**Minutes of the previous Executive Advisory Board meeting**

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| **Title:** | Executive Advisory Board |
| **Date:** | Thursday 10 June 2021 |
| **Venue:** | Zoom |
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**Attendance**

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

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| **Item** | **Decisions and actions** |  |

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| 1.
 | **Declarations of Interest** |  |
|  | There were no declarations of interest. |  |
| 2.  | **Note of last Executive Advisory Board meeting** |  |
|  | **Decision**The minutes of the previous Executive Advisory Board meeting were **agreed.** |  |

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| 3.  | **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. The main topics were:1. Immediate covid issues;
2. Longer term covid issues;
3. Social care reform;
4. Levelling up;
5. Health and Care Bill;
6. Climate change;
7. Public health reform;
8. Planning reform;
9. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and the national transfer scheme; and
10. Remote meetings.

Mark thanked LGA Member Peers and colleagues working to support colleagues form administrations following the May 2021 elections.The Chairman invited comments from members of the board. In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised:* Constructive meetings with Government on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were encouraging.
* More support should be given to councillors transitioning from holding elected office, the impact on councillors after losing their seat, both personal and financial. Being a councillor should be professionalised, pension etc.
* DHSC had told councils that financial support for enhanced response areas should be funded from the existing allocation of covid resource.
* Government consultations on ‘free’, weekly food and green waste collections as part of the Environment Bill should feature in future Hot Topic reports.
* Concern around the Spending Review and uncertainty on funding for the current year.
* Concern regarding homelessness with the end of convict ban and the end of the furlough scheme.
* Exempt accommodation units being created, with links to organised crime and vulnerable people being taken advantage of. This loophole needed to be closed.

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

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| 1.
 | **Queen’s Speech 2021** |  |
|  | Lee Bruce, Head of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement updated the Executive Advisory Board on the May 2021 Queen’s Speech and sought approval on the Bills the LGA should prioritise, based on the organisation’s business plan and advocacy priorities, for the purpose of its lobbying. Lee highlighted the LGA’s high and medium priority Bills;High priority* Planning Bill
* Environment Bill
* Skills and Post 16 Education Bill
* Health and Care Bill
* Building Safety Bill

Medium priority* Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill
* The Electoral Integrity Bill
* Procurement Bill
* Armed Forces Bill
* Animal Welfare Plan and Legislation
* Draft Online Safety Bill

It was noted that three of the five high priorities fell within the remit of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board. Disappointment was expressed that Social care reform and funding did not feature in the Queen’s speech and it was correct for the LGA to include it as a high priority. **Decision**The Executive Advisory Board **agreed** the recommended prioritisation of the LGA’s legislative lobbying for the next parliamentary session.  |  |

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| 1.
 | **Social care reform** |   |
|  | Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, introduced the accompanying report and gave a verbal update on the work of the Community Wellbeing Board concerning Social care reform in the meeting cycle 2020/21. David gave thanks to his predecessor and previous Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board Cllr Ian Hudspeth.**Decision** Members of the Executive Advisory Board **noted** the update. |  |

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| 1.
 | **Civility in public life programme** |  |
|  | The Chairman invited Louise Smith, Senior Adviser to introduce the report. Louise sought direction from the Executive Advisory Board on the next phase of the Civility in Public Life work programme which proposed a focus on an informal duty of care for councillors; sanctions for breaches of the code of conduct; training on and a refresh of the model code of conduct; and an update to the councillors’ guide to handling intimidation. Louise also sought member approval to establish a member steering group to oversee the programme of work.In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised; * The LGA should continue to work with NALC on this programme of work.
* Abuse of councillors undermines democracy.
* Social media platforms need to take a stand against online abuse of elected officials.
* The LGA should press for the Police to enforce laws that protect councillors from abuse.
* Misogyny against elected women councillors is endemic.
* Councillors remove themselves from social media platforms following abuse.
* Councillors should call out colleagues in the Chamber and in council when bullying and abuse occurs.

The Chairman summarised the following points:* Need a “stamp it out” type campaign to raise awareness of abuse against elected members;
* Parties need to show leadership and stamp out problems where it is within the power of the party to do so;
* Stronger action from the Police and investigations is necessary;
* If there are to be heavy sanctions, there also needs to be a strong evidence driven process and some form of tiered approach with escalation of action linked to severity of incident;
* Should there be an anonymous record of abuse/harassment that could be compiled.

**Decision** The Executive Advisory Board agreed the proposed areas of focus laid out in the report for the 2021/22 Civility in public life work programme and agreed the establishment of a member steering group for the Civility in public life work programme. In addition, they agreed that the LGA should conduct a public campaign to raise awareness and challenge abuse of elected members and requested that officers work to create an evidence base of councillor experiences of abuse and intimidation to support this work.**Action**Establish a member steering group for the civility in public life work programme. |  |

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| 1.
 | **LGA conference Document**  |  |
|  | The Chairman invited Sonika Sidhu(Principal Policy Adviser) and Hannah Berry (Head of Campaigns and Digital) to address the Executive Advisory Board in confidential session.**Decision** The Executive Advisory Board agreed with the aims of the LGA Conference document as outlined in paragraph 3, and the structure as suggested in paragraph 7 of the accompanying report, and agreed to delegate final sign off of the document to the Chairman and Group Leaders. |  |

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**Appendix A - Attendance**

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| Position/Role | Councillor | Authority |
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|  Cllr James Jamieson (Chairman) | Central Bedfordshire Council |
| Cllr Nick Forbes CBE (Senior Vice Chair) | Newcastle City Council |

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|  Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair) | Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair) | Lincolnshire County Council |

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|  Cllr John Fuller OBE | South Norfolk District Council |
| Cllr Peter Fleming OBE | Sevenoaks District Council |
| Cllr David Fothergill | Somerset County Council |
| Cllr David Renard | Swindon Borough Council |
| Cllr Kevin Bentley | Essex County Council |
| Sir Richard Leese CBE | Manchester City Council  |
| Cllr Anntoinette Bramble | Hackney London Borough Council |
| Cllr Tudor Evans OBE | Plymouth City Council |
| Cllr Sharon Taylor | Stevenage 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 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 Peter John OBE | Southwark 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:

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| Cllr Michael Payne | Gedling Borough Council |
| Cllr Anita Lower | Newcastle upon Tyne City Council |
| Cllr Shabir Pandor | Kirklees Metropolitan Council |
| Cllr Simon Henig CBE | Association of North East Councils |
| Cllr Robert Stewart | Swansea City and County Council |
| Cllr Robert Alden | Birmingham City Council |

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