

Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Title:	LGA Executive
Date:	Thursday 23 October 2014
Venue:	Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Declarations of Interest No declarations were made.	
2	English Devolution Carolyn Downs (Chief Executive) introduced the report which sought Members' views on how the LGA should best pursue the devolution agenda following the momentum created by the Scottish independence referendum. Following positive discussions at recent meetings of the City Regions and People and Places Boards, officers had been tasked with developing a route map for differential devolution. She informed Members that the Prime Minister had delegated responsibility to open dialogue with the LGA on devolution to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The LGA Chair would be meeting with Danny Alexander MP on 3 November. The report was agreed without further comment. Decision That the LGA Executive considered the issues set out in the report and agreed to give Group Leaders a mandate to take the LGA's devolution agenda forward.	
3	Better Care Fund Andrew Webster (Director of Integration) updated on the Better Care Fund (BCF) following the submission of revised plans by all local areas bar one, and summarised the national and regional assurance process. He expressed cautious optimism that the interests of local government had been defended, with little change in the overall integration funding envelope; however he noted that there were now more onerous conditions attached to the funding. In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serious concerns were expressed that the changes to the BCF had undermined the original shared ambition for health and social care integration and prevented councils from focusing resources fully on delivering better health outcomes. Members emphasised the importance of a long term, whole system approach focused on better health outcomes, as opposed to short term targets.• In discussing the vital importance of effective cross working between the health service and local government, a number of specific concerns were expressed. These included: the admissions criteria and the length of time it would take to evidence reductions in admissions to secure funding; the need for a funding mechanism that equitably incentivises; the shift in risk from the NHS to local authorities; the accountability of Clinical Commissioning Groups; and the need to facilitate a cultural shift away from micromanagement to a shared responsibility approach, based on 5 year budgets.• Members shared intelligence from within their localities, including feedback from one council that had chosen not to submit their revised plan until all parties involved were satisfied that it met their shared objectives. It was suggested that the LGA pull together councils' experiences from across the country as a means of sharing learning, as well as building up an evidence base.	
	<p>Decision</p> <p>The LGA Executive asked that its views inform the continuing dialogue on the Better Care Fund between the LGA and the Department for Health.</p>	
4	<p>Autumn Statement 2014: LGA Submission</p> <p>The LGA Chair briefly introduced the LGA's submission to Her Majesty's Treasury in advance of the Autumn Statement, expected on 3 December 2014. He noted that the overarching themes of the submission had been agreed by the Leadership Board, with the individual service paragraphs approved by the relevant policy Boards and the introduction signed off by the Resources Board.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Executive welcomed and endorsed the submission; however Members asked that it also make reference to central role of the sector in the welfare reform agenda, with particular reference to the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) and Universal Credit. In response to questions, it was confirmed that the LGA would oppose any new burdens on councils should the LWAS fund be withdrawn as a distinct grant in 2015/16 as currently being proposed.	

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- With reference to the devolution agenda, Members noted the importance of making clear that funding not only needed to be devolved to the four constituent parts of the United Kingdom, but also within them as well.
- It was noted that long term local government finance settlements was a specific ask in the LGA's submission and a key element of the LGA's wider *First 100 Days* work.

Decision

The Executive endorsed the LGA's Autumn Statement Submission, subject to the addition of a section on welfare reform.

5 Note of the last Leadership Board meeting - Tabled

Decision

The Executive noted the minutes of the Leadership Board held on Wednesday 22 October.

6 Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Decision

The Executive agreed the minutes of the previous Executive meeting held on 11 September.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
	Cllr David Sparks OBE (Chair)	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Jim McMahon (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Gary Porter (Vice-Chair)	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Vice-Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Sue Murphy	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council

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	Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Barbara Janke	Bristol City Council
	Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Cllr John Hart	South West Councils
	Cllr Tony Jackson	East of England LGA
	Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	South East England Councils
	Mayor Jules Pipe	London Councils
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	East Midlands Councils
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	West Midlands LGA
	Cllr Paul Watson	Association of North East Councils
	Cllr Barrie Grunewald	North West Regional Leaders Board
	Alderman Sir David Wootton	Local Partnerships
	Cllr Gillian Brown	District Councils Network
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	SIGOMA
Apologies:	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Claire Kober	Haringey Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	County Councils Network (CCN)