard across the organisation, with specific focus on equipping those who manage lower paid workers with the skills and systems they need.
- Agree to the principle of investing in and promoting a responsive employee benefits package that is accessible and communicated to target groups consistently, frequently and through the right channels, and that complements the approach in individual Districts to directly support lower paid workers to stretch their take-home pay.
- Collaborate across the area to streamline health and wellbeing activities, learn from good practice and target lower paid workers to increase participation.
- Apply Social Value policy, prioritising in the first instance those commissioned services where low pay prevails; and work collaboratively to influence others to do the same.
- Guard against inappropriate use of zero hours contracts and protect casual workers from affects of low pay, concentrating on our own workforces and commissioned services.
- Use local authority influence and local leadership to tackle low pay across the WYCA area in pursuit of a ‘good growth’ agenda.

For further information: http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/News/Articles/LPWC_Draft%20Report_v8_FINAL%20POST%20LEADERS.PDF