

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

### Sector support programme: Change of control support

1. Following local government elections in England, the LGA has proactively engaged with councils that have undergone changes of control. Change of control support, including top team development, mentoring and other leadership training, has been offered to all 32 councils that have seen a change of political control. Our regional teams will remain in conversation with councils to determine their support needs over coming months. Two thirds of councils who have experienced change of control have accepted support offers and we have already provided change of control support to 10 councils.
2. We have also extended support offers to all 22 councils where there has been a change of political leadership only and engagement is now being taken forward.

### Climate Change

#### *LGA Councillors' Forum*

3. Councillor Liz Green launched [A Councillor's workbook on the local pathway to net zero](#) at Councillor's Forum on June 10, attended by 82 Councillors.

#### *Webinar: [Design in the Public Sector: Innovative approaches to low energy housing](#)*

4. Councillor Laura Miller chaired a webinar on June 15 which shared insights and experiences of design skills when applied to housing. You can find a blog and slides from the session which explored innovative approaches to low energy housing and retrofitting. It was attended by 147 people.

#### *Webinar: [Place-based leadership for biodiversity](#)*

5. On the May 28, 122 people attended an LGA webinar hosted by Councillor Liz Green on taking action to protect biodiversity. Attendees heard from a range of speakers, covering topics on engaging with local farmers, using data for biodiversity action plans, developing Local Nature Recovery Plans and Biodiversity Net Gain. The slides and blog post of the event can be found on [our webpage](#). There was a 97 per cent satisfaction rate for the webinar.

### Cyber Security and Digital

#### *Digital Connectivity Programme*

6. The digital connectivity programme is ongoing to improve capability and innovation in councils. Westminster City council are working on a toolkit that will provide councils with guidance to help identify connectivity hot-spots in urban places. The toolkit will also provide best practice materials and resources that can be reused and recycled by other local authorities.

7. Within the programme, there are projects that have made significant progress in the last quarter, they are likely to deliver scalable and nationally important solutions for other councils.
8. Durham County Council are working to deliver a sustainable mobile connectivity mapping tool that will allow them to identify and understand the quality of mobile (3G and 4G) connectivity, split by the four UK network providers, in County Durham. They are currently entering into a partnership with Durham University to develop the devices that will capture the data through installation into council fleet vehicles. The specifications and methodology will be shared with the sector to enable other councils to replicate this approach.

*Digital Connectivity Webinar*

9. On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Local Government Association's Cyber Security and Digital team hosted a [webinar](#) focusing on Digital Connectivity. The session showcased some of the excellent and 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. Cllr Neil Prior Chaired this session where 100 attendees had the opportunity to learn from these examples and hear from leading sector representatives in the digital space. Resources and information can be found [here](#)

*WIG Organisational raid*

10. On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, representatives from the Local Government Association, Edinburgh City Council and Dorset County Council collaborated with Browne Jacobson LLP to discuss sector wide initiatives and thoughts on Digital Transformation. Interesting discussion took place and crucial networks between the two sectors were made. Reflection and follow up is taking place to develop the priorities of digital transformation within Local Government.

*Cyber Security – Tech Essentials, Technical Lessons from recent cyber attacks in local government webinar*

11. On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021, The Local Government Association will be hosting a [webinar](#) which will focus on sharing technical lessons and experiences from recent cyber incidents within Local Government. The discussion will explore the risk to local authorities and highlight the need for preparation as well as protection in the face of cyber threats. This webinar is an opportunity for IT and cyber practitioners from across the sector to discuss the cyber threat to local government and the actions that should be taken to help mitigate both the risk of a cyber incident occurring, and the impact on the council and community if one does. Speakers will include representatives from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and the London Borough of Hackney.

## **Leadership and Localism**

### *National Newly Elected Councillor event*

12. Cllr Judith Billing chaired a National Newly Elected Councillor event on 28 June 2021. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final event and included an introductory session from Mark Lloyd and Cllr Jamieson to provide a welcome and an overview of the key national priorities for the sector; a Q&A session with delegates; a session to outline further LGA support offers; breakout groups for delegates to meet in smaller groups with their regional LGA Teams; and groups led by the PGOs with lead peers to talk about political support.

### *Spotlight on Leadership*

13. Cllr Judith Billing chaired the 'Spotlight on Leadership' session at LGA Conference on 7 July 2021. The session heard three perspectives on how we can increase diversity and representation in local government.

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