

## Note of the Previous Meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Improvement and Innovation Board
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 14 July 2015
<b>Venue:</b>	Smith Square 3 and 4, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.  No declarations of interest were made.	
2	<b>Innovation in councils</b>  Cllr Peter Fleming and Rhian Gladman introduced the report, which provided members with an update on the LGA's work to support innovation in councils.  The successes of the Innovation Zone at Annual Conference were highlighted. Members discussed how best to promote the Innovation Zone and disseminate its work.  <b>Action</b>  The Chairman to write a letter of thanks to Maggie Philbin (Teen Tech) and Hewlett-Packard for their contributions towards the Innovation Zone at Annual Conference.  Officers to provide an update on the Design in the public sector programme, to the next meeting.  <b>Decision</b>  Members <b>noted</b> the report.	
3	<b>Launch of the 2015/16 Highlighting Leadership offer</b>  Cllr Judi Billing introduced the report, which outlined the LGA's political and managerial leadership offer for 2015/16 and initial take up from bookings to date. Cllr Billing noted that since the publication of this report, sign-up for the Leadership Essentials course has more than doubled to	

265.

Members discussed the value of working with a variety of councillors, from across authorities and parties, and the importance of the offer for members in opposition as well as in power. The role of the political group offices in promoting awareness of the programmes was noted.

#### **Action**

Officers and members to promote the offer further, particularly in the North East region.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

### **4 Sector-led improvement: finance support for councils**

Cllr Jill Shortland introduced the paper, which reported back to members on the progress of work to develop the sector-led improvement offer with respect to financial issues.

Members welcomed feedback from the pilot Financial Reviews as a great example of the effectiveness of sector-led improvement.

Issues raised included:

- the importance of keeping under review the interaction of the Financial Reviews with Corporate Peer Challenges
- the need for resource implications on peers to be taken into account and the need to attract new finance peers
- the value of the ongoing feedback process in enabling us to articulate value.

#### **Action**

Board Members to put recommended member and officer finance peers in touch with officers.

#### **Decision**

Members **agreed** the next steps as outlines at para 11 to the report.

### **5 Productivity programme**

Cllr Shirley Pannell introduced the report, which updated the Board on the progress being made in the Productivity Programme.

The Board welcomed Chris Bradley, Senior Commercial Manager at Surrey County Council, and Stephen Hughes, Interim Executive Director, LGA. Each presented briefly on their work with the Advanced Commercialisation Group (ACG).

## **Decision**

Members **noted** the report and asked for consideration to be given to developing guidance setting out the sort of issues councils would need to address when considering taking a more commercial approach to activities.

## **6 Collective Switching Framework**

Cllr Shirley Pannell introduced the report, which set out the options available to the Board once the current collective switching framework comes to a natural end in November 2015. The report also set out a number of additional ways in which councils could help their residents to save money on their energy bills.

Members made a number of comments about the collective switching framework, including:

- the market has moved on beyond what the existing Collective Switching Framework currently offers
- questioning the value for the LGA of continuing to involve itself directly in collective switching. The means by which councils can support residents in managing their energy bills had diversified since the framework was established such that the LGA should be promoting a wider range of methods to councils
- the importance of ensuring that the councils currently using the existing Collective Switching Framework are not disadvantaged by any decision.
- Option A endorses a single provider when there are others on the market.

Members went on to discuss how the LGA could support councils to help their residents to save money on their energy bills. It was noted that there was a diverse range of good practice across the country, and members felt the LGA should publish further details of these to enable councils to identify the most appropriate local approach.

It was **agreed** that:

- (i) the collective switching framework come to an end in November 2015 with a vote of eight in favour and seven against.
- (ii) officers collate and publish details of the various schemes and options available to councils wanting to support their residents in reducing their energy bills, linking to good practice across the country.

## **7 LGA Boards' improvement activity**

Nick Easton introduced the report, which detailed the improvement activities undertaken by the LGA Boards since the last meeting of this Board.

Members discussed:

- the value of detailed evaluation of different mayoral models to inform the devolution debate
- the importance of fostering mutual understanding between Health Sector and Local Government in improving Health and Wellbeing.

### **Action**

Officers to take forward work on governance models in the context of the broader support offer on devolution being developed by the City Regions and People and Places Board.

## **8 Annual review of the year**

Dennis Skinner introduced the Annual Review, looking at the key Board achievements of the year. The report was also to be considered by the LGA Executive in September 2015.

Particular achievements highlighted included:

- 132 Peer Challenges in 2015/15 and 3,200+ days of senior councillor and officer time dedicated to Corporate Peer Challenge teams since 2011
- 577 councillors from 241 councils attended leadership development programmes in 2014/15
- LG Inform had 97% of councils registered with 500,000+ hits since its launch
- a refreshed shared services map identifying 416 shared services arrangements resulting in £462m efficiency savings.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

## **9 Note of the previous meeting**

The note of the previous meeting was **agreed**.

Members thanked Cllrs Peter Fleming and Jill Shortland since it was their last meeting as Chairman and Vice-Chair respectively.

**Appendix A - Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Shirley Pannell	North Kesteven District Council
Members	Cllr Claudia Webbe	Islington Council
	Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Darren Cooper	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Glen Miller	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
	Mr Richard Priestman	Local Government Improvement and Development
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
	Cllr Richard Stay	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Theresa Higgins	Essex County Council
	Cllr John Blackie	Richmondshire District Council
	Mr Philip Sellwood	Energy Saving Trust (EST)
	Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council