

17 June 2015

## **Priorities for the New Parliament**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction

### **Summary**

Although there are specific items elsewhere on the agenda on Bills that impact on the Board's remit, Office Holders have asked for a more general discussion of the Board's priorities with the new government.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to identify the key LGA priorities for working with and influencing the new government.

### **Action**

Officers to take action arising out of discussion, as directed by members.

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## **Priorities for the New Parliament**

1. Although there are specific items elsewhere on the agenda on Bills that impact on the Board's remit, Office Holders have suggested that the Board should have a more general discussion of the Board's priorities with the new government. The dynamics of working with a majority government elected with a clear mandate will be different from working with the previous coalition. So it will be important to identify areas where LGA work has a realistic chance of success and add value.
2. An initial discussion among Office Holders shortly after the Election identified a number of areas that might be considered:
  - 2.1. A focus on the importance of excellent school leadership and classroom teaching in raising school standards, rather than changing school structures; and the council role as employer of the majority of school staff in supporting excellence in schools
  - 2.2. Stronger council powers to turn around failing schools without asking permission from DfE and Ofsted
  - 2.3. Continued work on the evidence base comparing the performance of academies with council-maintained schools
  - 2.4. A clear LGA stance on the employment of unqualified teachers in academies and free schools
  - 2.5. A stronger role for councils in decisions about new free schools in their areas, to support their place planning duties and make sure public money is spent efficiently
  - 2.6. A role for councils in making sure that new schools are fit for purpose, high quality and value for money
  - 2.7. In the context of city deals and devolution, the important contribution that councils can make to improving local schools and skills provision to support local economies
  - 2.8. A greater role for councils in joining up early years and childcare provision
  - 2.9. A focus on better parenting to improve outcomes for children
  - 2.10. Continued work to support councils to respond to child sexual exploitation
  - 2.11. Continued work to support councils maximise the benefits of the transfer to councils of responsibility for children's public health services
  - 2.12. Continued work around safeguarding and the role of Local Safeguarding Boards
  - 2.13. A continued focus on improving fostering and adoption outcomes
  - 2.14. An offer coordinate multiple funding streams for early years, health, troubled families and safeguarding, as part of devolution deals
3. Members are asked to identify the key LGA priorities for working with and influencing the new government in the context of diminishing LGA staff resources.