

Improvement and Innovation Board – from Cllr Peter Fleming OBE (Chairman)

LGA membership survey 2019

1. The [LGA's Perceptions Survey](#) is an annual survey of member authorities. It is conducted to measure: councils' engagement with the LGA and its offer; their view of the LGA and specifically their views on and experiences of the support and resources it offers relating to sector-led improvement. The LGA will be contacting councils as part of telephone perceptions survey and I would be grateful if you could take part if contacted.

Public notices

2. We as a Board are asking the Government to look again at the issue of Public Notices and the burden these have on councils, significantly, the financial implications. As part of this work, we will be assessing the impact of this statutory requirement and investigating how it could be done better to ease the financial burden on councils. **The survey is still active and I encourage all members of the Forum to ensure their councils participate.**

Commercial skills training

3. I hosted the [Commercial skills for officers alumni conference](#) on 14 October, the pilot event of the alumni support offer to officers that have taken part in the [Commercial skills for officers training](#). This was a national event at Smith Square with speakers and commercial surgeries across a range of commercial themes.

Leadership Essentials

4. I would also like to remind members of the LGA's brilliant Leadership Essential Courses, which are aimed at both experienced and newly elected Councillors. New programmes have been launched for 2019/20 that include audit committees, building safety, and creating better high streets and town centres. Further information on booking on to these can be found [here](#).

New Cyber Self-Assessment Tool

5. In partnership with the sector, the Board has developed a [new online self-assessment tool](#) which builds on the previous stocktake. This is designed to support local authorities in evaluating their cyber security on an ongoing basis. The tool will help local authorities to: assess what arrangements are currently in place, identify good practice within the council or shared service, and identify risks and areas for improvement. The tool is now open and will close at the end of November 2019. Following this it will be available twice a year.

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Member Peer Conference

6. The LGA's Member Peer Conference is taking place on 14th November in Milton Keynes. The Conference is an opportunity to update member peers on our latest Sector-Led Improvement (SLI) offer, thank them for their continued contribution, provide opportunities to grow their skills as member peers and to network with party political and cross-party colleagues. Over 100 member peers are expected to attend.

CfPS Governance Review

7. The Centre for Public Scrutiny is working with a range of bodies to enhance councils' understanding of how they can diagnose and reduce the risk of failure in corporate governance, and what success factors can point the way to greater strength in this area. The Vice Chair and I will be taking part in the interview stages of this work, and the LGA will be providing resources for the research. Further information can be found [here](#).

Sector Led Improvement 2018/19 report

8. The LGA published its [Sector Led Improvement \(SLI\) report for 2018/19](#) in August. This is required by MHCLG as part of the Memorandum of Understanding for the delivery of SLI. The report demonstrated the substantial impact that SLI has had and showcased the main areas in which the LGAs SLI offer has helped council to improve and innovate.

Transformation and Innovation Exchange

9. Over the past few months, members of the board have formed an editorial board for the [Transformation and Innovation Exchange](#) (TIEx) This new resource brings into one place a range of case studies, guidance and other resources about transformation, innovation and efficiency. It also includes a self-assessment tool for councils to help identify areas for further improvement. The editorial board has helped refine and simplify the efficiency model and user interface of the tool and comprises. Members of the editorial Board include Cllr Ron Woodley (Former deputy Chair of the IIB); Cllr Vince Maple (Member of the IIB); Cllr Paul Bettison OBE – (Former Member of the IIB); Cllr Joy Allen (Member of the IIB); Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE (Member of the IIB); and myself.

Identifying local services helpful to combatting loneliness

10. Work is underway with a number of pilot areas to identify and publish information about local and hyper-local services that are especially helpful to lonely people. This project was approved by the IIB last year and forms part of the national strategy to combat loneliness. The work is funded with a grant of £150,000 from DCMS. Back office processes, a data standard and online tools are in development to support the discovery of local services matched to citizens' needs, eligibility and locality. Learning is being captured to support wider take-up in future years.

Press and external communications

11. Since the last Forum, I have commented on the following LGA press releases and external communications on behalf of the Board:

9.1 [LGA responds to Ombudsman report on complaints 2018-19](#)

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9.2 [Councils save more than £100 million through LGA sector-led improvement](#)

9.3 [#CouncilsCan: social media initiative promotes local services ahead of the spending round](#)

12. A reminder that our Sector Led improvement work is also detailed in the LGA's [First magazine](#).

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