

23 May 2019

## **Monitoring and Performance Report**

### **For the period April 2018 to end of March 2019**

#### **Purpose**

For discussion

#### **Summary**

This report presents an update of performance against the Memorandum of Understanding the LGA/IDeA have with MHCLG about the use of grant. It covers the period April 2018 to end of March 2019.

#### **Recommendation**

That the meeting considers the report and agrees any follow-up action.

#### **Action/s**

Officers to initiate any required action.

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## Monitoring and Performance Report

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents an update on performance against the key deliverables set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is in place between the IDeA and MHCLG about use of the grant allocated for 2018/19.

### 2. Performance Summary

- 2.1. The table below summarises the position on the deliverables contained in the MoU as at the end of the second quarter.

	Total	Green	Amber	Red
Deliverables	52	50	0	2

- 2.2. Overall good progress has been made in the fourth quarter of the year with 17 targets moving from amber to green, leaving just two not achieved.

#### 2.3. **Key highlights** to date include:

- 842 councillors in total attended all our leadership courses;
- 145 peer challenges now delivered, with 71 of those councils having a Corporate/Finance peer challenge;
- tailored peer support through the use of member or officer peers provided for a total of 61 councils;
- provided support to 60 councils as part of the new housing experts programme;
- productivity experts deployed to date in 42 councils, helping them to save a projected £42.6m;
- maintained the shared services map which identifies cumulative efficiency savings in excess of £971m (up from £657m in the previous year);

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- provided support to 26 councils to improve the way they engage and communicate with their communities;
- held a very successful Innovation Zone at the LGA conference;
- delivered a series of officer development programmes in conjunction with SOLACE;
- identified 14 councils to work through the “Design in public sector” programme on using design skills to address public health challenges;
- provided financial advice to 42 councils through our Finance Advisers and other means;
- recruited 123 graduates as part of cohort 20 of the ngdp;
- published 2 new documents to support councils to deal with civil contingencies and emergencies; and
- held a number of regional sounding boards to help councils prepare for EU Exit and support councils to engage with the Delivery Board.

A comprehensive end of year report is being produced and will be circulated to members and published in due course.

- 2.4. There are two targets that have not been achieved this year:
- a) reducing the number of councils that have not had a corporate peer challenge since 2012 by 50% to 56. We reduced the number to 63 and therefore slightly missed this target.
  - b) publishing a workforce strategy by September 2018 (this was delayed due to the need to take into account new data and the NHS workforce strategy. The document has now been published and is available on the LGA website).
- 2.5. During the year the LGA published an interim report drawing together the results of our on-going evaluation of the sector led improvement programme. In summary terms, there are high levels of support for the sector-led improvement approach and the impact it makes, with the evaluation showing that:
- a) The sector has a strong and increasing commitment to the SLI approach. Since 2012, there has been a 19 percentage point increase

in the proportion of respondents to the 2017 LGA perceptions survey saying that sector led improvement is the right approach.

**78%**  
Councillors and senior officers  
say that SLI is the right approach

**Percentage point increase since**  
**2017 - 8%**  
**2012 - 19%**

b) Sector led improvement is effective: 87 per cent of respondents to the 2017 LGA perceptions survey said that LGA improvement support has had a positive impact on their authority (an increase from 83 per cent in 2016). This increases to 95 per cent among chief executives and 96 per cent among leaders.

**87%**  
Councillors and senior officers  
say that LGA support has had a positive impact on their council

**96%** Leaders      **95%** Chief Executives

c) Analysis in May 2018 showed that nearly three quarters (70 per cent) of a basket of performance indicators commonly used by councils to assess their own performance across a wide range of services have continued to improve;

d) Residents remain satisfied with and continue to trust their local council, despite the increasing financial constraints being faced by the sector. Our June 2018 public opinion polling demonstrated that 61 per cent of residents were very or fairly satisfied with the way their local council runs things. Nearly three quarters (72 per cent) said they trusted their local council most when making decisions about how services are provided in their local area compared to 17 per cent most trusting the government.

For every 100 members of the public, 72 most trust their local council to make decisions about how services are provided in their local area



■ Your local council(s)  
 ■ The government  
 ■ Neither  
 ■ Don't know

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- e) The evaluation also provides evidence of the impact of specific offers, for example:
- i. we surveyed councils that received a CPC during 2016/17 to assess the impact nearly a year later. Eighty per cent of respondents said that the CPC had a great or moderate positive impact on delivery of their council's priorities.
  - ii. we surveyed councillors who had attended a Leadership Essentials course during 2017/18 to see what long term impact attendance had had. 92% of responding participants in our Leadership Essentials courses said the course had helped them improve the way they carried out their role either to a great or moderate extent.

### **3. Financial Performance**

- 3.1 The grant agreed for 2018/19 totals £20m. As at end of March 2019, the full grant has been spent.

### **4. Appendices**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 provides a detailed spreadsheet with a commentary against each target.

### **5. MOU 2019/20**

- 5.1 The MOU for 2019/20 is close to agreement at the time of writing this report and will be circulated once finalised. The key themes within the MOU continue to be support around leadership, efficiency and productivity, peer challenge and peer support.