

28 March 2019

Efficient and Intelligent councils programme

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report updates the Board on the progress made with the Efficient and Intelligent councils programme.

There will be a brief presentation from Graham Simmons from iESE to demonstrate how the self-assessment tool works and to share the content that has been developed so far.

Recommendations

Members of the Improvement and Innovation Board are asked to:

1. Note the updates and progress on the Efficient and Intelligent councils programme.
2. Contribute to the gathering of best practice resources.
3. Provide feedback and comments on the content of the self-assessment tool and test out the self-assessment tool.

Action

Officers to pursue the activities outlined in light of members' guidance.

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Efficient and Intelligent Councils Programme

Background

1. The Productivity Programme comprises a range of projects to help improve productivity and efficiency in councils through delivering savings, generating income and making better use of assets. The programme is devised by reference to the Memorandum of Understanding agreed with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
2. Last year we agreed to '*work with MHCLG to synthesise data to develop a better understanding of the characteristics of efficient and intelligent councils*'. This has led to the development of our Efficient and Intelligent councils programme.
3. As part of the work to help councils to continuously improve, the LGA is working with councils to develop a package of support for efficiency in one place. The programme aims to:
 - 3.1 Gather in one place: all of the resources, guidance, tools and training that councils may find useful in one place
 - 3.2 Capture and describe the characteristics of Efficient and Intelligent councils and turn this into a narrative
 - 3.3 Develop an on-line self-assessment improvement tool to help councils identify where they currently are and where they would like to get to in 18 months/two years' time.

Issues

4. Good progress has been made with the development of this package of support. There has been considerable interest, particularly with the development and testing of the content for the self-assessment tool. There are approximately 30 councils who have either engaged in the consultation to date, or have expressed an interest in piloting the self-assessment tool.
5. Earlier this month we held two events to demonstrate a prototype version of the tool and to get further feedback and comments on the model, the self-assessment tool. We advised colleagues about the central hub that we are developing. The hub will be easily accessible, with access to existing tools (LGA, iESE and other relevant resources) easy to use and navigate.
6. Members of the Improvement and Innovation Board expressed a keen interest in this programme. As a result we created a time-limited Editorial/Advisory Board. Members of the Editorial Board have met and continued to provide feedback virtually/on-line.

Next steps

7. The self-assessment prototype tool is due to be 'soft-launched' next month so that councils can pilot and test the tool more widely and provide further feedback and comments.
8. A communications plan is being developed and this will be shared with members of the Board.
9. Ahead of the 'soft-launch' members of the Improvement and Innovation Board are invited to test out the self-assessment tool and to provide feedback on the content. We would also welcome contributions to the gathering of best practice resources which will be held in the hub.
10. The self-assessment tool and hub will be formally launched at the LGA Conference in July.

Financial Implications

11. The Productivity Programme is funded from grant provided by MHCLG under our Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry.

Implications for Wales

12. There are no implications for Wales. MHCLG grant is for England only. In Wales improvement work is provided directly by the WLGA.