
Responsibilities Working Group 27 June 2016

Deep dive into individual service areas .

Work in progress – not Government or LGA policy.

1. The Responsibilities Working Group submitted a detailed paper on possible service and grant transfers to the steering group on 13 June. Following feedback from the steering group, the purpose of this paper is now to seek the working group's agreement for the best way to take this work forward.
2. Detailed feedback from the Steering Group will be given verbally under another item on the agenda. However, in outline, the Steering Group's feedback was that further analysis of the service areas for new responsibilities is needed, to help form a view from the sector on the areas where local government can take on new responsibilities. This will help inform response to the expected summer consultation. Broadly speaking, the analysis of grants was accepted, but it was felt that more work needs to be done on the new service areas. In particular the steering group asked for a deep dive into areas linked to encouraging economic growth – in particular but not exclusively skills – and also areas linked to public services reform (eg welfare).
3. The working group is therefore asked to analyse these two areas in more detail – not just looking at existing central government programmes but looking at what local government does now, what more local government could do and what difference this could make to residents and clients, and then moving on to look in more detail at what funding could be transferred to achieve this.
4. The question for the group is therefore how best to go about this?
5. In particular
 - a. Who other than the group should be consulted?
 - b. How can views from whole sector and from different types of authority be secured?
 - c. Who is best placed to undertake this work? Does the group have the capacity to carry out the necessary analysis or does the work need to be commissioned from outside?
 - d. How should other government departments be involved?
6. The work will then inform the views being taken by the LGA and the sector in response to any consultation over the summer and ultimately help with shaping the implementation devolution of any services identified that are accepted.
7. The timescale is therefore very short – we will need to report to the Steering Group in time to shape any consultation response.
8. Views of the Group are sought on who is best placed to take this forward.