

Hitting the Ground Running

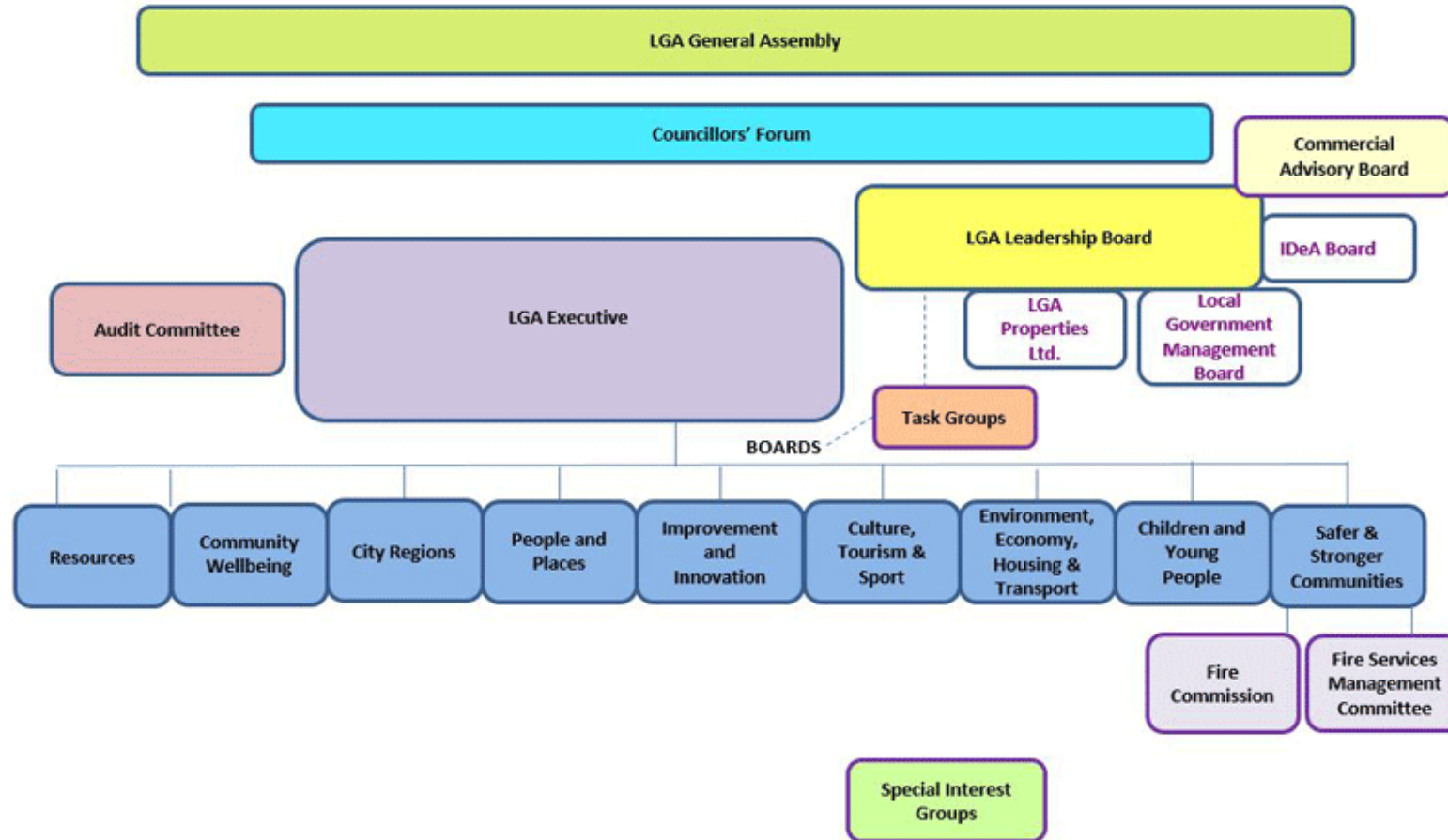
The Role of the LGA

Andy Bates, Principal Adviser for the South West

LGA – ‘The National Voice of Local Government’

- We are a membership organisation – 408 local authority members and 339 of 343 English councils are members.
- Politically led, cross party organisation working on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government.
- We work to support councils to deliver local solutions to local and national issues and challenges
- Your views, as member councils, are advocated through elected representatives on various LGA Boards and of course the LGA Chairman and Group Leaders

How the LGA works...



LGA – Our Political Leadership

- Newly elected Chairman – Cllr James Jamieson (Con)
- Cllr Nick Forbes - Labour Group Leader and LGA Senior Vice Chair
- Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE– Conservative Group Leader and LGA Vice Chair
- Cllr Howard Sykes MBE – Liberal Democrat Group Leader and LGA Vice Chair
- Cllr Marianne Overton MBE – Independent Group Leader and LGA Vice Chair

- We are politically balanced
- 4 Political Group offices to support councillors through party channels

How we support Councils

- A range of practical support is available to help your council to improve and thrive – built on principles of sector-led improvement:
 - Peer challenge
 - Councillor and officer development programmes
 - Specialists advisers working on children's, adults and financial issues
 - National and regional events including LGA annual Conference
 - Advice on a wide range of service / policy issues and lobbying (via national team)
 - Intensive support if councils get into difficulties
 - support to political groups and parties provided via our regional peers and PGOs
 - Regular briefings / communications on issues affecting local gov eg finance settlement

How we support Councillors

- As part of our wider SLI offer, we have a range of political leadership development opportunities designed to develop you as our local politicians supporting you to be confident and capable, including:
 - **The Leaders Programme** – designed to stretch, support and improve leadership capacity
 - **Top Team Development** – supporting Leaders and Cabinets to strengthen strategic direction and leadership (can also be extended too include officers)
 - **Leading Edge** – support for elected leaders and officers on how best to address key issues in your communities
 - **Leadership Academy** – supports a step change in leadership behaviours, strategies, skills and mind set in members holding key roles.
 - **Leadership Essentials** - Themed learning opportunities for deputy leaders, lead members, Scrutiny and committee chairs.
 - **Next Generation** - Development opportunities for ambitious councillors looking for party political development opportunity.
 - **Mentoring** - Support to members newly appointed to key roles from experienced councillors from across the country

Further information can be found here : <https://www.local.gov.uk/highlighting-political-leadership-lga-development-offer>

How to access LGA Support

- In the South West you are supported by the Regional Team :–
 - Principal Advisor – Andy Bates (andy.bates@local.gov.uk)
 - Paul Clarke – Programme Manager (paul.Clarke@local.gov.uk)
 - Emily McGuinness – Programme Manager (Emily.mcguinness@local.gov.uk)

Additional we have Regional Lead Member Peers:

- Alan Connett (Liberal Democrat)
- Mike Haines (Independent)
- Helen Holland (Labour)
- Paul Middlebrough (Conservative)

As a team we work to support councils in the region in a number of ways, including sharing learning and experiences and making sure the LGA centrally is aware of the issues we are facing in the South West.

We are fortunate to be supported in this by our colleagues at South West Councils.