

## Minutes of the previous Executive Advisory Board meeting

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**Title:** Executive Advisory Board  
**Date:** Thursday 11 March 2021  
**Venue:** Zoom

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions
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**1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. The LGA's Current "Hot Topics"**

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, introduced the high-level summary of current and anticipated headline issues most concerning to member councils and sought confirmation that focus was being given to the right issues. There were five main issues;

- (1) Public Health funding;
- (2) Pupil premium;
- (3) The Levelling up fund;
- (4) Devolution white paper; and
- (5) Remote council meetings.

Mark invited comments from members of the board. In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised;

- Members of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board were concerned about homelessness and it was suggested this issue be added to the list of priorities
- Concern that the change of date used to calculate funding for schools would result in less money for schools in some areas. Mark explained that the LGA was in discussions with the Minister, Nick Gibbs, and there was more work to be done in this area.
- Concern that there was not a clear narrative from government or the sector on the expectations of councils in the long term following the vaccination rollout, the LGA should work to establish this.
- The long term role for local government should include supporting their place, local businesses and containing local outbreaks.

### **Decision**

The Executive Advisory Board **noted** the report.

**Item Decisions and actions**

**3. NHS legislation update**

The Chairman introduced Alyson Morley, Senior Adviser, to introduce the item and report. Alyson gave an update on the progress made since the meeting of the Executive Advisory Board in March 2021, when the Board gave its initial steer that the LGA should undertake concerning integrated care systems.

Alyson explained that since the previous Board meeting the Government had published a white paper that included new proposals on adult social care and public health. The LGA has responded with its initial view in February 2021, a summary of the key messages was detailed in the report.

The LGA Chairman and Community Wellbeing Board lead members were part of a Ministerial group which provided advice directly to the Care Minister Helen Whately. The LGA was working closely with NHS England and DHSC on many of the proposals and will continue to have an active role in this dynamic policy area.

Members of the Executive Advisory Board were appreciative of how well informed they had been kept by officers on this policy area throughout the consultations process. However, members were concerned that the proposals may not have gone far enough regarding funding for social care and emphasised the need for an equal partnership with parity of esteem for councils and the NHS.

**Decision**

The Executive Advisory Board **agreed** the recommendation set out in the report that the LGA community Wellbeing Board lead on the LGA's response.

**4. Climate Change: engaging with the COP26 UN climate change conference**

Cllr David Renard, Chairman of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, introduced the report which set out the opportunities for the LGA and local government to participate in the COP26 UN climate change conference. It set out the opportunities to showcase the work of councils and engage with Government in the run up to the November 2021 conference. The report also provided an update on the LGA's wider climate change work.

Cllr David Renard explained that the LGA had written to government and was waiting its response on the LGA's level of involvement in COP26 and what role the local government would have in Glasgow. The report also explored how the LGA could influence the COP26 summit, the opportunities to promote the work councils were doing to address climate change an update on the work that the LGA had undertaken on this agenda done so far.

**Item Decisions and actions**

**Decision**

The Executive Advisory Board **noted** the report and provided strategic oversight on LGA engagement with government and during the discussion that followed provided direction for officers on the future work that should be undertaken to engage with COP 26, with the purpose of strengthening the role of local government in this agenda as a significant partner in the drive to meet the national ambitions on climate change.

**5. Local Government Finance update**

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the report provided a summary of the work by the LGA on funding and finance issues since the previous meeting of the Board on 21 January, including COVID-19 finance issues, the Local Government Finance Settlement, and the 2021 Chancellor's Budget.

The following issues were highlighted to the Executive Advisory Board:

**Business rates and grants area**

- Extension of the Covid-19 rates relief
- Restart grants for eligible business.
- An extra £425million for discretionary business grant funding on top of the 1.6 billion already allocated.

**Jobs and welfare**

- Extension of the furlough scheme.
- Six-month extension Temporary £20 a week Universal Credit.
- One off payment of £500 to eligible working tax credit claimants.

**Economy and infrastructure**

- £1 Billion for towns fund – 45 towns deals.
- UK infrastructure bank.
- National infrastructure commission.
- A prospectus for the £4.8 billion levelling fund and £220 million community renewal fund was launched.
- Freeport areas announced.
- And £300 million culture recovery fund – transparency needed.

**Not included in the announcements**

- Future funding beyond the next financial year.
- No further Covid related financial support for councils
- No mention of funding for social care.

**Decision**

Members of the Executive Advisory Board **noted** the update.

**Item Decisions and actions**

**6. Covid-19 Update**

The chairman introduced Abigail Gallop, Principal Policy Adviser to introduce the report which provided an update on the LGA's policy and improvement work since December 2020 around the public health and enforcement related activity of councils to manage local outbreaks of COVID-19. It set out some of the changes to national policy that the LGA had been able to secure on behalf of the sector, as well as the immediate challenges local authorities were facing during the implementation of the national roadmap for exiting the third national lockdown.

The current issues included:

- The revision of the national contain framework, local outbreak management plans and a move towards a local first approach.
- The roll out of the vaccination programme was both a success and a challenge, work included seeking to address vaccine hesitancy and disinformation.
- Messages around future local outbreaks, how they could be managed, the continuing need for testing and self-isolation.
- The implementation of the roadmap and reopening out of national lockdown.
- Planning for communities living with covid and impact of long covid.
- Maintaining behaviours to reduce transmission.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- Thanks were given to LGA and council officers for their work in collating evidence in this area largely led by public health teams.
- Public health had played an essential role in combatting the transition of Covid-19 – if public health had not previously existed it would have had to have been invented during the pandemic.
- Public health sits naturally within the remit of local government, there is no viable alternative location for public health.
- Public health should not just be about sexual health services and stop-smoking services but should be about education, housing and preventative work.

**Decision**

The Executive Advisory Board **noted** the report and comments made.

**Item Decisions and actions**

**7. Local Government Finance Reform (confidential)**

The Chairman invited Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, to address the Executive Advisory Board in confidential session.

**Decision**

The Executive Advisory Board **agreed** to commission work on the local government finance system but not express a particular view.

**8. Note of last Executive Advisory Board meeting**

**Decision**

The minutes of the previous Executive Advisory Board meeting were **agreed**.

**Item Decisions and actions**

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
	Cllr James Jamieson (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes CBE (Senior Vice Chair)	Newcastle City 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 Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
	Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Sutton London Borough Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth 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 Rosemarie Harris	Powys County Council
	Cllr Marc Bayliss	Worcester City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Association of North East Councils
	Cllr Peter John OBE	Southwark Council
	Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Nicholas Rushton	East Midlands Councils
	Cllr Linda Haysey	East Herts Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	SIGOMA
	Cllr David Williams	County Councils Network (CCN)
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Georgia Gould	Camden Council
	Cllr Paul Woodhead	Cannock Chase District Council
	Cllr John Hart	South West Councils
	Cllr Roy Perry	South East England Councils (SEEC)
	Alderman Sir David Wootton	Local Partnerships

Apologies received from:

Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Robert Stewart	Swansea City and County Council