

12 July 2016

Innovation Zone at LGA annual conference

Purpose

To update members, through this report and verbally, on the Innovation Zone at annual conference and invite members' comments/feedback which can be taken into account for the future.

Recommendation

Members are invited to offer any comments on the Innovation Zone, which can be taken into account for the future.

Action

Officers to respond as necessary to any comments.

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Innovation Zone at LGA annual conference

Background

1. This year is our fourth Innovation Zone organised as an integral part of the LGA Annual Conference.
2. The themes of the Zone this year are around leadership, integration of services for better outcomes, digitalisation, collaboration with others, and tools to help councils develop a culture of innovation. The final programme at the time of producing this paper is **attached as Appendix 1**. The very latest version is available [here](#) at all times.
3. The Zone has been widely publicised in the run up to the Annual Conference. Articles and adverts were included in the June and July editions of First magazine. We also promoted the Zone via the annual conference app and handbook, the LGA's monthly e-bulletins, Chairman and Chief Executive bulletins, and tweets. Additional signage at conference further directed delegates to the Zone.
4. The Zone programme highlights a range of examples of local government innovation from councils and their partners, emergency services, health and armed forces, European and international municipalities, as well as national organisations working with councils to deliver new innovations to improve residents' lives, policy outcomes and efficiencies.
5. The Zone will be formally launched on the first day with a panel session on leadership chaired by Cllr David Simmonds. Panellists, including Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE of Bedford Borough Council and Cllr Sarah Russell, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, at Derby City Council, will discuss the role that political leadership plays in driving innovation.
6. Prior to the formal launch, Sunday Assembly will showcase how they are reducing social isolation, tackling mental ill health and promoting wellbeing through their volunteering, peer to peer support, social activities and karaoke.
7. The remainder of the first and second days of the Zone is dedicated to sessions on each of the four remaining themes.
8. The third and final day of the Zone highlights national organisations working with councils and residents. The BBC will showcase its Make It Digital programme of digital inclusion projects to enhance people's understanding and skills. The Behavioural Insights Team, Nesta, Design Council and GoodGym will present their work programmes involving councils across the country, and Future Cities Catapult will outline two digital tools to generate better information on which to make planning decisions.
9. Over 30 council areas will have their innovations directly showcased through Zone sessions. Five international sessions include examples from the Netherlands, Denmark, Canada and the Commonwealth, and a further, approximately 40 councils are involved in sessions presented by organisations involved in the Thursday Zone programme.

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10. Following the Zone we will add councils' innovations to our innovation database at www.local.gov.uk/innovation, which has grown from 120 examples launched at last year's Zone to over 800 this year. We will also encourage further database entries via our Asks and Offers post box in the Zone. Articles about innovative practice to be featured at the Zone will also be included in the August edition of First.

Next steps

11. Members are asked to:

11.1. note this report;

11.2. share their views on how the Zone went from their perspective.

Financial Implications

12. None.