

12 March 2020

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

Behavioural insights

1. I chaired the third LGA Behavioural Insights conference featuring excellent speakers from Bradford, Havering and Hammersmith and Fulham councils who shared their successes in their behaviour change trials. Jeremy Oliver from University College London gave the keynote speech on the behaviour change wheel and how this can be applied to local government.
2. We were also very excited to use the conference to launch '[Nudges for social good](#)' – a podcast series about how councils have nudged their residents into different ways of living. You can learn from council officers about their pointers and practical examples on using behavioural insights in various council services and pick up ideas to start your own project.

Innovation Zone

3. Applications for our popular Innovation Zone, which is a vibrant, creative space and programme within the [LGA's Annual Conference and Exhibition](#), closed on Thursday 5 March. Members of the Innovation Zone Working Group will be working closely with officers to select the top applicants to ensure an exciting programme for 'IZ and Spotlight on Ideas' sessions. Members include myself, Cllr Joy Allen, Cllr Neil Prior, Cllr Oliver Ryan, Cllr Judi Billing, Cllr Miranda Williams, Cllr Alex Coley.

Transformation and Innovation Exchange

4. Our new Transformation and Innovation Exchange (TIEx) self-assessment tool gives councils the information they need to understand their ambition for change and identify improvement opportunities. The LGA is offering councils interested in the TIEx self-assessment a chance to apply for a facilitated session. [Find out more and apply on our website.](#)

Sector led Improvement

5. To help ensure our highly-valued Sector-led Improvement (SLI) approach continues to make a positive difference to councils, the board has commissioned Shared Intelligence to conduct an independent evaluation of the offer. Closely coordinated with this, we are also conducting a 'stocktake' of the peer challenge programme. Conversations with Chief Executives, Leaders and other stakeholders are being scheduled to supplement existing evidence. Reflections from both reviews will inform a wider discussion with the sector this summer about a vision for SLI for the decade ahead. To provide your views about peer challenges, please email heather.wills@local.gov.uk.

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Climate change

6. We will be conducting a climate change survey of local authorities to help better understand how we can support you in responding to this issue. Emails containing each authority's unique link to the survey were sent out to Directors of Environment or equivalent on Friday 28 February. Directors are free to delegate completion of the survey to an appropriate colleague. If you have any questions, please contact climate@local.gov.uk.
7. We already offer significant support to councils and are looking to enhance the offer. Following the success of our Leadership Essentials on Climate Change for cabinet members, we held a second event at the end of February, which was very well attended. You can find out more about our offer on our newly launched [climate change web hub](#).

Cyber security funding – urgent call

8. I am delighted to announce that the National Cyber Security Programme, through the Cabinet Office, have awarded us a further £1 million of funding for this financial year. We will be using this money to increase the number of people within local government who hold cyber security qualifications and we have written to your council's cyber security team with details of the offer. Letters went out to all councils w/c 17 February with this information. The LGA must transfer the money by the end of this financial year and councils will have a further nine months to use it. **Please respond as soon as possible.** If you have any questions, please email cybersecurity@local.gov.uk.

Masterclasses for councillors

9. Over the last couple of months, we ran a series of masterclass days on data and digital transformation in local government, looking at the opportunities of digital approaches and data exploitation. Members of the Board and other member peers, including myself, Cllr Joy Allen and Cllr Neil Prior, spoke at the events drawing on their own experiences of delivering successful digital and data projects.
10. We have also developed a free one-day masterclass to support councillors to develop the skills to make confident and robust commercial decisions, which were held in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Taunton. Each masterclass was hosted by a commercial expert and an LGA member peer, including myself and Cllr Neil Prior who also provides a case study about the commercialisation work taking place at their council.

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;
 - 11.1. [I responded to a report by IPPR which said Big Tech must open up data and help fund digital inclusion as the UK economy moves away from cash in 2020s; and](#)
 - 11.2. [I announced the launch of a new behavioural insights podcast.](#)

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11.3. I also gave an interview to the LGC's Nick Golding with an article due to appear shortly.

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

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