

Note of last LGA Executive meeting (Confidential)

Title: LGA Executive
Date: Thursday 11 June 2015
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
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1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

2 Opening Remarks

The Chairman congratulated those members that has been successfully re-elected in the recent local elections.

All four Political Group Leaders paid tribute to Cllr David Sparks OBE for his leadership of the LGA during his year as Chair but also for his commitment and service to the LGA over many years in a variety of political roles. In particular, they hoped that he would continue be involved in the LGA after his term as Chair had concluded.

The Chair and Political Group Leaders expressed their gratitude Carolyn Down who would be leaving the LGA over the summer after four years as LGA Chief Executive. They congratulated her on being appointed to the London Borough of Brent as Chief Executive and expressed their thanks for her commitment and dedication which had helped the LGA achieve significant successes also whilst putting it on a stable financial footing.

3 The Council Role in Education and School Place Planning

Cllr David Simmonds, Chairman of the Children & Young People Board, introduced the item which summarised recent LGA work on the council role in relation to schools and school place planning. With reference to the proposed changes in the Education Bill, he invited the Executive's comments on the report as a proposed framework for taking forward the LGA's lobbying.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:

- With reference to the Department for Education's forecast demand for primary school places, it was noted that these figures did not take into account geographical factors and therefore did not

necessarily accurately reflect the situation in specific localities.
This was an issue which the LGA were pursuing with Government.

- There was cross party support for exploring the possibility of expanding the remit of the Public Services Ombudsman to include Education. Members felt that this would provide a more accessible and independent mechanism to hold academies to account.
- In discussing schools funding and the increase in creation of academies and free schools, a Member highlighted the importance that parents be consulted on decisions regarding schooling in their localities. With reference to school place planning, differing views were expressed as to the value of this being purely demand, or reconciled at a local level.

Decision

The LGA Executive endorsed the report and asked that their comment inform the development of the LGA's work in this area.

4 Queen's Speech 2015

Laurence Meehan (Head of Campaigns & External Communications) introduced the item which set out the key legislation in the Queen's Speech affecting local government. He invited the Executive's comments on the suggested priorities for LGA activity.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:

- Serious concerns were expressed that the Policing and Criminal Justice Bill may include proposals to transfer the role Fire and Rescue Authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners. Members highlighted the important that this issue be kept on a close watching brief and that it be a priority issue for the LGA.
- With reference to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, Members welcomed comments made by Marcus Jones MP (Under Secretary of State for Local Government) which indicated that depending on the size of a locality and scale of devolution, the Government would be open to an alternative model than elected Mayor.
- With reference to consistent LGA lobbying and ongoing joint working with the Home Office, Members welcomed the announcement of the Psychoactive Substances Bill and highlighted it as a key success for the LGA.

- In discussing the Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement) Bills, Members emphasised the importance of cross country collaboration - particularly with reference to Wales - due to the importance of cross-border movement to local economies.
- Comments and questions were also raised regarding specific elements of the: Investigatory Powers Bill; Housing Bill; and Enterprise Bill.
- Members asked for an analysis to be undertaken to establish how many of the LGA's First 100 Days proposals were reflected in the Government's legislative agenda.

Decision

The LGA Executive **approved** the suggested priority Bills for the LGA in the 2015/16 parliamentary session.

Action

Circulate an analysis of the areas of commonality between the Government's legislative agenda and the LGA's First 100 Days proposals.

Laurence Meehan.

5 Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2015-2016

The Chair briefly introduced the report which set out the revised proportionality of the LGA following the local elections on 7 May and the implications for the distribution of seats amongst the political groups on the LGA's governance structures.

It was noted that at its meeting the previous day, the LGA Leadership Board had agreed two changes to the figures as detailed in the report. The Leadership Board had agreed to increase the number of Deputy Chairs of the Association by four – one per political group – as well as to allocate the Independent Group an additional seat on the People and Places Board.

Decision

The Executive noted the revised proportionality figures for 2015/2016.

6 Annual Report of the LGA's Audit Committee

The LGA Chair moved the report which provided an overview the work undertaken by the Audit Committee in 2014/15 without further comment.

The report was agreed without comment.

Decision

The LGA Executive agreed the annual report of the Audit Committee to be presented the General Assembly on 30 June 2015.

7 Note of the last Leadership Board meeting - Tabled

The four political group leaders provided an update on discussion from their political group meetings on proposed changes to the LGA's governance structures. Although Members felt further work was required to strengthen accountability within the current proposals, all four groups were content to pilot the proposals on selected group of Boards from September.

Decision

The LGA Executive noted the minutes of the LGA Leadership Board held on Wednesday 10 June 2015.

8 Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Decision

The LGA Executive agreed the minutes of the LGA Executive held on Thursday 5 March 2015.

9 LGA and IDeA Budget 2015-16

Stephen Hughes (Executive Director) introduced the item which presented a revised 2015/16 budget summary for the LGA Executive's agreement.

In the discussion that followed, Members asked questions about the LGA's financial and performance monitoring mechanisms and expressed disappointment that more detail had not been provided that would have enabled cross comparison between the original budget and the revised figures.

Decision

The LGA Executive **agreed** the LGA's budget for 2015/16.

Action

That the LGA's performance report for 2014/15 be circulated LGA Executive Members for information.

10 Report on the Future of Health and Social Care

Sally Burlington (Head of Programme) introduced the item which summarised the findings of an LGA commissioned report on the future of health and social care. In doing so, she highlighted commonality of the findings with LGA lobbying positions, such as calling for a greater focus on people, more preventative approach and need for additional funding. She invited the Executive to comment on the reports' conclusions but also to share their views on the implications of closer working between local authorities and the NHS for risk sharing.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:

- In welcoming the report's findings, Members emphasised the importance of investing in preventative services and that social care services must be fully funded.
- With regard to risk, it was noted that sharing risk had been a feature of joint working between local authorities and Primary Care trusts (PCTs).
- In discussing taking this work forward, suggestions included: making use of international comparison; supporting authorities' with ambitions to expand their remit into acute services; acknowledging the impact of geography, demography and authority type on the shape of integration; and addressing the issue of accountability and coordination of services within a locality.

Decision

The LGA Executive welcomed and endorsed the findings of the independent '*Creating a better care system*' report by Ernst & Young.

11 LGA Spending Review 2015 Submission

Cllr Claire Kober (Resources Board Chair) introduce the report which set out the LGA's draft Spending Review Submission. In doing so, she outlined the three principles underpinning the submission: greater freedoms and flexibilities; public service reform; and greater influence over funding and spending locally. The LGA Executive was asked to comment on and clear the submission for launch at Annual Conference.

Stephen Hughes updated Members on the Leadership Board's comments on the submission the previous day; with particular reference to a discussion about de-ring fencing of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, including:

- Members expressed concerns at the prospect of de-ring fencing the DSG, expressing support instead for calling for greater flexibility of use of DSG at a local level.
- The LGA Executive expressed their broad support for the submission, however asked that it also reflect: the challenges of demand led pressures beyond local authority control; and the need to financially compensate local authorities fully for the loss of council tax and business rates as a result of universities and large student populations.
- Further details and clarity were asked for regarding the £2.8 billion Whitehall savings.
- With reference to the importance of Business Rates safety

measures, there was a strong feeling that any review of national infrastructure should not impact on local pooling arrangements. It was agreed that this issues would be most effectively raised through the LGA's response to the Government's Business Rates consultation, rather than in the Spending Review Submission.

Decision

The LGA Executive approved the content of the LGA Spending Review submission for launch at Annual Conference, subject to inclusion of their comments.

Action

Reflected LGA Executive's comments in the LGA's Spending Review Submission to be launched at conference.

12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Chair noted that as the July meeting of the LGA Executive has been cancelled, the next meeting would be on Thursday, 17 September 2015.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Sparks OBE	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Jim McMahan OBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Members	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr John Hart	South West Councils	
Cllr Tony Jackson	East of England Local Government Association	
Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	South East England Councils	

Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Paul Watson
Cllr Nicolas Heslop
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE
Cllr Tudor Evans
Cllr Helen Holland
Cllr Iain Malcolm
Cllr Robert Bucke

East Midlands Councils
West Midlands LGA
Association of North East Councils
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
County Councils Network
Plymouth City Council
Bristol City Council
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Tendring District Council

Apologies

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock
Cllr Keith Wakefield
Cllr Mike Jones
Cllr Izzi Seccombe
Cllr Ian Stephens
Mayor Jules Pipe
Cllr Stephen Parnaby
OBE
Cllr Barrie Grunewald
Alderman Sir David
Wootton
Cllr David Phillips
Cllr Gillian Brown
Sir Stephen Houghton
CBE

Lewisham London Borough Council
Leeds City Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Warwickshire County Council
Isle of Wight Council
London Councils
Local Government Yorkshire and Humber

North West Regional Leaders Board
Local Partnerships

Welsh Local Government Association
District Councils Network
SIGOMA