

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

### **Improvement**

1. Last year the Board commissioned an independent evaluation of the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) programme. Following several months of extensive fieldwork the interim findings were presented to our Improvement and Innovation Board in January. The findings demonstrate the continuing value of peer challenge, how and where CPC is having an impact and value for money. The final report will make recommendations to further improve the programme, which we will consider at our next meeting.

### **Leadership**

2. In partnership with the Institute of Directors we have developed a course to equip councils with the skills to undertake more commercial activity. The course will cover governance, strategy, finance and supplier relationship management.
3. Candidate applications for the ngdp (National Graduate Development Programme) closed on 11 January for Cohort 19. There were 2548 applications, a 43% increase on last year. We are now assessing those applications. Meanwhile, councils have until 31 March to register their interest in participating as an employer.
4. Amongst other LGA Board members who have acted as programme coordinators or facilitators on a range of events, Cllr Tudor Evans has been the programme co-ordinator for Leadership Academy Programme 166 modules, and Cllr Judi Billing has facilitated and delivered on our Effective Opposition programmes.

### **Productivity**

5. The Board recently launched our Digital Channel Shift programme to help councils support this change in their areas. 63 applications were received by the deadline and we are now assessing the bids. Successful bids will receive confirmation by the end of March.
6. January 2017 saw the announcement of an expansion to the One Public Estate Programme (OPE). A further 79 councils in 17 partnerships have joined OPE. The 17 partnerships have been allocated over £2 million funding for 2016/17 to work collaboratively on land and property initiatives, generating new jobs and homes, creating more joined up public services to local communities, and delivering savings for the taxpayer. A further £2.45 million has been earmarked to these partnerships for 2017/18 with a formal announcement anticipated in the new financial year.
7. The 43 existing OPE partnerships also had the opportunity to apply for additional funding to expand their current OPE programmes. A further £1.6 million has been allocated to councils across 21 existing partnerships 2017/18, with a further £2.36 million earmarked for 2017/18.

## **Transparency**

8. The LGA and Lancashire County Council have developed a new data standard for describing local services. The programme aims to develop a consistent way of describing local services so, when published, it can easily be put into apps and programmes to help people find them. This could help people self-serve, and reduce enquiries to councils and their partners. A pilot will be run in the Chorley area this year, focussing on health and well-being, which will test an app that may be used by local government more widely in future to help users identify local services.

## **Innovation**

9. We have commissioned the Behavioural Insights Team to work with a number of councils on a range of projects focusing on managing demand in overstretched services as part of our Behavioural Insights Programme Phase 2. Projects will apply a behavioural insights approach to issues of childhood obesity, sexual health, domestic abuse and homelessness.

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