

Note of last Resources Board meeting

Title:	Resources Board
Date:	Wednesday 11 May 2022
Venue:	Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed and introduced members to the Resources Board meeting. No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Local Government Finance Update The Chair invited Bevis Ingram, Senior Adviser, to present the report which provided a summary of the work by the LGA on funding and finance issues since the previous meeting. Since the circulation of the agenda, the Queen's Speech had taken place. Bills to note from the speech included the Non-Domestic Rating Bill which had implications for business rates, the Draft Audit Reform Bill, and the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill which would put the bank on a statutory footing. On the day of the meeting, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was introduced to Parliament and had a clause on capital finance, giving the secretary of state wider powers to intervene on individual councils under certain circumstances. Members discussed the report and made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members raised concerns over various cost pressures. This included the lack of funding for councils to support Ukrainian citizens fleeing war who had arrived in the UK on the Ukraine Family Scheme visa rather than on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme• More regulatory burdens on councils had caused increased pressures in financing housing• It had been a challenge to recruit to senior roles with councils unable to compete with pay increases in the private sector• There were concerns that contract costs would increase with inflation and councils would be forced to continue paying the increased funds.	

In response, Bevis Ingram advised the following:

- The details of how funding would be provided between the different tiers to support Ukrainian families had not yet been finalised. It was also not yet agreed how funding would be allocated should Ukrainian families move between local authorities, but officials were looking into it.
- The procurement team within the improvements section of the LGA were aware of the concerns relating to contract inflation.

Decision:

Members **noted** the update.

3 Cost of Living - Verbal Update

The Chair invited Rose Doran, Senior Adviser to give an update on the LGA's developing and ongoing work on the cost of living pressures. This included work across the LGA's policy boards which were relevant to the cost of living pressures, engagement at roundtable events, the cost of living advisory group and reviewing the evidence base on the complexity and sufficiency of the current benefits system.

Since the circulation of the agenda, plans were announced for some to be moved off legacy benefits and onto Universal Credit. As a result, many may be either in the same position or worse off. This would be monitored at the roll out.

The aim of the Cost of Living Advisory Group was to have a range of voices and a sense of the positive or negative impacts councils have on the cost of living. There were specific areas of concern such as mental health and children's services.

Members made the following comments:

- It was raised that funding for discretionary housing payments was given in tranches every 6 months, which had made financial planning and managing expectations for councils difficult
- It was noted that many on benefits were in work and queried if there had been work exploring income.

In response, Rose Doran advised the following:

- One of the aims of the advisory group was to get a balance of perspective as viewpoints varied
- Consideration had been given for how government delivered funding, not just how much had been provided. For example, councils may benefit from provision of more long-term funding instead of in tranches for short periods.
- The LGA had been working with other organisations carrying out research into the cost-of-living pressures, including income impacts.

Decision:

Members **noted** the update

4 Workforce Update - CONFIDENTIAL

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information related to this item.

5 Apprenticeships Update - CONFIDENTIAL

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information relating to this item.

6 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March 2022

Members agreed the note of the previous meeting as an accurate record.

7 UK Infrastructure Bank - CONFIDENTIAL

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information relating to this item.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Richard Wenham	Central Bedfordshire Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
	Cllr Jason Zadrozny	Ashfield District Council
Members	Cllr Adrian Hardman	Worcestershire County Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Phillip King	Harborough District Council
	Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Terry Paul	Newham London Borough Council
	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
Apologies	Cllr Nicholas Jones	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
In Attendance	Jessica Hill	LGC
	Karen Higgins	WLGA
	Anna Cartwright	UK Infrastructure Bank
LGA Officers	Jonathan Bryant	
	Naomi Cooke	
	Jo Donnelly	
	Rose Doran	
	Mike Heiser	
	Bevis Ingram	
	Laura Johnson	
	Douglas Olley	
	Emilia Peters	
	Sarah Pickup	
	Jamie Saddler	
	Aivaras Statkevicius	
	Sam Swift	