

## **Improvement & 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. The review concluded that peer challenge remains an effective tool at the heart of the Sector-Led Improvement programme. It has a positive impact for participating councils, including providing reassurance, improving external reputation, prompting behaviour change, informing organisational change and supporting transformation and financial sustainability. The full report by the Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff University is on the [website](#). The report also makes a series of recommendations to further improve the programme which the Board considered at its last meeting. All authorities are eligible to receive a Corporate Peer Challenge, at no cost, every four/five years – please contact your Principal Adviser for further details.
2. Councillor William Nunn Chairman of the Improvement & Innovation Board introduces our new film “Being a Peer” with contributions from a number of member and officer peers explaining how they offer their time as ‘peers’, or “critical friends” helping councils and councillors with their learning and improvement. [Watch our new film](#) to find out how you and your council can also benefit.
3. Following the local elections we are in discussion with a number of councils about our change of control support which is available to all councils that change political control, including up to five days free support per council from experienced member peers and free support for members in opposition likely to form administrations. We have also launched our [Councillors' guide 2017/18](#) with a forward authored by Cllr Gary Porter. This online resource is a quick reference guide to provide new councillors with the essential information they need to know as they begin their roles.

### **Leadership**

4. Councillors Judi Billing MBE, Deputy Chair of the Improvement and Innovation Board, and Linda Robinson participated in our new film “Leading the way: the LGA's political leadership offer” showing how our political leadership development programmes and resources help individual councillors gain skills to become more confident and effective. Please [take a look](#): we have a range of programmes and you might just find the right development opportunity for you.
5. Councillor Tudor Evans of the Innovation & Improvement Board was the key host for our Leadership Academy / Leaders Graduation 2017. The event which took place on 23 and 24 June at Warwick Conference Centre was attended by over 50 leading councillors who had completed our leadership development programmes. For information about the LGA's councillor development offer please see the LGA website [here](#).

## **Productivity**

6. Councillor Ron Woodley, Deputy Chair of the LGA Improvement & Innovation Board, has authored the forward for the newly launched [Dynamic Purchasing Systems \(DPS\) Guidance](#). The Local Government Associations (LGA) has been working with councils through its National Advisory Group for Local Government Procurement to try and understand the reasons for limited uptake of DPSs and this document sets out the findings of that work, providing a number of case study examples and a checklist of where a DPS might be best used.
7. Councillor Peter Fleming, Leader of Sevenoaks District Council, chaired 'Enterprising Councils – the challenges of making commercialisation happen' at the LGA Annual Conference on Tuesday 4 July. In response to an increasingly difficult financial context, commercially-minded councils are using their assets, trading services with others across the public and private sectors, and selling commodities to generate income. Delegates heard from those enterprising councils who are successfully embracing their commercialisation potential.

## **Innovation**

8. Councillor William Nunn, Chairman of the Improvement & Innovation Board, formally launched the Innovation Zone at the LGA Annual Conference, and Councillor Peter Fleming compered several sessions as the Board's Innovation lead. Councillors Linda Robinson, Judi Billing, Howard Sykes and Mayor Hodgson as members of the Improvement and Innovation Board also compered sessions throughout the programme to generate interest and footfall. More than 60 contributors showcased their organisations' innovations over the three days through presentations and informal discussions. The atmosphere was lively, engaging, and delegates packed the Zone to hear and discuss success stories and learning for communities and local government.
9. As part of our work on [transformation](#), Councillor Judi Billing MBE, Deputy Chair of our Improvement & Innovation Board, launched #NewConversations:LGA [guide](#) to engagement for councillors and officers work to build a stronger dialogue between councils and residents. The LGA commissioned The Campaign Company to develop the guide, which includes different work by Greater Manchester, Hackney, Staffordshire and Harlow to increase their skills and capacity in engaging with their local communities in the context of significant change and challenge.

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