**ANNEX A**

**Projects / Programme for CfPS-LGA agreement – proposal**

**March 2014**

**Governance and scrutiny: universal offer**

* Expert Helpdesk – at least 50 councils helped per year
* On-line services – e-newsletters to at least 90% of councils, discussion forum, on-line library of reviews, free publications library
* Regional Networks support – 1 specific development session for each network delivered by CfPS or other form of network support to be agreed by each network (links to sector-led improvement below)
* Regional relationship manager approach to providing links and support to be developed by CfPS
* Annual Conference for at least 150 delegates and parliamentary seminars for at least 75 members

**Sharing and promoting good practice**

* Annual Survey of overview and scrutiny
* Good Scrutiny Awards and Successful Scrutiny publication
* Regular case studies in LGA bulletins and First – 1 per month

**Sector-led Improvement**

* Information-sharing with LGA Principal Advisers – using regional relationship manager approach (links to universal offer Regional Networks support above)
* Improvement support for up to 10 LAs per year up to 3 days each, as identified by CPCs or Sector Improvement team in LGA (signed off by Head of Leadership and Productivity) – anything above this or support for authorities not identified as a priority / causing concern or support which is basic member development/ training to be paid for on usual day rate.
* Offer of Ethical Governance Audit tool as offer for authorities with potential behaviour / relationship / standards issues.

**Specific projects**

**NB these are 3 year projects – to decide which are priorities to start in 2014-15 and which are less urgent, as well as which can be delivered within the core funding and which might need to be funded separately.**

Project 1: Good governance driving improvement and transformation

* Identifying five Scrutiny Development Areas (SDAs) (with the LGA) who will establish ways in which scrutiny can contribute to their path through difficult/politically contentious/complex transformations – focusing on savings and efficiency, but also looking at joint approaches to service delivery;
* Promoting this approach, and our support, to other authorities through our consultancy offer;
* Production of a toolkit summarising potential approaches to others, and setting out outcomes;

Project 2: Accountability for local growth

* Enhancing the governance arrangements of a selection of Combined Authorities/LEPs, to enhance their accountability and transparency to the local population (and ensuring that what they work on accurately reflects the needs and aspirations of local people);

Project 3: Accountability for commissioning

* Helping several SDAs to improve the accountability and openness of their commissioning arrangements (including using commissioning to respond to the public voice);
* Providing support around the scrutiny of specification of commissioning arrangements, and managing ways of dealing with concerns around commercial confidentiality;
* To be developed from early learning event in summer 2014

Project 4: Local PACs

* Identifying areas where a more radical approach can be taken, joining up accountability across a local area – early pilot identified in Tri-Borough, with Greater Manchester CA another potential;
* Securing support in doing the above from key Government departments – potential to bid to Transformation Challenge Award fund;
* Securing support and contributions in kind if nothing else from key partners such as the NAO and external auditors.

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