

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

### **Improvement Update**

1. The LGA has updated its sector support offer for 2022/23, funded by DLUHC and shaped through direct engagement with councils to ensure that they have the support they most need. Our offer includes an extensive range of support to drive improvement across all regions.
2. The offer includes an extensive range of support options to enable councils to keep providing critical services and also empower them to deliver as effectively as possible for their local areas. Some examples of our support include our leadership programme which identifies and shapes new and existing talent. Our governance and finance offers which support councils to improve performance, systems and capacity, including through financial resilience and data-informed decision-making. We also provide councils with comprehensive support to empower them to deliver their place-based visions for local priorities such as climate change, housing, devolution, building safety and community engagement
3. The [LGA Annual Conference](#) (running June 28<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022) will feature our Innovation Zone (IZ) offering a vibrant and creative space within the wider conference programme, where councils, partners and others will be able to showcase their innovative ideas and approaches. The IZ will feature engaging, interactive sessions and will encourage delegates to think differently about issues they may be facing in their own authorities. The theme for this year's Innovation Zone will be Resilience and Renewal and presentations will span topics including Place, Leadership, Environmental Sustainability and Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion.
4. A programme for the IZ has now been produced and will be shared publicly in the coming days via the LGA site and conference app. The programme will include over 30 IZ sessions, representing councils across all regions, council types and political alignments.
5. The IZ will also feature Spotlight on... talks, which are a new addition to the IZ programme. Unlike IZ sessions, these will stand alone when presented. These will run for approx. 30 mins and will follow a TEDx style format. They are focused on big ideas and challenging and inspiring councils to think differently.
6. In total we have 7 Spotlight on... talks arranged across the 3 days. A selection of these include:
  - A session from Exeter Council delivered, by their CEO Karime Hassan, on utilising partnership working as a vehicle for delivering place leadership outcomes.
  - A session delivered by Karl Lokko, a former gang leader turned activist, poet, influencer, public speaker and adventure, organised Newton Europe.

- A session from ActEarly City Collaboratories in Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Tower Hamlets Borough Council – focusing on how they are uniting research expertise with local government, local partners and communities to improve local environments and give young people a healthier and fairer future.
  - Our Spotlight on Climate Change Panel' – featuring exciting ideas from the University of Exeter, East of England LGA and the Carbon Co-op (in collaboration with Oldham Council), with presentations on a Local Climate Adaptation Tool, greater collaboration between councils and business and community led-energy planning.
7. The IZ will also launch our Annual Report on the LGA's improvement activity in 2021/2022. The report outlines what has been delivered during 2021/2022 and evidences the significant positive impacts across the local government sector.
  8. Of significant note in the annual report are the achievements around our peer support. Our peers and regional teams delivered 134 programmes of peer challenge or remote support including 53 corporate peer challenges. This is particularly impressive since covid-19 measures meant that face to face forms of support like peer challenges were not able to commence until July. If you would be interested in our peer support, please contact the [LGA Principal Advisor](#) for your region.

## Climate Change

### *Council and Business Collaboration for the Climate Emergency: Webinar Blog*

9. On 15 March, Councillor Andrew Cooper chaired a webinar where the LGA partnered with the Business Services Association (BSA) on how councils and businesses can work together to meet their carbon reduction targets. The session was focussed on three different partnership case studies, where councils and businesses had worked together on green initiatives. You can [download the webinar presentations](#) on our website.

### [Webinar blog: The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool updates and scope 3 emissions](#)

10. On April 28, over 180 people attended a webinar, chaired by Councillor Andrew Cooper, to introduce some [new guidance on Scope 3](#) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and the latest updates to the free-to-use [Local Partnerships/LGA Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#).

### [Climate Change: Reporting Guidance for Local Authorities](#)

11. Councillor Andrew Cooper launched a new guidance document which supports the [Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#). The guidance aims to assist local authorities with understanding the scale of scope 3 reporting, what to report and how to set an action plan for future reporting.

## **Cyber, Digital and Technology**

### [Digital Inclusion Learner Checklist](#)

12. Working with SOCITM Advisory, the programme has developed a Digital Inclusion Learner Checklist. This represents a suite of resources to guide councils through the necessary steps to diagnose, develop, deliver and evaluate digital inclusion support for residents. This guidance is underpinned by a dynamic spreadsheet tool that can assess resident need and progress toward digital maturity. The tool provides councils with a standardised baseline of quantitative data that can assist officers to effectively demonstrate impact of initiatives. 55 councils have engaged with the checklist to date.

## **Publications**

This section outlines the publications and media releases that have occurred since the previous Councillors' Forum.

### *Local Government First Magazine Activity*

First Magazine, dated March 2022

[First – Support for Disabled Councillors](#) – Lead Member for Leadership on the Improvement & Innovation Board, Cllr Judi Billing contributed an article highlighting the LGA's new package of support for disabled councillors and candidates.

First Magazine, dated March 2022

[First - Know your place](#) – Chair of the Improvement & Innovation Board, Cllr Peter Fleming provided an article highlighting the value of LG Inform and how it can support councils to achieve better outcomes through enabling better benchmarking, performance management, data-based decision making and more.

First Magazine, dated May 2022

[First - Supporting the sector](#) – Cllr Peter Fleming article which focuses on our updated sector support offer for 2022/23.

**Contact officer:** Dennis Skinner

**Position:** Head of Improvement

**Email:** [dennis.skinner@local.gov.uk](mailto:dennis.skinner@local.gov.uk)