

## Note of last LGA Executive meeting

---

<b>Title:</b>	LGA Executive
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 5 March 2015
<b>Venue:</b>	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
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Declarations of Interest</b>	
	<p>The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Stephen Hughes, former Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council, who had taken up the role of LGA Executive Director on an interim basis.</p> <p>No declarations of Interest were made.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Final Report of the Non-Metropolitan Commission</b>	
	<p>Sir Tony Hawkhead, the Chief Executive of Action for Children and one of the Commissioners on the Non-Metropolitan Commission, provided a high level overview of the review's final report which had been published that day. The Commission, which had been established to explore ways to stimulate economic growth regionally, create new jobs and help people live their lives better, had made a series of seven practical and implementable recommendations. Sir Tony outlined these recommendations which were based on the principle of locally led devolution in partnership with Government and were designed to provide greater powers to local authorities to free them to work more innovatively and collaboratively. In doing so, he noted that the recommendations were equally applicable to non-metropolitan areas and urged the LGA use the report in its lobbying for greater devolution of powers from Whitehall.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:</p>	

**Item Decisions and actions**

**Action**

**Communications Strategy**

- Members welcomed the Commission's report, recognising its findings as mutually supportive and complementary of the recommendations made by the Independent Local Government Finance and RSA Cities Commissions. They highlighted the important role of the three Commissions in advancing the devolution debate through strengthening the evidence base, providing practical proposals and normalising devolution of powers to localities as a precondition of sustainable public service delivery.
- Members emphasised the need for a cohesive LGA approach in taking forward the findings of the three Commissions to ensure clarity of message and to maximise traction. It was noted that the People & Place and City Regions Boards would be taking this work forward.
- With reference to the challenge of addressing Whitehall reticence to differential devolution models, suggestions included strengthening and broadening the evidence base to demonstrate the benefits of devolution in areas including skills, infrastructure and health.
- Members welcomed the emergence of devolution models in two non-metropolitan areas and highlighted it as critical to broadening out the devolution debate countrywide.

**Governance**

- There was a detailed discussion regarding the complexities of defining non-metropolitan areas and the array of existing and often incongruous sub regional boundaries.
- There were strong views from Members that future governance arrangements in non-metropolitan areas would be critical to success and that each area should make a proactive and robust case for collaboration based on what works locally.

**Decisions**

The LGA Executive:

- i. welcomed the Non-Metropolitan Commission's report; and
- ii. supported its findings.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
3	<p data-bbox="284 472 1278 539"><b>Final Report of the Independent Local Government Finance Commission</b></p> <p data-bbox="284 584 1278 786">Stephen Hughes (Executive Director and Commissioner) introduced the report which summarised the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance which had recently published its final report; <i>Financing English Devolution</i>. In doing so, he highlighted the Commission's high level findings and welcomed Members' views within the context of the LGA's wider work on devolution in England.</p> <p data-bbox="284 819 1278 887">In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:</p> <ul data-bbox="336 920 1278 1742" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members welcomed the Commission's report and noted the complementarity of a number of its findings with those of the Non-Met Commission's recommendations and a similar piece of work on financial sustainability by SIGOMA.</li><li>• In discussing how to progress the recommendations, Members emphasised the importance of making a compelling case to Government that demonstrates the financial and outcome benefits of devolving much greater public expenditure to local areas through a place based approach. Local areas being able to retain 100 per cent of business rate was highlighted as key to the success of a locally devolved funding model.</li><li>• With reference to the potentially complex geographies of certain areas, questions were asked as to how the Commission's 'sub national' proposals would operate.</li><li>• The Commission's call for a review of local government functions and sustainability, along with recognition of the need for an equalisation mechanism were welcomed. However, concerns were expressed regarding how the mechanism would operate and the timescale for review. Particular reference was made to the need to continue to emphasise the underlying flaws with the current distribution formula.</li></ul>	
	<p data-bbox="284 1771 1278 1805"><b>Decision</b></p>	
	<p data-bbox="284 1839 1278 1872">The LGA Executive:</p>	
	<ol data-bbox="336 1906 1278 2074" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="336 1906 1278 2007">i. welcomed the recommendations of the Commission in the context of the Executive's broader work on devolution in England; and</li><li data-bbox="336 2040 1278 2074">ii. asked that their views inform the LGA's promotion of the</li></ol>	

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
	<p>Commission's recommendations as a means of influencing the next Government.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>LGA Business Plan 2015/16</b></p> <p>The Chair moved the LGA Business Plan for 2015/16 which had been recommended by the LGA Leadership Board at its meeting on 4 March.</p> <p>A Member highlighted the valuable role of the LGA in seeking to influence European legislation on behalf of member councils. The Chair echoed the Members comments and noted the importance that this work be reflected more visibly in future Business Plans.</p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <p>That the LGA Executive <b>agreed</b> the LGA's Business Plan for 2015/16.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>LGA Budget 2015/16</b></p> <p>The Chair moved the LGA Budget for 2015/16, which had been recommended by the Leadership Board at its meeting on 4 March.</p> <p>There followed a discussion regarding the LGA's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) allocation, including its current and potential future use, as well as the principles underpinning the LGA's sector-led improvement programme. A number of different views were expressed, with particular reference the importance of encouraging universal uptake of the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge offer.</p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <p>The LGA Executive <b>agreed</b> the LGA's Business Plan for 2015/16.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Note of the last Leadership Board meeting - Tabled</b></p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <p>The LGA Executive noted the minutes of the previous Leadership Board meeting held on 4 March 2015.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Note of last LGA Executive meeting</b></p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <p>The LGA Executive agreed the minutes of the previous Executive meeting</p>	

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
------	-----------------------	--------

held on 22 January 2015.

**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
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Claire Kober	Haringey Council
	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County 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 Local Government Association (EELGA)
	Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	South East England Councils (SEEC)
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	East Midlands Councils
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	West Midlands LGA
	Cllr Paul Watson	Association of North East Councils
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	County Councils Network (CCN)
	Cllr Gillian Brown	District Councils Network
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	SIGOMA
Apologies:	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council

11 June 2015

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decisions and actions</b>	<b>Action</b>
	Mayor Jules Pipe Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE Cllr Barrie Grunewald	London Councils Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) North West Regional Leaders Board