

LGA Business plan

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The LGA has completed its annual refresh of the Business plan and this has been signed off by the LGA Executive Advisory Board.

This paper identifies the main aims established by the plan and the CTS elements identified within it. The Board's work programme has been developed with the business plan in mind and is aligned to deliver on its objectives, while responding to the specific needs of CTS services.

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

That the Board note the content of the report.

Action/s

Officers to ensure future work aligns with the business plan.

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LGA Business plan

Background

1. The LGA's work has two overarching themes:
 - 1.1. **National voice of local government** – we campaign to influence the political agenda and secure funding and powers on behalf of councils, and we promote and defend the reputation of the sector
 - 1.2. **Supporting councils** - we support councils continuously to improve and innovate through our extensive programmes of practical peer-based support underpinned by strong local leadership, through our support for collective legal actions and through our service delivery partnerships.
2. Over the next 12 months, the LGA has identified seven areas that councils tell us matter most to them:
 - 2.1. **Funding for local government** - Fair and sustainable funding enables councils to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term, to raise more funds locally and to promote greater collective working across local public services.
 - 2.2. **Adult social care, health and wellbeing** - Sustainable funding and better integration with health services enable councils to continue to support people to live safe, healthy, active, independent lives and to promote wellbeing and resilience for all ages.
 - 2.3. **Narrowing inequalities and protecting communities** - Councils lead and work with diverse communities and partners to address inequalities and build safe, cohesive and resilient communities, supporting the government's ambition to level up communities across the country
 - 2.4. **Places to live and work** - Councils lead the way in driving a resilient economic recovery which helps level up across the country and sees no community left behind, building the homes that people need and creating places they are proud to live, work and visit.
 - 2.5. **Children, education and schools** - Councils have the powers and resources they need to bring partners together to deliver inclusive and high-quality education, help children and young people recover from the impact of the pandemic and fulfil their potential and offer lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 - 2.6. **Strong local democracy, leadership and capacity** - A refocus on local democratic leadership, and a comprehensive shift in power from Whitehall to local communities, leads to greater diversity of elected representatives, high standards of conduct and strong, flexible local governance.
 - 2.7. **Sustainability and climate action** - Councils take the lead in driving urgent actions in their local areas to combat climate change and its impacts and to deliver zero net carbon.

CTS references

3. The report identifies the following CTS commitments:
 - 3.1. **Councils have a central role in promoting and protecting health and wellbeing locally – we will:** lobby for long-term sustainable funding for leisure, culture and

park services which play an important part in people's physical health and mental wellbeing and tackling health inequalities.

- 3.2. **Councils have access to funding to create communities where people want to live, work and visit – we will:** support councils to work with partners to maximise the value of local and national infrastructure investment, including in road, rail, broadband, culture, heritage and recreation.
4. The improvement programmes with Arts Council England and Sport England are also highlighted within the plan:
 - 4.1. Cultural services and sport, in partnership with Arts Council England and Sport England, support councils through range of programmes and tools to help councils tackle the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities for culture, tourism and sport.

CTS workplan

5. The CTS workplan has been designed to deliver actions against all of the business plan objectives:
 - 5.1. **Funding for local government** – the Board regularly lobbies in national media and meetings with ministers for financial investment delivered through councils, securing £100 million for sport and leisure services during the pandemic. Our recent 'Securing the future of sport and physical activity services' set out the case for a £1 billion investment in the leisure estate.
 - 5.2. **Adult social care, health and wellbeing** – In addition to the 'Securing the future' report, which called for the new Office for health improvement and disparities to take on integration of public leisure and health services, the CTS Board has commissioned a social prescribing handbook which will be published in early 2022 for national social prescribing day. This will bring together examples from across the portfolio of how CTS services improve mental and physical wellbeing.
 - 5.3. **Narrowing inequalities and protecting communities** – The Board has emphasised the importance of this in our work, using data to articulate the importance of improving accessibility of CTS services, and their existing reach into different parts of communities. This is proposed as a theme for the 2022 CTS annual conference.
 - 5.4. **Places to live and work** – The Board's work on levelling up and the contribution of CTS services will be instrumental to achieving this, building on previous work around culture-led regeneration. The Culture Hub will be expanded with a new range of case studies illustrating councils work in this area, while the improvement programmes will support councillors in their leadership role to make it happen.
 - 5.5. **Children, education and schools** – While there is no explicit work item on children, many of the Board's advocacy work in the media focuses on the importance of introducing children to a wide range of opportunities. For instance, recent

promotional work on the Summer Reading Challenge, and the role of culture and sport in delivering the Holiday Activities Fund.

- 5.6. **Strong local democracy, leadership and capacity** – Our improvement programmes with Arts Council England and Sport England directly deliver on this objective.
- 5.7. **Sustainability and climate action** – decarbonising the leisure estate, accounting for up to 40% of a district council's carbon emission, is a key strand of the recommendation in 'Securing the future' and we are engaging with civil servants and partners to move this recommendation forward.

Implications for Wales

6. The Business plan sets out the support available to Welsh authorities, although their primary engagement will be with the WLGA.

Implications for inclusion, diversity and equality

7. The plan has an explicit objective on tackling inequalities, but officers will ensure that each strand of work considers how to tackle inequalities and increase representation, in line with the Board's direction on this matter.

Financial Implications

8. None.

Next steps

9. Officers will reflect the Business plan objectives in all future papers brought to the Board.