

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

### Sector support programme

1. We presented the Improvement and Innovation Board with our end of year report for sector-led improvement offer in 2020/21. The report (to be published on the LGA website in June 2021) captures programme highlights from across all areas of activity – focusing in particular on the COVID-19 refocused support offer, which provided councils with tools and resources to respond to COVID-19 and associated challenges. Examples include:
  - 1.1 The delivery of 300 remote based peer improvement programmes to 250 councils (almost three quarters of all English councils), including to assist with COVID-19, recovery and renewal and the rough sleeping response
  - 1.2 Our new [Rough Sleeping Peer Support offer](#), which was accessed by 222 councils in receipt of Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding or other rough sleeping funding
  - 1.3 More than 630 councillors received COVID-19 related development through participation in member development programmes
  - 1.4 Attendance at LGA virtual events reached near 10,000 virtual visits.
  - 1.5 Hundreds of examples of council led good practice were published on the LGA website, in particular, [to support the COVID-19 response](#).
  - 1.6 During the height of the pandemic, we engaged with or provided support and information to every council
  - 1.7 We set up a Remote Council Meetings Hub ([updated as the Online and hybrid meetings hub](#)), comprising a central pool of information, advice, and guidance from partners. This hub received more than 56, 000 views and was among the most popular pages on the LGA website
  - 1.8 We launched a [carbon accounting tool](#), in collaboration with Local Partnerships, which has been downloaded by near 200 councils and endorsed by the Committee for Climate Change (whose role it is to advise and report on progress made on emissions targets and to the UK Parliament).
2. Following recent discussions with MHCLG, it is welcome news that our sector support offer for councils in 2021/22 has been agreed. Our new [sector support summary](#) outlines the range of tools and resource councils can access, including support around financial resilience and economic recovery, training and capacity building opportunities, and support to build safer and more sustainable communities. This updated offer is designed to meet councils' improvement needs and provide support to address key challenges, such as issues relating to COVID-19 and climate change.

3. With social distancing measures easing, we look forward to restarting more elements of face to face support, including our Corporate Peer Challenge programme; while continuing to make use of remote and blended support where councils find this flexibility helpful.
4. A first milestone for the year achieved as part of the new sector offer was the launch of our [Equalities, diversity and inclusion \(EDI\) hub](#), which brings together the range of support and resources we offer in this area including: equalities peer support, leadership and workforce support, community cohesion resources and a range of EDI case studies. Councils that have progressed EDI standards in their own organisations are encouraged to email [research@local.gov.uk](mailto:research@local.gov.uk) to contribute further examples to the case study page.

## Climate Change

*Webinar: Creating meaningful engagement with communities on climate change*

5. The LGA, in partnership with the Design Council, organised a webinar on scaled design approaches across the public sector, which stimulated new thinking on collective climate change matters. Cllr Neil Prior, Deputy Chair of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board, chaired the event with over 180 attendees. He also launched a [climate change communications](#) guide and reminded colleagues of the [behaviour change and the environment guide](#).
6. The various initiatives and approaches presented demonstrated the importance of engaging with residents, communities, organisations and wider stakeholders to build momentum and raise awareness of collective efforts. [Slides](#) and a [Blog](#) were also published to help carry forward knowledge from the session.

*Webinar: Scope 3 greenhouse gas accounting guidance for social care*

7. In May, Councillor Andrew Cooper chaired an [event](#) with over 80 attendees. He launched guidance for local authorities on measuring and managing [Scope 3 greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions](#). The guide offers sector-specific guidance for social care services Scope 3 GHG emissions, covering all the main aspects of social care spend and applicable to both outsourced and in-house services. It covers how to get started and make the most impact in your Scope 3 greenhouse gas accounting, giving practical ways to work with social care providers. The [Greenhouse Gas Accounting toolkit](#) has also been updated to incorporate wider Scope 3 reporting.

## Cyber Security and Digital

*Digital Connectivity Webinar – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 14:00-15:30pm*

8. This webinar, to be held next month, will showcase innovative work that councils are doing to deliver digital connectivity provision for their local place, through superfast and gigabit broadband in addition to the mobile rollout and the emerging possibilities of 5G. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from these examples and hear

from leading sector representatives in the digital space. Further details and the link to sign up can be found [here](#)

#### *Councillor Introduction to...Digital and Data Training Series - Resource Hub*

9. In March, the LGA concluded the Councillor Introduction to Digital and Data Training series. The sessions explored how councillors could harness technology and data to help deal with COVID-19 pressures and to support residents, businesses, and local communities through digital enablement. After each session, councillors received resource packs containing case studies, presentations, and Q&A notes. To access all resource packs, please click [here](#).

#### *WIG Organisational Raid*

10. The Whitehall & Industry Group (WIG) is a collaborative group, involving government, industry and the not-for-profit sector. WIG have approached the LGA to host an Organisational Raid – facilitated sessions, where 2 organisations (or more) learn from each other on how they tackle a particular challenge. This will involve colleagues from across the sector who play leading roles in transformation, IT and digital. Any interested parties should contact [tom.denman@local.gov.uk](mailto:tom.denman@local.gov.uk)

## **LG inform reports**

#### *Remote Council meetings*

11. During the coronavirus emergency, councils have innovated new ways of working to meet social distancing guidelines and keep members, staff and the public safe. Holding public meetings remotely has been central to the approach. On 29 March 2021, the LGA published [a report on English councils and attitudes to remote meetings](#). This method of delivery for meetings has now been overruled by the High Court and we are encouraging councils to provide opinions to the MHCLG Call for Evidence on remote council meetings [here](#).

#### *The Cyber Threat to Local Government*

12. In March 2021, ICAEW published an [article](#) focusing on the cyber threat to local government, with contributions from Improvement and Innovation Board Chair, Cllr Peter Fleming. This article covers the prominence of existing ransomware groups, mitigation of cyber-attacks and managing any potential risks. Cllr Fleming wrote that 'Every senior manager and leader needs to understand cybersecurity.'

## **Leadership and Localism**

#### *Future Leaders*

13. On 25 March, Cllr Fleming led a session with the LGAs Future Leaders. This session focussed on a leader's perspective on clear, concise and successful communication.

#### *Social Media*

14. In March 2021, Cllr Peter Fleming also ran social media training with Central Bedfordshire Council.

### *Leadership Academy*

15. Work was completed in developing all the Leadership Academy virtual modules to enable us to provide the space to deliver and complete all of the 2020-2021 Leadership Academy programmes with 81 members completing.

### *Leadership Essentials*

16. We successfully converted all of our Leadership Essentials programmes to run virtually, including Audit Committee; Finance; Effective Scrutiny, Effective Cabinet Member, Children Services and others. A total of 377 members attended these virtual programmes.

### *LGA Leaders Programme*

17. The Leaders programme was completed, with Cllr Izzi Seccombe of Warwickshire County Council speaking about her experiences of collaborating effectively across a variety of situations. Lord Gary Porter spoke on emerging central Government demands in policy and financial terms.

### *New Councillor Hub*

18. The LGA has developed a New Councillor hub to provide newly elected members with all the essential information they need and complement the induction support councils have in place. It replaces our annual Councillors' Guide and, amongst other things, covers: the councillor's role; how local government is organised; the model code of conduct and standards; and decision making. It includes information on the offers and services available through the LGA with links to: the political groups at the LGA; regional teams; information on our support and development offers. The Hub is a live and evolving resource which will be updated and provide information and links relevant to new members, and can be accessed via <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/councillor-development/new-councillor-hub>.

## **LGA National Events: Welcome to Newly Elected Councillors**

19. Following the recent elections the LGA are now pleased to invite all newly elected councillors to attend one of our virtual national welcome events, hosted via zoom. This will be a great opportunity for new councillors to explore what their role means; learn about challenges facing councils; and meet colleagues from other councils. The session will cover a range of national and regional issues of interest, along with an opportunity to meet experienced councillors and hear more about the LGA's support for members.
20. The virtual events are free of charge and will run for 90 mins on **11<sup>th</sup> June (2pm)**, **22<sup>nd</sup> June (10am)** and **28<sup>th</sup> June (5:30pm)** and delegates can choose to attend one of these sessions to suit their availability. The sessions will be hosted by the LGA and will complement council's own induction programmes. Delegates can register via the [LGA's Events page](#).

## E-Learning

21. Self-registration is now available on [the new e-learning platform](#). Councillors can register to the new platform, which is designed to provide a more up to date learning experience. Our new platform helps to create a bespoke learning programme, where you can choose the modules most relevant to your needs. Modules include deepening knowledge of local government, the essential leadership skills needed to work effectively with communities and much more. For more information, please visit the [website](#) or email: [elearning@local.gov.uk](mailto:elearning@local.gov.uk)

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