

CABINET



Report subject	Local Government Association Special Interest Groups
Meeting date	29 July 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>LGA Special Interest Groups are able to make representations direct to Government and elsewhere on matters arising directly from their special interest, and to obtain LGA assistance in doing so.</p> <p>The Policy and Performance Team have produced a summary table of the special interest groups that the authority would have an interest in due to geographical, organisational and strategic considerations. (Appendix 1)</p> <p>The Policy and Performance Team is able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • act as the point of contact for Special Interest Groups, • receive the agendas, • prepare briefing papers, • request items of local interest are added to the agenda as directed, • co-ordinate and track responses, • and share learning across organisation as appropriate.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>a) That Cabinet decide which of six special interest groups they wish the authority to be part of going forward</p> <p>b) The Policy and Performance Team make further enquiries and the necessary arrangements for an appropriate Councillor or Officer to be appointed the necessary SIGs</p>
Reason for recommendations	To facilitate BCPs Council's involvement in national policy, increase the authority's lobbying power and the co-ordination of those activities.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Vikki Slade, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Contributors	Policy and Performance Team
Wards	All
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Policy and Performance Team were asked to investigate how BCP Council could get better co-ordination of the Special Interest Groups that the authority may have an interest in.
2. The LGA Articles of Association allows member authorities with common characteristics to form groupings of authorities to express a sectional interest. It is open to any 10 or more full LGA member authorities with common features, interests or concerns, to form a Special Interest Group (SIG).
3. Special Interest Groups are able to make representations direct to Government and elsewhere on matters arising directly from their special interest, and to obtain LGA assistance in doing so. All SIGs are required to submit a full report at the end of April each year to the LGA Board, covering such matters as their dealings with Government departments. SIGs are established for five years, and continuation of the SIG for longer than five years is subject to the SIG Member Authorities restating the case for maintaining the SIG to the LGA Board.
4. There are currently 21 Special Interest Groups listed on the LGA's website, of which 6 were felt to be of potential interest to BCP Council, namely;
 - Climate Emergency Network
 - Coastal SIG
 - Councils with ALMOs Group (CWAG)
 - Key Cities SIG
 - Strategic Aviation SIG (SASIG)
 - Unitary Councils' Network
5. Of these six BCP Council is currently members of four; Coastal SIG, CWAG, Key Cities SIG and the Unitary Councils' Network. Details of who represents the council on these bodies are available in Appendix A.
6. There is very limited information available to the activities of the Climate Emergency Network, its purpose is listed as to support local authorities in declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and preparing and implementing plans to

achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible. However, there is no annual report available on the LGA's website and no website listed for the group.

7. SASIG Works with local authorities and regional representatives in a strategic manner on national aviation policy to reconcile economic, social and environmental issues. SASIG provides a collective voice to Government and Regulatory Authorities. The policy positions of SASIG are available on their website <https://www.sasig.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-principles/>
8. To ease co-ordination the Policy and Performance team can be the BCP point of contact, receive the agendas, prepare briefing papers, add items of local interest to the agenda as directed, co-ordinate and track responses, share learning across organisation as appropriate. The Policy and Performance Team can also produce an update report on SIG activity to Corporate Management Board and Cabinet at an appropriate frequency.
9. As part of our investigations we also looked at the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum and the Passenger Transport Consortium. BCP Council is not eligible to be a member of the Local Authority Pension Forum as it is not a pension managing authority, we are represented on the forum by Dorset Council. The Passenger Transport Consortium appears to be inactive as there is no new information on their website since early 2019 and we have not received any response to our enquiries.
10. The policy and performance team will continue to keep a watching brief on LGA Special Interest Groups for any that may become of interest to the authority.

Summary of financial implications

11. There are membership costs for some special interest groups. If BCP want to join the SASIG there would be a new cost associated with this.

Summary of legal implications

12. None

Summary of human resources implications

13. None

Summary of environmental impact

14. None

Summary of public health implications

15. None

Summary of equality implications

16. There are no identified negative impacts on the protected characteristics.

Summary of risk assessment

17. There are no identified risks

Background papers

Please see appendices

Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary table of LGA SIGs