

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT: NOT A STATEMENT OF LGA OR GOVERNMENT POLICY**

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### **Responsibilities Working Group 20 September 2016**

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#### **Health and social care deep dive virtual workshop**

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1. As well as the economic growth deep dive workshop, the Working Group had hoped to arrange a parallel workshop on health and social care services. Unfortunately, in the time available it was not possible to secure the time of sufficient suitable attendees to make the workshop viable. Instead, therefore, a “virtual” workshop has been run, with potential invitees being sent the discussion questions that would have shaped a “real life” workshop and asked to send comments that they would have made in discussion. This paper reports back on the process and on the responses received.
2. The questions sent out are appended to this report.
3. In quantity terms, the response has been disappointing. Only three formal responses have been received; one of these was direct from a council DASS.
4. In qualitative terms, the responses are helpful in that some consensus points emerged, either reinforcing the discussions the Working Group has already had or providing a useful steer for the future. Points emerging include:
  - a. Consensus on the future role of social care will include further integration with health, devolving responsibility for commissioning to councils to move to a single local commissioning role to ensure a focus on achieving local outcomes in local communities.
  - b. Consensus that current funding issues remain the priority; future funding for social care needs to address current unfunded pressures first.
  - c. Consensus that attendance allowance should not be considered for business rates funding. This was for a number of reasons, including demand pressures likely to outpace BR growth, no link to the economic growth agenda, and interconnected/complex nature of welfare system. That said, there were differing views on whether attendance allowance could be looked at outside of business rates (although the confusion over what might be being proposed here was seen as unhelpful).
  - d. Agreement that for the services / grants in the consultation relating to social care, public health and ILF would be suitable (subject to suitable terms and conditions) but that iBCF was more problematical.
5. In addition, one response went into some detail on linking economic growth factors to health and social care – such as building strong communities, workforce skills and digital services. The Working Group should be able to take these ideas forward as part of the economic growth work.

#### Conclusion:

6. The small response is disappointing. Although the responses received were all valuable in themselves, it is doubtful that the group can take these as necessarily being representative of the sector as whole. Nevertheless, there is sufficient consensus from this and from other views received that while some existing grant funding can sit comfortably with business rates funding, there is little appetite for linking the business rates changes with further devolution and reshaping of additional responsibilities in the health and social care area. This conclusion should therefore shape the further work of the group.

## **Appendix – Questionnaire sent out**

### **Business rates retention**

#### *Social care, health, and integration*

Seeking the sector's views

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#### **Purpose**

As part of the LGA's on-going work on the 100 per cent business rates retention agenda we are seeking the views of sector experts on potential new responsibilities local government should/could take on in the realm of adult social care, health and integration. This will help inform our response to the DCLG consultation, *Self-sufficient local government: 100% business rates retention*.

In summary, the questions seek to understand your vision for care, health and integration, what grants/responsibilities would help achieve this vision, and which, if any, of the identified grants/responsibilities would be appropriate to fund through retained business rates.

Note that the consultation identifies the following social care and health-related grants as in scope for consideration:

- Public health grant
- Improved Better Care Fund
- Independent Living Fund

The consultation also notes that the Government will consider 'giving more responsibility to councils to support older people with care needs – including people who, under the current system, would be supported through Attendance Allowance'. This has dominated much of the business rates retention discussion that relates to care and health. The LGA has a clear and public position that it does not want Attendance Allowance transferring to local government. Two further questions are therefore posed: whether you support such a transfer under the business rates retention agenda; and whether you would support such a transfer if it was carried out as a stand-alone switch, separate to the business rates retention agenda.

There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers to these questions and all responses will be treated confidentially. This is purely an exercise to seek the perspectives of senior experts to help inform the LGA's own thinking.

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NAME:

POSITION:

ORGANISATION:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

**(1) CARE, HEALTH AND INTEGRATION - THE VISION:** In an ideal world, what should local government's role be in the realm of adult social care, public health, health and integration?

**(2) CARE, HEALTH AND INTEGRATION - THE REQUIREMENTS:** What specific responsibilities would local government need to take on to achieve this vision?

*(This could be adaptations to existing council responsibilities, the transfer of existing responsibilities from beyond local government to councils, or the creation of new responsibilities.)*

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**(3) CARE, HEALTH AND INTEGRATION - FUNDING THE REQUIREMENTS:**  
**Which, if any, of the requirements identified above would be appropriate to fund through 100 per cent retained business rates?**

**(4) ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE: Do you support the transfer of 'more responsibility to councils to support older people with care needs – including people who, under the current system, would be supported through Attendance Allowance' under the 100 per cent business rates retention agenda?**

**Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)**

**Why?**

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**(5) ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE: Would you support the transfer of 'more responsibility to councils to support older people with care needs – including people who, under the current system, would be supported through Attendance Allowance' under a separate grant transfer, ie separate to the 100 per cent business rates retention agenda?**

**Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)**

**Why?**

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**(6) SPECIFIC GRANTS RAISED IN CONSULTATION**

**The consultation identifies the following social care and health-related grants as in scope for consideration:**

- **Public health grant**
- **Improved Better Care Fund**
- **Independent Living Fund**

**For each of these, do you think they should be funded from business rates income in future? If yes are there any specific conditions that you think need to be attached?**