



AGMA
ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER MANCHESTER
AUTHORITIES

MINUTES OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION MEETING – WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2010

PRESENT:

Cllr Bernard Priest, Manchester CC (Chair)
Cllr Greg Couzens, Rochdale MBC
Cllr Sue Derbyshire, Stockport MBC
Cllr Jack Walton, Bury MBC
Cllr Linda Thomas, Bolton Council
Sue Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive, Wigan Council
Emma Alexander, Executive Director, Performance, Capacity and Services, Oldham Council
Andrea Boulton, Project Manager Finance, Business Improvement Transformation & Efficiency, Stockport MBC
David Winstanley, Tameside MBC
John Morrissy, VFM Programme Manager, Policy, Performance & Partnerships Division, Bolton Council
Martin Vickers,
Joanne Horrocks, Deputy, AGMA Policy and Research Unit
Cynthia Thompson, AGMA Collaborative Efficiency Programme Office
Theresa Grant, Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources, Trafford Council
Elaine Bowker, Strategic Director, Manchester Improvement Programme, Manchester CC
Katherine Fairclough, Assistant Chief Executive, Warrington BC
Phil Swann, Shared Intelligence
Margaret Green, Policy Support Officer, AGMA Policy and Research Unit

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Lancaster, Salford CC, Cllr Fred Walker, Wigan Council, Cllr Keith Swift, Rochdale MBC, Cllr Joe Kitchen and Cllr John Taylor, Tameside MBC, Cllr Alex Williams, Trafford Council, Cllr Jackie Stanton, Oldham Council, Cllr Keith Bland, Warrington BC, Joyce Redfearn, Chief Executive, Wigan Council, Janet Callender, Trafford Council, Roger Ellis, Chief Executive, Rochdale MBC, Megan Nurse, Assistant Chief Executive, Tameside MBC, Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive, Tameside MBC, Mike Kelly, Deputy Chief Executive, Bury Council, Steve Houston, Corporate Director, Business Services, Stockport MBC and Mark Holden, Capacity Building & Change Manager, AGMA Policy and Research Unit.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING – 28 JULY 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

3. TRANSFORMATION – WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Councillor Priest opened the discussion in relation to the challenges facing authorities over the next three years, some of which it was agreed could be addressed by all ten authorities collectively and others possibly by three or four, and he invited those present to indicate what their authority's approach was to making savings.

Some common approaches were:-

- Service Reviews
- Staffing and changes in in-house training and working differently
- Procurement across AGMA and other partners
- Property rationalisation including the extension of flexible and mobile working projects

Following the discussion Cynthia Thompson informed the meeting that the Efficiency Programme Office had started to pull together some of this information already and she agreed to incorporate the detail from this discussion into this document and circulate a copy to Members of the Commission.

Following the discussion the Board AGREED:

- a) to circulate details of each authority's CAA organisation assessment.
- b) to draw out some common themes prior to the Commission's next meeting which would help to set the work programme for the coming year.
- c) Councillor Priest, Chair of the Commission, to visit each Elected Member in their authority to explore how the Commission can deliver for each of the authorities and identify key themes.
- d) to share formal public budget statements once agreed in authority.

4. LEADING & LEARNING PROGRAMME

Phil Swann of Shared Intelligence who have been commissioned to deliver the AGMA Leadership Development Programme, referred to the minutes from the last meeting which indicated Members had made some ambitious statements in relation to the future work of the Commission and he asked those present to think about two questions:-

1. How do you need to change/develop your role here and in your authorities to play your part in raising the ambitions of the Commission?

2. Some examples of what leading by example might look like – what do you think that means?

Phil stated that in the course of the work Shared Intelligence had carried out with other officer groups some themes had been identified and Phil asked if Members could resonate with them e.g. How can we break out of the AGMA bubble? I don't understand AGMA, I don't know how to influence it?

Phil felt that Councillor Priest's intention to talk to individual Elected Members in their authorities was the best way forward as he felt to try to do that in a committee format would not get the best out of people.

Councillor Priest thanked Phil for his input to the meeting and the work of the Commission.

5. TOTAL PLACE UPDATE

Updates were provided for information only with the suggestion that any issues arising be referred to the next meeting, the Board AGREED:

- a) In relation to Total Place, to note that
 - i) the final report is due with Government on 5 February a copy of which will be made available to Members
 - ii) this report will also be considered by the AGMA Executive on 29 January
- b) In relation to Procurement Hub, to receive a report at the next meeting on the future of the Hub and how this would be funded

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