

## **Nomination to cross Board Task and Finish Group on local government's role in an ageing society**

### **Purpose of report**

For decision.

### **Summary**

The City Regions Board has been asked to nominate one member to sit on a new LGA Cross Board Task and Finish Group on local government's role in respect of an ageing society. The aim of this time limited group is to review the future role of local government in respect of an ageing society; the opportunities and challenges that an ageing society presents and how local government might prepare itself in the immediate and longer term to respond to these. As this agenda spans the whole of local government (including services such as adult social care, culture, sport, planning, housing, the environment as well as place-based considerations) Leadership Board felt that it was important that members from across relevant LGA Boards be involved in driving this work forward.

The group is expected to meet 3 or 4 times between November and March, with the first meeting scheduled for 11 November.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to nominate one representative.

### **Action**

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

### **Contact officer:**

Ian Hughes

### **Position:**

Head of Programme (Growth and International)

### **Phone no:**

020 7664 3101

### **E-mail:**

[ian.hughes@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hughes@local.gov.uk)

## **Nomination to cross Board Task and Finish Group on local government's role in an ageing society**

### **Background**

1. The UK population is ageing rapidly. There will, for example, be 51% more people aged 65 and over in England in 2030 compared to 2010 and 101% more people aged over 85 and over in England in 2030 compared to 2010. The potential impact of this significant growth has received considerable negative coverage; threats to economic growth and pressures on social care and health budgets being particularly newsworthy. Yet, living longer also represents important progress and could present society with real opportunities if these were positively harnessed and utilised at a local and national level.
2. There is no doubt that the changes in our population will create major challenges for individuals, for families and communities, and for local and national government over the coming years. Responding effectively and creatively to these challenges will require major shifts in our attitudes to ageing; including changes to models of employment for older people and the current cliff-edge of retirement; in current approaches to the promotion of well-being, prevention and early intervention for older people; and new ways of financing and supporting older people which better address the changing aspirations and needs of people as they live longer.
3. An ageing society presents particular challenges for local government, and especially in the context of austerity and further declining budgets, which are already having an impact on the delivery of front line and essential services.
4. There is a pressing need for local government to develop a more strategic and holistic approach towards an ageing society, that seeks to:
  - 4.1. Address how local councils can take a more pro-active approach to demographic change, so that they are better able to manage the significant changes that will take place over the next 10-20 years. This will need to include the core issues that local councils need to plan for and address and models of emerging or innovative practice that councils are already developing as part of a more strategic approach to their ageing populations;
  - 4.2. Find new ways to enable and support older people to live healthier, fulfilling lives; developing new community based and community led approaches to promoting well-being, preventing ill-health and early intervention support and new more empowering approaches to the provision of information and advice so that older people can navigate the system more effectively;
  - 4.3. Promote and develop innovative approaches to housing (and support) for older people – which might include new models of care/equity release, the provision of formal and informal support which enable older people to live within their own homes, and new models of supported accommodation and housing support

which enable a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of older people as they change over time; and

- 4.4. Review how these might in turn translate into new ways of working for local government; what are the cultural, structural and leadership challenges necessary to support local government deliver a more enabling, community and asset based approach to an ageing population.
5. The LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, in July, agreed to set up a Cross Board Task and Finish Group to build on this work and develop it further; to explore the role of local government within the context of ongoing austerity in respect of public spending and to enable the LGA to take a more proactive role within this increasingly high profile area.

#### **The role and composition of the Task and Finish Group**

6. As this is an agenda which spans the whole of local government; adult social care, culture, sport, planning, housing, the environment, it is proposed that the Task and Finish group is made up of 4-5 members drawn from relevant LGA Boards (Community Well-Being; Culture, tourism, and sport; Environment, economy, housing and transport; City Regions; Resilience, Safety and Regulation; and People and Places) working alongside a small number of co-opted representatives from key representative organisations.
7. The role of the task and finish group will be to:
  - 7.1. Oversee and steer the work on ageing;
  - 7.2. Review key themes and messages emerging from the work;
  - 7.3. Provide a core support and challenge role as the project develops;
  - 7.4. Provide a clear link between the project and the work of relevant LGA's Boards – so that members are fully engaged in the work as it develops;
  - 7.5. Oversee and steer the delivery of the final report and its recommendations; and
  - 7.6. Work with other colleagues within LGA - principally Communications, Current affairs and Campaigns to agree the overall communications strategy in respect of the project and its final report in particular.
8. The aim is for the Task and Finish group to carry out its work so that a series of clear policy proposals and ideas for next steps can be developed and presented in early 2015, for consideration by an incoming government. **The group is expected to meet 3 or 4 times, with the first meeting scheduled for 11 November.**