

## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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**Title:** Councillors' Forum  
**Date:** Thursday 20 October 2016  
**Venue:** Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this note

### Item Decisions and actions

#### 1 What Next for Housing?

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed members and introduced guest speakers.

Terrie Alafat, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute for Housing, informed members that the Institute were convening roundtables with local authorities and housing associations to discuss working together to address the growing pressure for housing, particularly in the wake of increasing consumer concern with the shortage. She discussed problems with current housing policy, and the past focus on economic growth. She emphasised that a long term strategy to address the problem would be needed, which considered the effects of the economic downturn, complications resulting from a long term undersupply, and issues such as ageing and homelessness. The private sector would be unable to deliver the houses needed alone, and local government could play a role in addressing the problem.

Hugh Ellis, Interim Chief Executive of the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), discussed planning and its function for place making, suggesting that it could be part of the solution to the housing crisis. He advised members of the new communities group the TCPA were running to look at delivery models and emphasised that the private sector could not fill the demand for housing alone. He highlighted the success of early new towns (such as Milton Keynes), and suggested that a new locally led model for towns was needed.

Emma Maier, Editor of Inside Housing, highlighted gaps in development and suggested that local authorities could play a major role in meeting demand for housing. She discussed a number of issues, including the greenbelt, land banking, planning consent, land contamination and problems with infrastructure which required solutions before building could begin. She highlighted the problem caused by uncertainty on whether local government could play a role in delivering housing, and that there was a variance of opinion in the sector on the way forward. Clear leadership could address this problem.

The floor was opened up for questions:

- As the build out rate in some areas was only 10%, members asked how to achieve the remaining 90% within a limited timeframe.
- Members highlighted problems with housing in unaffordable areas of London and the government's focus on the free market.
- Members agreed that local government would need to be involved in building in order to create the volume of housing needed. There was a discussion on how to capture uplift in land value.
- It was emphasised that reliance on Registered Social Landlords had been problematic, since RSLs only managed stock but did not build. It was felt local government had a role to play in delivering housing, and it would be beneficial if authorities could borrow against existing housing stock to assist them with this.
- The demands of an ageing population and the impact this would have on housing was discussed. Increasing pressure on hospitals and care homes meant that many would need to be cared for at home in the future. It was suggested existing housing stock should be adapted to provide for this.
- It was emphasised that new responsibilities delegated to local government would need to be funded.

The debate was closed.

## **2 Chairman's Update**

Members **noted** the Chairman's report.

## **3 LGA Boards Chair's Reports**

Members **noted** the reports from the LGA Board Chairs.

## **4 Digest of the last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate summary of the discussion.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
Members	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
	Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Ian Stephens	
Apologies	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset County Council
	Baroness Couttie of Downe	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
	Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Cllr Roy Perry  
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE  
Cllr Anne Western CBE  
Cllr James Dawson  
Cllr Sarah Hayward  
Cllr Paul Watson  
Cllr Kate Haigh  
Cllr Aaron Shotton  
Cllr Judith Blake  
Cllr Barrie Grunewald  
Cllr Rishi Shori  
Mayor Marvin Rees  
Cllr Marianne Overton  
MBE  
Cllr Chris Townsend  
Cllr Robert Bucke  
Cllr Colin Mann  
Cllr Lisa Brett  
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE  
Cllr Claire Hudson  
Cllr Heather Kidd  
Cllr Mike Bell  
Mayor Dave Hodgson  
MBE

Hampshire County Council  
Stevenage Borough Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Erewash Borough Council  
Camden Council  
Sunderland City Council  
Gloucester City Council  
Flintshire County Council  
Leeds City Council  
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council  
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council  
Bristol City Council  
Lincolnshire County Council  
  
Surrey County Council  
Tendring District Council  
Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Liverpool City Council  
Mendip District Council  
Shropshire Council  
North Somerset Council  
Bedford Borough Council