

## **Improvement & Innovation Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)**

### **IMPROVEMENT**

1. Our focus has been around the launch of the consultation on the future of sector led improvement “Taking stock: where next with sector-led improvement”. This has been promoted widely in the sector and with national stakeholders. Members are encouraged to respond to the consultation which closes on 13<sup>th</sup> March and can be accessed online at <http://www.local.gov.uk/sector-led-improvement>
2. I, along with Cllrs Jill Shortland, Claire Kober and Ian Stephens, participated in a podcast designed to stimulate debate around the consultation. We shared our experiences of sector-led improvement and discussed possible areas for development in the future. You can view the podcast on our website or on the LGA YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRz5MdoAIN8>. If the podcast is successful, the Board may consider repeating the exercise in order to promote its work.
3. The launch of our consultation has been covered widely in the trade press and national media and I made the objectives of the consultation clear. ‘Local government is one of the most trusted parts of the public sector but with rising public expectations and resourcing pressures, political parties are thinking about potential policy changes impacting on local government. Now is the right time for us to ask whether what we are currently doing is the right approach for the future or whether any changes are needed.’

### **PRODUCTIVITY**

4. I met with Lord Young, Enterprise Adviser to the Prime Minister, to raise concerns that provisions in the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill could be used to introduce a one-size-fits-all approach to procurement, contrary to the principle of localism. This would be detrimental to local government’s innovative approach to procurement with local small businesses and the voluntary sector. The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill continues its passage through the House of Lords in March and you can read the LGA briefings [here](#).
5. Councillor Shirley Flint spoke at the Inside Government Conference ‘The Future of Local Government Commercialism: Improving Services, Increasing Efficiencies’ on 28 January. The conference focused on the need to adopt a more commercial culture and approach across local government at times of financial constraint. Delegates also discussed how to innovate and transform service delivery to provide better, more efficient public services.

### **LEADERSHIP**

6. On 5 and 6 February, Councillor Judi Billing delivered sessions to Opposition Leaders and Deputy Leaders on the Effective Opposition programme which aims to enhance members’ self-awareness; influencing, engagement and alliance-building skills; consideration of the role of officers in this context; and ultimately, effectiveness in opposition.
7. On 23 February, Councillor Billing delivered a ‘Be a Councillor’ session to members and officers at the South East Employers’ Local Democracy and Accountability Network. The discussion covered

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ideas around how to recruit new talented candidates, understanding their needs, and supporting them effectively.

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