**Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**26th June 2020**

**Venue: Virtual Private Meeting of the Executive**

**SDCT Website: www.cipfa.org/partners/society-of-district-council-treasurers**

**In Attendance:** Simone Hines (President), Mark Dickenson (VP), Angela George (Secretary), Sal Khan, Terry Collier, David Stanley, Ka Ng, Helen Smith, Adrian Rowbotham, Alison Scott, Glenn Hammons.

**Also:** Aiva Statkevicius (LGA)

1. **Apologies**: Alan Peach, Paul Deal, Peter Catchpole, Clare Fletcher, Peter Stuart, Steve Hearse, Homira Javadi, Simon Freeman, Jenny Poole.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meetings and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 5th June 2020 were agreed. Any matters arising are either considered below or further on the agenda:

* 1. **PWLB Consultation response**

The HMT Roundtable event took place on 24th June. There has been no feedback as to whether any of the points made have been accepted by HMT and Simone will request feedback on specific points. Aiva (LGA) reported that there would be further events and if anyone is interested in taking part to contact him.

The CIPFA Roundtable event will take place on 30th June,

Alison Scott will finalise the SDCT response by the deadline of 31st July 2020.

**Action –Simone / Alison**

1. **Update on COVID-19**
   1. **General Update**

Simone updated the meeting on the key issues arising from her regular meetings with MHCLG / LGA / ALATS etc. and the Executive discussed the key issues. A further meeting with MHCLG was scheduled following this meeting and an announcement from the Government is anticipated shortly following which the key points will be set out in a communication to all District members.

**Action – Simone**

* 1. **LG Futures Reports:**

The reports from LG Futures that SDCT had commissioned to provide an overall picture for District Councils on the pressures from COVID19 and which would assist in lobbying for further grant funding were discussed:

* **COVID19 May 2020 Survey Data**

All Districts had been asked to share their Delta returns with LG Futures to enable the work to be complete. 139 out of 188 Districts had provided data. Following discussion it was agreed the report could be publicised however as pointed out in the report it was recognised that the quality of data was of ‘questionable quality’ and the results on the report should be ‘interpreted with caution’. It was agreed that re-running the exercise on the June data would be useful and Simone will speak to LG Futures.

**Action – Simone**

* **Business Rates Reset and New Homes Bonus**

LG Futures had also produced the report on future funding for District Councils to assist with discussions on the 21/22 funding settlement discussions with MHCLG and looking at:

* Business Rates – based on 20/21 modelling and the ‘gain’ expected by Districts from Business Rates and how this could be lost from the ‘reset’ and / or COVID19
* New Homes Bonus – assuming the NHB funding is stopped after the remaining legacy periods and quantifying the overall loss for Districts.

Following discussion it was agreed that this report could be publicised. The impact of COVID19 on baselines and the distraction of the Government on the matter was discussed in the context of whether there were likely to be any major changes in any of the funding settlement this year.

It is anticipated that the Chancellor will make a statement in July on the impact of COVID19 on national budgets but to what extent this will cover LA’s is not yet clear.

**Action - Simone**

1. **Audit Issues**
   1. **Fee Increases**

An Executive member raised concern over very material fee increase for no apparent reason from his auditors (EY) and asked if other had experienced similar (which they had but to a lesser extent).

Following discussion, it was agreed that Steve Hearse and Ka Ng as Audit liaison leads be asked to raise the concern with PSAA on behalf of SDCT. Simone will also contact ALATS to see if this is an issue affecting all tiers.

**Action – Steve, Ka, Mark and Simone**

1. **Any other Business**
   1. **LGA – Aiva Statkevicius**

Aiva updated the meeting on a couple of other issues and reminded the Executive that they were still looking for another advisor for the LGA Group and also the CLIP-F Group. In the absence of nominations for the 2nd VP role, Simone asked any member of the Executive who was interested in the LGA advisor role to contact her to discuss the requirements. The CLIP-F was possibly more suited to a Chief Acct/ Deputy.

**Action – All to contact Simone if interested. Aiva to send on the T of Ref for the CLIP-F role**

* 1. **CIPFA Conference Workshop**

The workshop has been agreed for 21st /22nd October. The subject is ‘Risk and Sustainability for District Councils post COVID19’. Speakers will be determined nearer the time.

**Action - Simone**

1. **Date of Next Meetings**

The next scheduled meeting is **10am on 4th September 2020.**

**A further private meeting of the Executive will be arranged prior to that (TBA).**