

18 March 2014

## **Improvement and Innovation Board: Away Day June 2014**

### **Purpose**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

At the last meeting, the Board agreed to cancel the 20 May meeting of the Board and asked officers to investigate the possibility of holding the re-arranged meeting as a Board Away Day in the first couple of weeks of June. This paper reminds members about the proposals and invites any further comments/suggestions about the objectives and format for such an event.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked for their views on the proposed arrangements for the Board Away Day in June.

### **Action**

Officers to progress the arrangements for the Board Away Day, with lead members, in the light of members' views.

**Contact officer:** Dennis Skinner  
**Position:** Head of Leadership and Productivity  
**Phone no:** Tel 0207 664 3017  
**Email:** [Dennis.Skinner@local.gov.uk](mailto:Dennis.Skinner@local.gov.uk)

## **Improvement and Innovation Board: Away Day June**

### **Background**

1. Previous Board Away Days have been organised around significant points in the Board's activities.
2. For example, the Board held an Away Day in November 2010 to contribute to the development of the sector's thinking about sector led improvement. This was subsequently crystallised by the Board in "Taking the Lead" published in February 2011. An earlier Away Day in March 2009 was focussed around influencing the implementation of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
3. The November 2010 Away Day was held at the City Marketing Suite, a venue sourced for us by Cllr Edward Lord. The event involved Board members, invited member peers, special guests including Helen Bailey (then of HM Treasury) and chairs of LGA Children and Young People Board and Community Wellbeing Boards. One of the sessions was facilitated by Sue Goss of OPM. A short formal Board meeting was held at the conclusion of the event.

### **June Away Day. Some issues to consider:**

4. **Potential purpose:** A Board Away Day in June would provide a good opportunity to reflect on the future role of the Board itself and the future of sector led improvement, in the light of:
  - 4.1 the practical implications of the LGA's Governance review and the decision that the Improvement and Innovation Board will take political level responsibility for all improvement activity across the LGA;
  - 4.2 the emerging conclusions from the evaluation research on sector led improvement; and
  - 4.3 future considerations such as the potential improvement challenges facing councils following the next General Election and the extent to which the LGA offer needs to be further developed e.g. a greater focus on supporting councils dealing with their financial challenges.
5. The outcome of the discussion would help inform how the Board takes on its wider improvement brief and our future work on Improvement and Innovation across the LGA. It would be written up, agreed with lead members and reported to the first meeting of the reconstituted Board in September 2014.
6. The Away Day would also provide an opportunity to reflect on the arrangements for the Innovation Zone at the LGA Annual Conference the following month.
7. **Suggested format:** facilitated, with a mix of plenary sessions and small group discussions.
8. **Potential invitees:** Board members and substitute members; invited member peers; Principal Advisers.

18 March 2014

9. In addition, members might wish to invite key members from other LGA Boards and/or other representatives such as from SOLACE, the professional associations or the regulators.

10. **Venue:** a convenient London venue. An external venue can be helpful in reinforcing the purpose of the event and we can source a local external venue, or approach London authorities represented on the Board.

#### **Next steps**

11. Officers to progress the detailed arrangements, with lead members, in the light of members' views.

#### **Financial Implications**

12. The costs of the Away Day will be kept to a minimum.