

Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Title: LGA Executive
Date: Thursday 31 October 2019
Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this note

Item Decisions and actions

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies were received from Cllr Marc Bayliss, Cllr Simon Blackburn, Cllr Ruth Dombey, Cllr David Finch, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Cllr David Renard, Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE, Cllr Anne Western CBE and Cllr David Williams.

Condolences were offered to the families of Cllr Terry O'Neill, the former Leader of Warrington Borough Council and the previous representative of the North West region on the LGA Executive, and Cllr Derrick Murphy, the former Leader of Norfolk County Council from 2010 to 2013, who had recently passed away.

2 Brexit Update

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the LGA's Brexit Task Force, updated the LGA Executive on Brexit work since the previous meeting in September. Members noted that at the previous EU Delivery Board the LGA made the offer of co-writing the Devolution White Paper. Given the General Election, it was suggested that the LGA produced its own White Paper on English Devolution which could be presented to the incoming Government. He emphasised the Leadership Board had endorsed this approach and that this was a unique opportunity to emphasise the value of further devolution. He also explained that it had been agreed in principle that there would be a UK replacement for the Committee of the Regions role providing councils with an influence on relevant UK laws with an impact on local government that were previously within the purview of the EU. Regarding settled status it was confirmed that close to half of those entitled to settled status have registered since December 2020.

Decision

Members **noted** the update.

3 2019 Queen's Speech

Lee Bruce, Head of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement, gave an update to the LGA Executive on the 2019 Queen's Speech. Since the report was published a General Election had been announced for 12 December 2019, after which another Queen's Speech would follow. He raised that there had been a helpful discussion around this at Leadership Board and that this work was still beneficial in planning for what the LGA should look to prioritise after the general election.

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the update.

4 Local Government Finance Settlement 2020 to 2021: Technical Consultation

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the report which set out the key points in the Government's technical consultation on the 2020/21 local government finance settlement and asked for views on the LGA's draft response. He welcomed that the Government has clarified that the business rates retention and fair funding reforms will now be introduced in 2021 and emphasised the LGA will continue to push for clarity on longer term funding arrangements for local authorities.

- Concerns were raised as to the options that would be available for local government funding in future.
- A view was expressed that those areas that have been using 100 per cent business rates have found there to be both advantages and disadvantages.
- Views were expressed that further work should be done to consider what future alternative funding methods could be available to local government.
- A concern was raised that transitioning to new fair funding and business rates retention arrangements alongside a reset would be a real issue for many local authorities.

Decision

The LGA Executive agreed the draft response and agreed to it being forwarded to MHCLG as the LGA's response to the consultation.

Action

Officers to amend the draft in light of comments made and forward the finalised submission to MHCLG by the closing date of 31 October 2019.

The Resource Board to take forward work looking into alternative methods of local government funding.

5 Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Update

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, provided a summary of progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programmes since the last meetings of Leadership Board and Executive. He emphasised the alternative BRR administration model illustration tool has now been published on the LGA website. He also raised that the announcement of the election will have an impact on the public facing work that MHCLG could undertake on Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review.

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the update.

Action

Officers would proceed with the delivery of the LGA work programme on Further Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review as directed

6 Minutes of last LGA Executive meeting held on 12 September 2019

The Minutes of the last meeting of the LGA Executive was agreed as a correct record.

7 Minutes of the last Leadership Board meeting held on 30 October 2019

The Minutes of the last meeting of the LGA Leadership Board was agreed as a correct record.

8 2019 Autumn Budget and 2020 Spending Review

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the report giving an update on the 2020 Spending Review and 2019 Autumn Budget. A confidential discussion followed.

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the report.

Action

Officers to proceed with the LGA's work programme on the 2020 Spending Review in accordance with the steer from Leadership Board and Executive.

9 LGA Governance

The Chairman introduced the item to consider the respective roles of the Leadership Board and the Executive and highlighted whether there is a continued need for both. The accompanying paper set out the issues considered by Leadership Board at their

meeting on 30 October 2019. Regarding the role of the Leadership Board he emphasised that under the new LGA company, the Leadership Board is the LGA's Board of directors and main decision-making body, responsible for setting the strategic direction, agreeing the business plan and budget and managing internal resources. In the discussion that followed the Executive considered whether there was a continued need for both the Executive and the Leadership Board.

A confidential discussion followed.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
	Cllr James Jamieson (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes CBE	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council and City Regions Board
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
	Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Woodhead	Cannock Chase District Council
	Cllr Rosemarie Harris	Powys County Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Association of North East Councils
	Cllr John Hart	South West Councils
	Cllr Peter John OBE	Southwark Council
	Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
	Cllr Nicholas Rushton	East Midlands Councils
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	SIGOMA
Apologies:	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Sutton London Borough Council

23 January 2020

Cllr Gerald Vernon-
Jackson CBE
Cllr Marc Bayliss
Cllr David Finch
Alderman Sir David
Wootton
Cllr David Williams

Portsmouth City Council

Worcester City Council

Essex County Council

Local Partnerships

County Councils Network (CCN)