

Note of last Improvement & Innovation Board meeting

Title: Improvement & Innovation Board
Date: Monday 2 November 2015
Venue: Smith Square 1&2, Ground 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
1	Welcome and Declarations of Interest The Chairman welcomed members to the first Board meeting of the new cycle. He said that he sees the strategic work of the Improvement & Innovation Board as one of the most valuable contributions that the LGA makes to local government and that he looks forward to working with members and officers to take this work forward. Cllr Judi Billing declared an interest with regard to the Leadership Academy's re-tendering process.	
2	Membership and Terms of Reference for 2015/16 Members agreed the Board's membership and terms of reference for 2015/16.	
3	Priorities and Work Programme for 2015/16 The Chairman and Dennis Skinner introduced a report on the Board's Priorities and Work Programme for 2015/16 drawing attention to the depth and effectiveness of the current improvement offer and the high regard in which it is held by the sector. The Chairman said that in a sector-led model which relies on "peer to peer" support a key issue facing the Board is how to identify skills gaps within our peer base and recruit new high-quality peers to fill any such gaps. Dennis Skinner highlighted the steps taken to develop the LGA's sector-led improvement offer, in the light of the results of the recent "Taking stock" consultation and to promote participation in peer challenges as set out in paragraph 14 of the report. The Chairman sought members' opinions on whether to allocate portfolios to specific members and, if so, to whom. He noted that any such portfolios should be aligned with the strategic priorities of the LGA, and suggested possible portfolios on reputation, Europe and international, and portfolios	

that link in with the work of other LGA structures, such as the Community and Wellbeing Portfolio.

Members discussed the possibility of merging the 'improvement' and 'innovation' priorities, and changing the 'transparency' priority into an 'accountability' priority. They also looked favourably upon the idea of establishing portfolios for:

- research and sharing;
- reputation and communications;
- devolution
- finance
- housing.

Members supported the idea of establishing an ambassadorial role to help promote the improvement offer, particularly peer challenges, and suggested that national and regional lead member peers might play a role in this.

Members highlighted the positive results of sector-led improvement and emphasised the importance of ensuring that it is not seen as another form of inspection.

Action

Lead members will discuss priorities and portfolio arrangements in light of members' feedback with a view to putting proposals to the next Board meeting.

Decision

Members noted the steps being taken to improve the LGA's sector-led improvement offer and in particular peer challenge, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report.

Members **agreed** that officers should draw together a programme of action to develop the peer pool.

4 Productivity Programme

Cllr Shirley Pannell and Alan Finch introduced the report, which provided members with some background information on the Productivity Programme and an update of the progress being made by the programme.

The Commissioning Academy was highlighted as a major success story for the LGA. The Chairman agreed that it exemplifies one of the unique selling points of the LGA, which is the organisation's ability to encourage effective sharing of how successful working models can be applied in different areas.

Members discussed the optimal range of activities that the Productivity Programme should cover, and the tools that are appropriate for measuring successful outcomes. Members felt there was a continuing interest in guidance/good practice around establishing local housing companies and

were keen to support councils in the digital agenda, particularly overcoming exclusion issues. They requested further information on which councils are participating in the digital experts programme.

Action

Officers will circulate further information to members on which councils are involved in the digital experts programme.

Decision

Members noted the report.

5 2015/16 Highlighting Leadership Offer

Cllr Judi Billing and Pascoe Sawyers introduced the report, which outlined the political and managerial leadership sector-led improvement offer for 2015/16 and the take-up from bookings to date. They provided members with a print-out of some updated statistics that showed a surge in participation in leadership programmes for 2015 and also a surge in participation for certain political parties.

Pascoe Sawyers suggested that this surge may be due to better targeting and marketing of the LGA's Leadership Offer, as well as closer working arrangements with Principal Advisors. He also noted that there has been an increase in e-learning.

Members discussed the importance of engaging young people in the leadership programmes, and therefore of assessing the demographic breakdown of participants in the various programmes. They also sought data on the long-term impacts of participation in the leadership programmes.

Action

Officers will feed back further information to the Board on council engagement in the various leadership programmes, and consider how best to gather longitudinal impact data showing the long-term outcomes of participation.

Decision

Members noted the report and **agreed** the proposed Leadership Academy tender process as set out in paragraph 16 of the report.

6 Data and Local Transparency

The Chairman introduced the report, which informs and updates members about current activities in the data and local transparency programmes. It also asks for members' steer on the content of the LGA's response to the call for evidence from the Independent Commission on Freedom of Information. The deadline for submissions is Friday 20 November 2015.

Action

Officers will circulate a draft of the LGA's response to the call for evidence from the Independent Commission on Freedom of Information for lead members to approve prior to submission on Friday 20 November 2015.

Decision

Members noted the report.

7 Care and Health Improvement Programme 2016/17 and Beyond

Andy Hughes was invited to present an initial draft of the Care and Health Improvement Programme for 2016/17 and beyond. He introduced the programme as an effort to bring together work that the LGA has been involved in with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Department of Health (DoH) into a single coherent sector-led initiative. The aim was to complete the transition from individual programmes to a single, more simplified, offer for the sector positioned around the key areas of leadership, integration, core service delivery (commissioning, markets and safeguarding) and managing risks and resilience.

He highlighted the following key elements of the proposed programme for 2016/17:

- strengthening the sector-led approach on workforce, commissioning and leadership;
- engaging with the NHS to take a more holistic approach to the care and health economy;
- focussing the programme on the core concerns that inhibit integration and are barriers to improvement and change as outlined in paragraph 8 of the report;
- promoting a universal offer that looks to learn from best practice and provides bespoke offers as required;
- developing a single care and health economy peer challenge.

Members welcomed the transition to a more simplified offer but recognised several measures in the draft programme that have been proposed before. They suggested that the draft programme could be complemented by a sharper focus on the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards, and that consideration be given to the role of district and borough councils and relationships with Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Action

Andy Hughes will speak to the Community and Wellbeing Portfolio and the proposals will be discussed with a range of external stakeholders before the programme is confirmed in early 2016.

Decision

Members noted the presentation and commented as indicated above.

8 LGA Boards' Improvement Activity

Nick Easton introduced the report, which detailed the improvement activities undertaken by the other LGA Boards.

Members discussed:

- The meaning of the 'strategic oversight' that this Board has over other LGA Boards. This was to act as a "gatekeeper" to ensure improvement activities were consistent with the objectives of the LGA Business plan and developed in accordance with the principles on which sector led improvement was based.
- The methods by which the Board might exercise its strategic oversight function, with a particular focus on adopting a collaborative approach with other Boards.

9 Note of the Previous Meeting

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

It was noted that Cllrs Sue Whitaker, Sue Woodward, Bob Price, Barry Wood and Laura Conway attended the previous meeting but are not included on the attached attendance list.

Action

The Member Services Officer will check and update the attendance list for the previous meeting.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Judi Billing MBE Cllr Shirley Pannell	North Hertfordshire District Council North Kesteven District Council
Members	Cllr David Neighbour Cllr Cherry Beath Cllr Claudia Webbe Cllr Darren Cooper Cllr Bob Price Cllr Sue Whitaker Cllr Keith Glazier Cllr Dominic Gilham Cllr John Blackie Cllr Mike Haines Cllr Laura Conway Mr Richard Priestman Mr Philip Sellwood Cllr Robert Gould Cllr Stephen Parnaby	Hart District Council Bath & North East Somerset Council Islington Council Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Oxford City Council Norfolk County Council East Sussex County Council Hillingdon London Borough Council Richmondshire District Council Teignbridge District Council North Kesteven District Council Local Government Improvement and Development Energy Saving Trust (EST) Dorset County Council East Riding of Yorkshire Council

OBE

Cllr Linda Robinson
Cllr Michael Wilcox
Cllr Barry Wood
Cllr Lewis Herbert
Cllr Sue Woodward
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE
Cllr Paul Bettison

Wychavon District Council
Lichfield District Council
Cherwell District Council
Cambridge City Council
Staffordshire County Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Apologies

Mayor Dave Hodgson
Cllr Phil Davies
Cllr Bryony Rudkin

Bedford Borough Council
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Suffolk County Council