

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

28 November 2008

REVIEW OF THE HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LGA

Report by Lead Chief Executive for Association Business

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That HIOW/LGA be retained for the time being and refreshed in the ways proposed in paragraph 7;
- (2) That the Constitution be amended to allow more flexibility in Member meetings as proposed in paragraph 8 (this requires a 2/3 majority); and
- (3) That the role of the Association be re-considered in the light of the outcomes of the Government's Sub-National Review (SNR).

BACKGROUND

1. The Association was set up in 1997 following local government re-organisation and closure of the Hampshire Association of District Councils. Its objectives are to:

- provide a means for facilitating co-operation between the constituent authorities
- promote the interests of local government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
- assist member authorities in the effective performance of their duties and functions
- pursue issues of common concern to member authorities and to represent their joint interests to other bodies.

The Association has provided a structure for collaboration and a means by which elected members can govern the many joint working arrangements across the sub-region, in particular the work of the Chief Executives' Group and other joint officer groups. The Association has since 2003 drawn down capacity-building funds from the Region and in 2006 established a consortium led by the Improvement Board.

2. New developments in joint working have led to this review:

- Hampshire Senate - inaugural meeting 10 September 2008
- Partnership for Urban South Hampshire which involves 11 of the 15 HIOW local authorities, and other sub-regional partnerships
- The Sub National Review which may result in the formation of a new regional or revised sub-regional LGA arrangements.

HAMPSHIRE SENATE

3. The Senate was described in a separate paper to the Improvement Board on 10 October. For Hampshire authorities it is set to become a major focus for joint working, particularly on the Hampshire LAA.

PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE

4. PUSH is a partnership of 11 authorities focussing on economic development, planning, transport and infrastructure issues. It is the subject of an innovative Multi Area Agreement (MAA) with Central Government.

SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW (SNR)

5. The Government's SNR has proposed the abolition of the Regional Assembly. South East Council Leaders are meeting on 12 December to consider the creation of a new South East local government representative body. It will be important to link existing sub-regional arrangements into any new regional LGA or Council Leaders' organisation.

CONCLUSION

6. Chief Executives have met to consider the way forward and conclude:
 - (1) The Hampshire Senate is a highly significant development but at this stage it is too early to be clear on the full impact of its role on the wider Hampshire and Isle of Wight sub-regional work.
 - (2) PUSH is another highly significant development but has a geographic and functional agenda which was different from both the Senate and the HIOW/LGA.
 - (3) Other partnerships are important but none at this stage can take on the work of the HIOW/LGA.
 - (4) It is important to recognise the possibility of future regional and sub-regional LGA-style working following Sub-National Review.
7. The Chief Executives' Group recommends that the HIOW/LGA should be retained for the time being and refreshed with three particular ambitions:
 - (1) Member meetings to be
 - (a) interesting and engaging for Leaders; and
 - (b) possibly fewer in number.
 - (2) The Association should provide more policy support to authorities in developing responses to new issues and consultations.
 - (3) Potential for joint responses should be more fully explored.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CONSTITUTION

8. The following minor changes to the Constitution are recommended:

paragraph 5.6 current: “The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held in June of each year.”

proposed: “The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held after the local elections each year.”

paragraph 5.7 current: “Other meetings of the Association shall take place at least quarterly, at times and venues determined by the member authorities. Meetings will be held and hosted in turn by all member authorities.”

proposed: “Other meetings of the Association shall take place at times and venues determined by the member authorities. Meetings will be held and hosted in turn by all member authorities.”

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Date: 19 November 2008

Annex: 0

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