

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT
NEWS RELEASE
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Keeping town hall top teams on top form

The Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) today announced a unique programme from a unique partnership aimed at the political and managerial leadership teams in local authorities.

The Top Team Partnership has been set up to address the question of how authorities can achieve and sustain excellence in their performance. Getting to the top and staying there requires both managerial and political leadership from top teams in local authorities and the growth of leadership talent. In today's complex environment, continual improvement requires an ongoing commitment within councils to 'work on' and 'work at' their top team. The Government recognizes this need:

"...it is vital that councils both provide a focal point for the development of a collective vision and bring together agencies and key stakeholders to achieve it.... Those people in positions of leadership can make a particular difference. There is a continuing need to attract, recruit, retain and develop a larger pool of diverse and talented people to lead and represent..."(Vibrant Local Leadership - the future, ODPM, January 2005)

Combining expert knowledge of the operating environment and policy context with expertise in councillor, officer and organisational development, the TOP Team Partnership of SOLACE Enterprises, Nicholson McBride and the LGIU is uniquely placed to work with top teams in councils.

Under the programme, the partners identify and build a programme of activity to meet the needs of a local authority customer, selecting from a catalogue of approaches specifically designed to improve the leadership of individuals or groups within top teams. The approach is practical and outcomes-oriented, built around real examples of excellence in top team working and an evidence-based best practice framework.

Dennis Reed, LGIU Chief Executive, said: "The LGIU is delighted to be involved in the Top Team Partnership as part of our commitment to helping to strengthen leadership skills and capacity in the local authority arena."

John Nicholson, Chairman of Nicholson McBride, said: ""There is new determination in local government to ensure that authorities are led by really effective teams, who show excellence in managerial and political leadership. Nicholson McBride is very pleased to complement the LGIU's and SOLACE Enterprises' unparalleled knowledge in this area with our experience of working with top teams in central government, inter-governmental agencies and large organisations in the private sector."

Andrew Coleman, Managing Director, of SOLACE Enterprises, said: " Through our work with numerous authorities we find that effective service delivery is impossible without trust and confidence between leading politicians and service managers. SOLACE Enterprises is pleased to be a partner in this timely new venture"

Local authorities interested in the Top Team Partnership should contact Pat Coleman at SOLACE Enterprises to find out more on 0845 601 0649. Or e-mail: pat.coleman@solaceenterprises.com.