

Meeting: Fire Services Management Committee

Date: 9 December 2022



LGA Plan 2022-25

Purpose of report

For noting.

Summary

On 19 October 2022, the LGA Board signed off a new 3-year business plan for 2022-25. The [LGA Plan 2022-2025](#) sets the direction for the LGA as a whole and includes our policy and campaigning priorities for the period.

The Committee is asked to note the Plan and to discuss any changes to its workplan to reflect the overall LGA direction and priorities.

Recommendations

That the Fire Services Management Committee note the Plan and discuss any changes to its workplan to reflect the overall LGA direction and priorities and the new Government.

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Background

1. On 19 October 2022 the LGA Board signed off the LGA's new 3-year business plan – [LGA Plan 2022-2025](#). The development of the Plan was led by a joint officer/member task and finish group, who considered feedback from consultations and discussions with member councils, lead members, group executives and staff.
2. The new LGA Plan clearly sets out our vision to be **the Voice of Local Government** and our purpose to **Promote, Improve and Support** local government. A copy of the Plan is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Content

3. The LGA Plan is in three parts:

Part 1:

- sets out the LGA's overarching vision and the golden thread that runs through the plan - to be **the Voice of Local Government**;
- sets out our purpose - to **Promote, Improve and Support** local government. These form the three pillars of all our external facing work, including the work of the eight policy boards and the Improvement and Innovation Board.
- emphasises our commitment to work more collaboratively across the whole of local government to strengthen our voice on behalf of the sector.

Part 2:

- Promoting **local government** sets four policy and campaigning priorities
 - ✓ A sustainable financial future
 - ✓ Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy
 - ✓ Putting people first
 - ✓ Championing climate change and local environments.
- **Improving local government** sets out our main grant-funded commitments.
- **Supporting local government** highlights the excellent technical and professional support and services we deliver to councils in fields such as workforce, pensions, legal, communications and procurement and a range of place-based services.

Part 3:

- **Our business** – sets out our internal organisational priorities, including actions to support our political leadership and enhance our membership, increase our financial resilience and our commitment to Net Zero.

Delivering the LGA Plan

4. Members are invited to review the LGA Plan and to discuss any amendments or additions to the Board's work programme to align with the LGA's priorities.
5. The main outcomes relating to the FSMC's work are:
 - 5.1 Under Theme 4 – "Championing Climate Change and Local Environments" – We will work to secure the following outcomes:
 - The Government's fire reform agenda is shaped to ensure fire and rescue authorities have the resources to address their challenges, including those from climate change.
 - 5.2 Under "Support to the Local Government Workforce" - We will:
 - Lead on national collective bargaining across councils, schools, fire and rescue authorities, police support staff and other related workforces.
 - 5.3 Under "Supporting Local People and Places" – We will continue to offer a range of practical and technical support, including:
 - Housing and [building safety](#) support to help councils seeking to innovate in meeting the housing needs of their communities and ensure all homes are safe.
 - Support for councils to take action against private owners of blocks with combustible cladding and make them safe through the [Joint Inspection Team](#).
 - Support for [fire authorities](#) and National Employers to conduct collective bargaining, implement workforce requirements relating to fire reform and deliver effective services for local communities. The LGA will also continue its role as the secretariat for the NJCs for firefighters, middle managers and brigade managers.
6. The LGA Plan will remain a flexible document that will be reviewed and updated annually, and with the agreement of the LGA Board, may be updated to reflect changing circumstances.
7. While a national policy agenda is still emerging, the Board might also wish to consider any areas of work arising from the new Government they wish to see reflected in the Board's work, or any aspects of the Board's work they might wish to see amended in order to best influence the new Government and other political parties.

Implications for Wales

8. The LGA Plan includes the support that we provide to the 22 Welsh councils, in membership of the LGA through the Welsh LGA. However, some central government grant-funded activities do not include support to Wales, where funding may be allocated through the Welsh government.

Financial Implications

9. Delivery of the LGA Plan is reflected in the LGA's medium term financial strategy. Our internal business priorities include priorities to ensure the financial sustainability of the LGA.

Equalities implications

10. Our internal business priorities include the delivery of the LGA's equalities strategy and action plan.

Next steps

11. Subject to members' comments, the Board's work programme will be updated to reflect the priorities of the LGA Plan 2022-25.