

Minutes of last Executive Advisory Board meeting

Executive Advisory Board

Thursday, 7 September 2023

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest
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The Chair welcomed councillors, officers and members of the press to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Georgia Gould, Morris Bright, Brigit Smith and Jon Hart. Tudor Evans was in attendance as substitute. No declarations of interest were made.

2	Minutes of the previous meeting
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The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 July 2023 were **agreed** as a true record.

3	Membership and Terms of Reference
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The Executive Advisory Board agreed to note the Membership and Terms of Reference for 2023/24.

4	Lobbying Document
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Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, introduced the Lobbying Document which was a reflection of the LGA's daily conversations with councils, including the long term and live issues across the county. Mark highlighted the following cost pressures, children's services, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, Oflog, capital pressures including the HRA, issues with planning as it related to energy strategy, and the Elections Act 2022. Home school transport would be added in future.

Officers also sought agreement to delegate authority to Informal Group Leaders (IGLs) to sign off the written submission to the Autumn Statement.

In the debate, members raised the following points:

- School transport ruinously expensive.
- Query over the LGAs stance on ASC reform agenda? The document should outline a more assertive role for local government in ICPs.

- Temporary accommodation costs destroying councils' budgets, this should be included.
Concern over the implementation of Right Care, Right Person, its cost impact and vulnerable people being left without support/services. Rollout had been patchy across the country – Humberside highlighted as success area however must ensure there is a safety net in all areas.
- Strengthen position in the document on waste reform collections – it's not a done deal.
- Concern over legislation on housebuilding in nutrient neutral areas.
- Concern over the financing of non-statutory services that make a place worth living in including capital funding for leisure, libraries and arts.
- Firm funding commitment on RAAC should be sought.
- Call for a reduction in discounts for right to buy, to save public money and the ability in certain circumstances to suspend the right to buy locally.
- Keep an eye on the LEPs as they are disbanded and subsumed.

In summing up, Mark confirmed that the Chair was in conversations with the NHS and the police over Right Care, Right Person and that LGA had a campaign for Right to Buy discounts to be locally determined.

The Chair called for cross party support for councils issuing section 114 notices.

The Executive Advisory Board agreed to note the report and to delegate sign off of the written submission to the Autumn Statement to IGLs.

5 Civility Steering Group

Cllr Marianne Overton introduced the report highlighting the start of the fifth year of the LGA's Civility in Public Life programme. The Civility in Public Life Steering Group was established by the Executive Advisory Board in 2021, the key focus of which had been establishing the Debate Not Hate campaign, launched at the 2022 LGA Conference. Successes included building a coalition of motivated councils and other partners around the issue of tackling abuse and harassment. 42 councils had signed up to the Debate Not Hate public statement or passed a motion in support of the campaign, and 700 councillors had signed the public statement. Activity also included a training programme for councils, bespoke workshops on safety, and online safety.

During debate, members raised the following points:

- Concern over police capacity and resources.
- Councillors' safety is as important as other elected officials but isn't taken as seriously.
- Social media companies – particularly Facebook and Twitter/X – are not taking action to combat online harassment.
- Is this enough of a priority for the LGA and Councils? Are enough

resources being allocated to this work?

- The success of the campaign depends on councils with less carrot and more stick needed.
- Safety of Councillors' families also a concern.
- Members and their families are not council employees so local authority does not take action.
- Police need to take this matter seriously.

Members **agreed** to note the report.

6 Local Government white paper

During confidential session Ian Hughes, Director of Policy (Place) explained that following the announcement at Annual Conference that the LGA would publish a local government white paper, officers were seeking a steer on what the focus and priorities should be.

7 LGA Forward Plan

The LGA Forward Plan was included for information. There were no comments or suggestions.

8 RAAC

During confidential session, Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, gave a comprehensive history of RAAC as well as detailed update on the emerging situation.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
	Cllr Joe Harris	Cotswold District Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton	North Kesteven District Council
	MBE	
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Cllr Caroline Jackson	Lancaster City Council
Members	Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Satvir Kaur	Southampton City Council
	Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset Council

Cllr Martin Tett
Cllr Liz Green

Cllr Andrew Cooper
Cllr Tony Saffell
Cllr Robert Stewart
Cllr Marc Bayliss
Cllr Matthew Hicks
Cllr Graeme Miller
Cllr David Baines
Nick Adams-King
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen
Cllr Tim Oliver

Buckinghamshire Council
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough
Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
WLGA
West Midlands
East of England LGA
North East of England
North West Regional Leaders' Board
South East Councils
District Councils Network
County Councils Network

Apologies

Cllr Georgia Gould
Cllr Morris Bright MBE
Cllr Bridget Smith
Cllr Heather Kidd MBE
Cllr John Hart
Sir Stephen Houghton
CBE

Camden Council
Hertsmere Borough Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Shropshire Council
South West Councils
SIGOMA

In Attendance

Cllr Tudor Evans