

Autumn Statement 2014: LGA Submission

Purpose

For approval.

Summary

The Chancellor is expected to make his Autumn Statement to Parliament on 3 December 2014. HM Treasury has invited submissions and the LGA's proposed submission will be circulated separately to members before the Board meeting. This submission builds on the LGA's *First 100 Days* document which makes a range of proposals in the form of a carefully costed offer to the government rather than a simple bid for additional funding. This offer is calculated to save the public sector as whole £11 billion.

Members are asked to approve the Autumn Statement submission and associated communications strategy. The headings for the submission were approved by Leadership Board in July and the individual service paragraphs have been agreed with their relevant policy Boards. The Resources Board are therefore asked to approve the Introduction and the section on Financial Freedoms and Reforms.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to approve the attached LGA Autumn Statement Submission document to be published and sent to Her Majesty's Treasury.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Summary

1. The Chancellor is due to make his Autumn Statement to Parliament on Wednesday 3 December. Her Majesty's (HM) Treasury have invited submissions in advance of that. The formal deadline for submissions is 17 October, the date of today's meeting, but HM Treasury are aware that the LGA's submission has to be approved formally today.
2. The Leadership Board in July approved an outline for the LGA's submission based on the *First 100 Days* offer, covering the following areas: Place Based budgets; Adult social care; local growth funding; and financial freedoms and reforms.
3. The LGA submission will be circulated to Member in a supplemental agenda for approval. In line with the *First 100 Days* offer, the submission has been drawn up as an offer to the Government, not as a bid for additional funds.

Service paragraphs

4. The sections on place based budgets, adult social care, and local growth funding have been cleared with their relevant policy Board members. The Resources Board is therefore asked to approve the introduction and summary and the paragraphs on financial freedoms and reforms.

Financial Freedoms and Flexibilities

5. The financial freedoms and reforms section covers the following areas:
 - 5.1. Long term funding settlements;
 - 5.2. Business rates;
 - 5.3. Fair funding; and
 - 5.4. Other freedoms and flexibilities, including council tax discounts, access to revenue from other taxes, reforming fees and charges, linking business rates to licensing applications, removing the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap and relaxing council tax referendum rules.

Communications

6. Once approved, the submission will be sent to HM Treasury. It will also be used in the LGA's briefing and lobbying work around the Autumn Statement and will be released to the media.
7. The Chairman and senior officers will be meeting with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander, on 3 November. This submission will form part of the briefing for that meeting.
8. The LGA will be preparing an on the day response to the Autumn Statement.

Next steps

9. Members are asked to:
 - 9.1. Approve the LGA's Autumn Statement submission to be published and sent to HM Treasury.
 - 9.2. Comment on use of the submission in communications on the Autumn Statement.

Financial Implications

10. None.