

15 July 2014

The Knowledge Navigator Programme

Purpose

For information.

Summary

This short paper provides the context for presentations from Councillor Paul Watson (Leader of Sunderland City Council) and David Hill (Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Council).

The presentations will illustrate how councils benefit from research, and research derived knowledge and data, and in doing so, bring to life what the Local Government Knowledge Navigator programme is working towards.

Recommendations

That the Board note the report.

Action

No further action required.

Contact officer:

David Pye

Position:

Programme Manager, Research

Phone no:

020 7664 3267

E-mail:

david.pye@local.gov.uk

Knowledge Navigator Programme

Background and context

1. The LGA together with SOLACE and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) sponsor the Local Government Knowledge Navigator. This is a two year programme to identify and exemplify how local government policy and practice can benefit better from public investment in research.
2. The Improvement and Innovation Board had a brief session at the outset of this programme in January 2013. The Board agreed that Councillor Cheetham would be the lead contact. Councillor Cheetham has been closely involved, including membership of the programme steering group.
3. At that meeting the Board was concerned to understand the benefits and potential of the venture to support local government policy and practice.
4. At this meeting, Councillor Watson and David Hill will provide short presentations that describe how two contrasting councils work with researchers, and how they use knowledge, data and evidence derived from research as an integral part of the work of these councils.
5. As context, Local Government Knowledge Navigator work to date demonstrates that there is an appetite in local government for the kinds of knowledge and evidence that relevant research can contribute to, with good exemplars of authorities that have worked with researchers in ways that have produced tangible benefits. This work has also identified where there are untapped assets that are relevant to local government.
6. Board members will hear about examples from Sunderland and Milton Keynes at the meeting, including local government experience in the North East where senior local politicians and officers across the region are working with research institutions in the region to help in addressing problems challenging local government.