

## **Improvement and Innovation Board – report from Cllr William Nunn (Chairman)**

### **Improvement**

1. Councils' take-up of our sector-led improvement support offer (peer challenge, leadership programmes, etc) remains strong. We have published [this report](#) to provide details of take-up so far in 2016/17. The report also invites reflections on future support needs to inform our discussions with DCLG.
2. The LGA is working with Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) to encourage councils to opt in to the national scheme for the appointment of auditors. PSAA was set up by the LGA as the Sector Led Body and has been prescribed as the 'appointing person' by the Secretary of State. The LGA supports the national scheme as it provides a cost-effective means to meet Councils' statutory requirement for audit and will ensure a high quality audit service is put in place. Take up is encouraging, with at least 178 bodies having already opted in and a further 80 indicating their intention to do so, and the numbers are increasing on a daily basis. The deadline for response is 9 March.

### **Leadership**

3. Cllrs William Nunn, Michael Wilcox, Richard Wenham, Colin Glover and Ron Woodley attended our Leading Edge Programme Event on 2 and 3 November. Cllrs David Hodge, Tom Fitzpatrick and Neil Clarke from the Executive Board also participated.
4. Some of our Board Members have been amongst those who have participated recently as Leadership Academy programme coordinators or have otherwise been involved in delivering our leadership programmes, or participated in our Finance and Elective Opposition Academies.
5. Cllr Judi Billing compered the Isle of Wight 'Be a Councillor' event in October and will be chairing an event in February to launch our new resources to help councils engage and consult effectively with their communities.
6. The LGA has, with various regional employers' support, refreshed our [Member Development Charter](#), which signifies an authority's commitment to support and encourage member development. More information is available [here](#).

### **Productivity**

7. In November we published this [shared management report](#), which highlights how around 45 English councils in about 20 different partnerships have already delivered savings of over £60 million through sharing a chief executive and senior management team and the associated greater efficiencies. Most of these councils also share at least some services.

### **Transparency**

8. We have upgraded [LG Inform Plus](#) search pages to include new search functionality and new standard reports. Subscribing users can now search through metrics types and

reports by theme and categories. There are also links to new standard reports for that metric type, these shows the metric type as a report in its own right.

## **Innovation**

9. We are inviting councils and organisations to submit their ideas by the end of February of what to showcase in our Innovation Zone at the LGA Annual Conference from 4 – 6 July in Birmingham. Contact [jane.marcroft@local.gov.uk](mailto:jane.marcroft@local.gov.uk) if you are interested in showcasing your or others' innovative work.
10. In December we launched a [webpage](#) of case studies from councils that have participated in the 'Design in the Public Sector' programme. The programme teaches participants to use strategic design approaches, such as prototyping and visual techniques, to deliver impact for local communities.

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