

IDB Improvement Workshop: 20 February 2024

AGREED ACTIONS

Present: James Alexander (Chair), Wendy Amis, Sally Longmate, Adam Keppel-Green, Rob Smith, Helen Quick, Keith Stevens, Jonathan Owen

Also Present: Charlotte Eisenhart, Hazel Broatch

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr A Brown, Mia Shelton, Sarah Mason and Sue Hobbs

Key Objectives of IDB

The Workshop concluded that the following were key objectives for the IDB.

The Board would:

1. support Councils along with the National Sector Bodies to raise standards; support the sector; and improve resilience. This included the development and resilience of County Associations.
2. support Councillors to provide democratic leadership; training to be expanded to include all Councillors; and Councils to commit to developing their workforces (including promoting national standards).
3. support the sector to improve performance by ensuring civility and respect; identifying emerging trends and support (including forward thinking/planning); and to be prepared for potentially taking on more services and other challenges.

Taskforces

The Board agreed it would deliver some of its key objectives for improvement and development through setting up Taskforces. These

would be task and finish groups which would include membership (as appropriate) of a broad range of relevant people/organisations etc.

The Workshop agreed that the first four Taskforces would be:

A. Civility and Respect - Pledge, training, Jo Cox Civility report

B. Intervention - finance/resources, governance and business continuity. Identifying councils at risk plus what happens when councils fail.

C. Workforce - determining a fair and appropriate level of pay and working hours.

D. Data – identify and address the needs for data related to our sector. To enable a brief for the Taskforce to be developed. The first step would be to invite De Montfort and LGInform to the next board meeting.

The following were identified as future areas that Taskforces might be set up to explore - training; culture change; and capacity building. This was not an exhaustive list and the need to set up Taskforces would be kept under review by the IDB.

IDB Meetings

It was agreed that the IDB would meet:

virtually four times a year:

once a year in person; and

Taskforces would report back to IDB three months after set-up (and their progress would be reviewed after six months).

The next steps would be to circulate and agree membership and objectives for each of the Taskforces. This would be done by email.