

Local Government White Paper Update

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This paper updates members on the progress of the LGA's Local Government White Paper. A summary version of the paper is attached to this update. Members are asked to provide direction on the next steps for the White Paper focussed around three specific workstreams.

LGA Plan Theme: Strengthening our Voice

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the Board notes the summary of the Local Government White Paper and provides any views on the specific issues they would like covered within the three workstreams identified in paragraph 4 of this report**
- 2. That the Board provide views on how best to take forward the programmes of work as outlined in the table in paragraph 5 of this report.**
- 3. That the Board notes the accompanying communications plan for the White Paper**

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Local Government White Paper

Background

1. The LGA has been working on developing a White Paper for local government in preparation for the General Election. An extensive consultation process has taken place including:
 - Speaking to over 200 council leaders
 - Speaking to over 150 chief executives
 - Conversations with key stakeholder bodies, partners and think tanks
 - A range of challenge sessions with the sector, stakeholders and partners
 - Written submissions from councils
2. A summary of the White Paper accompanies this report. The White Paper identifies six national challenges which councils can help the government with:
 - Delivering wellbeing and prosperity
 - Building the homes we need
 - Supporting our children and young people
 - Reforming and sustainably funding adult social care
 - Supporting place making
 - Tackling climate change
3. The paper also recommends that councils can help the government deliver more if they have:
 - Sustainable funding
 - Genuine devolution
 - A new focus on prevention
 - The opportunity to minimise duplication in inspections and regulations

Proposal

4. The White Paper concludes by offering to work immediately with the next government on three workstreams:

- New equal and respectful central-local partnership
- Review of place-based public service reform
- Further improving cost-effectiveness and innovation

Feedback is sought from Executive Advisory Board (EAB) members about any of the specific issues they would like covered within these workstreams.

5. **To take forward the delivery of the three workstreams the following initial approach is recommended for members to comment on:**

Phases	Task	Date
Workstream Initiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify LGA lead/teams to scope each workstream • Identify and set up process to involve sector reps 	Early June
Concept development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop early brief identifying scope of the workstream 	Mid June
Pre-election sounding out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin early conversations with civil servants about developing joint workstreams 	Late June
Post election landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden conversations out to engage new/next government representatives • Work concepts into our introductory letters to new Ministers 	Early July

6. A communications plan has also been developed to support the launch of the White Paper (attached). The aim of this plan is to raise awareness of the Local Government White Paper with political audiences and members. We are also seeking to position the LGA and local government as trusted partners for the next government. Where possible we want to ensure key stakeholders engage with LGA messaging and joint lobbying is used for maximum impact.

7. The White Paper will be the key document used by the organisation during the campaign period and beyond. The initial launch will focus on visibility and engagement with political parties, PPCs, sector stakeholders and partners and members. With political clearance, the White Paper will also be used as the hook for a series of stories on the big challenges whilst we also respond to external events and the news agenda.

8. Other member organisations have also published or commented on their priorities for the general election. The table below outlines their key messages. All these bodies were part of our earlier consultation process for the White Paper:

Organisation	Top Line	Key priorities
CIPFA	Put public service reform at the heart of manifestos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid crisis cash repeat • Clear up backlogs • Address devolution and flexibility in the system • Tackle the charging system for social care
CCN	Manifesto for counties – an ambitious and bold vision to empower England’s County authorities and their communities	<p>4 Foundations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable long-term funding • An agenda for reform • Localising and devolving • Tackling climate change
NHS Confed	Building the health of the nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No top-down structural reform • Increase NHS capital spending • Fund and deliver the NHS long term workforce plan • Provide more care closer to home • Deliver a strategy for national health
DCN	Yet to publish	

9. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on the response to the publication of both the short and long versions of the White Paper which will both have been published by the time EAB meets.

Implications for Wales

10. Continue to work with the WLGA to share the key messages from the document.

Financial Implications

11. The breadth of these workstreams will determine whether extra resources will be needed. Officers will return to EAB with a business case if required.

Equalities Implications

12. We will need to ensure that the detailed work of the three workstreams take into consideration the equalities implications of any proposals they develop.

Next steps

13. The summary White Paper has been agreed by the Chair and Group Leaders on behalf of the EAB due to the sudden announcement of the General Election. The proposals

around the three workstreams, the fuller version of the White Paper and the communications plan will also be cleared by the Chair and Group Leaders.