

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.