

## LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE | DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the Larger Councils Committee on 6 February 2024 at 10.00 taking place by Zoom.

### Present (online):

Councillors Mike Drew (committee vice chair), Iain Hamilton (committee chair), Peter Astell (committee vice chair), Cllr Paul Harvey (Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes), Katharine Keats Rohan (Oxfordshire), and directly elected clerks, Carl Hearn, Shar Roselman and Steve McNay.

Staff present: Chris Borg (policy manager), Charlotte Eisenhart (head of member services), Justin Griggs (head of policy and communications) and Jonathan Owen (chief executive)

Other guests in attendance: Annie Child, chief executive officer at SAAA (for part).

### DECISION ITEMS

#### 1. Welcome & apologies

- 1.1 Welcome to the session (committee chair).

The incoming committee chair welcomed all attendees to the session.

- 1.2 To receive any apologies (committee chair)

**Resolved:** It was confirmed that no apologies had been received for the session.

#### 2. Minutes and notes arising from previous committee sessions on 31 October 2023 and 14 December 2023

- 2.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2023

**Resolved:** That the draft minutes of the formal committee session held on 31 October 2023 be noted.

2.2 To note the notes of the short governance session of the committee on 14 December 2023

**Resolved:** That the notes of the short governance session of the committee on 14 December 2023, be noted.

### 3. Work plan 2024-25

3.1 To consider a report on the committee's work plan to deliver the National Assembly work programme/priorities for 2024/25

**Resolved:** That the committee build into its work plan for 2024-5 the need to monitor the impact of artificial intelligence on larger councils, grant funding for local councils fighting climate change, an ongoing review of thresholds for larger and Super councils and the need to create new larger councils also during boundary reviews.

### 4. Co-options and additional expertise

4.1 To identify proposals for co-options and securing additional expertise to the committee, as needed.

**Resolved:** That no co-options be made to this committee currently, but and that the membership of this committee be circulated to it again.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 5. SAAA update

5.1 To receive a verbal update on SAAA current work projects and implications for larger councils – Annie Child, chief executive at SAAA.

**Resolved:** That Annie Child be thanked for her excellent and comprehensive presentation, that NALC continues to work closely with SAAA on future reviews of upper and lower audit regime thresholds for smaller authorities, transitioning the AGAR form online, and that the links to the National Audit Office auditor guidance note 2 and the SAAA annual report be circulated to the committee.

A short coffee break ensued between 11:10 and 11:20 a.m.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 6. Member services update

6.1 Introduction to NALC's member services - Charlotte Eisenhart, head of member services.

**Resolved:** That the head of member services be thanked for her helpful and thorough summary of the work of the NALC member services team.

6.2 Launch of the new model and template contracts of employment for local councils - the committee is asked to note the [launch](#) of these new documents.

**Resolved:** That the head of member services be thanked for her helpful summary of the model and template contracts of employment for local councils and that the committee keeps NALC updated on how they bed in, in their areas.

6.3 Local Council Award Scheme criteria review

**Resolved:** That the head of member services be thanked for her summary of the ongoing review of Local Council Award Scheme criteria and that committee members encourage their larger councils to respond.

## 7. Martyn's law update

7.1 To receive a short update from Shar Roselman on the inception meeting of the Martyn's Law Steering Group on 21 November 2023.

**Resolved:** That Shar Roselman be thanked for her excellent summary of the work of the sector Martyn's Law Steering Group which would met again very soon to inform the NALC and SLCC responses to the [standard tier consultation](#) by 18 March 2024.

## 8. NALC National Networks

8.1 To receive an update on the NALC National Networks for Super Councils, Coastal Communities and Climate Emergency

**Resolved:** That committee members from Super councils be encouraged to attend the next Zoom session of the Super Councils Network, taking place on 14 February 2024.

## 9. Date and time of next committee meeting

The next session of the committee will take place in person from 11:00 to 15:00 on Tuesday 30 April 2024 in meeting room 4 at The Office Group, the Bloomsbury Building, 10 Bloomsbury Way, Holborn, London WC1A 2SL.