

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 20 October 2016
12.30 pm

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local
Government House, Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Councillors' Forum
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Guidance notes for visitors

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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Councillors' Forum
20 October 2016

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 20 October 2016**
Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Please note: *The Political Group meetings will be held prior to this, as follows:*

| | | |
|---------|--------------|---|
| 11.00am | Conservative | Westminster Suite (8 th floor) |
| 11.00am | Labour | Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor) |
| 11.00am | Independent | Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor) |

Please note there is no Liberal Democrat pre-meeting on this occasion.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in The Terrace Lounge (7th Floor).

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Conservative: | Group Office: 020 7664 3223 | email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk |
| Labour: | Group Office: 020 7664 3334 | email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk |
| Independent: | Group Office: 020 7664 3224 | email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk |
| Liberal Democrat: | Group Office: 020 7664 3235 | email: libdem@local.gov.uk |

Location:

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Eleanor Reader-Moore - Eleanor.Reader-Moore@local.gov.uk / 0207 664 3383

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Councillors' Forum – Membership 2016/2017

| Councillor | Authority |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Conservative (41) | |
| Lord Gary Porter (Chairman) | South Holland District Council |
| Cllr David Hodge | Surrey County Council |
| Cllr David Simmonds CBE | Hillingdon London Borough Council |
| Cllr Gillian Brown | Arun District Council |
| Cllr John Beesley | Bournemouth Borough Council |
| Cllr Simon Cooke | Bradford Metropolitan District Council |
| Cllr Martin Tett | Buckinghamshire County Council |
| Cllr James Jamieson | Central Bedfordshire Council |
| Cllr Roger Phillips | Herefordshire Council |
| Cllr Robert Light | Kirklees Metropolitan Council |
| Cllr Neil Clarke MBE | Rushcliffe Borough Council |
| Cllr Peter Fleming OBE | Sevenoaks District Council |
| Cllr Rebecca Knox | Dorset County Council |
| Cllr Jonathan Owen | East Riding of Yorkshire Council |
| Cllr Colin Noble | Suffolk County Council |
| Baroness Couttie of Downe | Westminster City Council |
| Cllr Izzi Seccombe | Warwickshire County Council |
| Cllr Paul Bettison OBE | Bracknell Forest Borough Council |
| Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE | Gloucestershire County Council |
| Cllr Sean Anstee | Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Morris Bright | Hertsmere Borough Council |
| Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick | North Norfolk District Council |
| Cllr Paul Carter CBE | Kent County Council |
| Cllr Nigel Ashton | North Somerset 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 Glen Sanderson JP | Northumberland Council |
| Cllr Philip Atkins OBE | Staffordshire County Council |
| Cllr Kay Hammond | Surrey County Council |
| Cllr Nicolas Heslop | Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council |
| Cllr John Hart | Devon County Council |
| Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE | East Riding of Yorkshire Council |
| Cllr Martin Hill OBE | Lincolnshire County Council |
| Cllr Tony Jackson | East Herts Council |
| Cllr Liz Hacket Pain | Monmouthshire County Council |
| Cllr Roy Perry | Hampshire County Council |
| Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE | Bexley Council |
| Cllr Rory Love | Shepway District Council |
| Labour (40) | |
| Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair) | Newcastle upon Tyne City Council |
| Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE | Stevenage Borough Council |

| | |
|---|---|
| Mayor Sir Steve Bullock | Lewisham London Borough Council |
| Cllr Simon Henig CBE | Durham County Council |
| Cllr Simon Blackburn | Blackpool Council |
| Cllr Michael Payne | Gedling Borough Council |
| Cllr Alice Perry | Islington Council |
| Cllr Anne Western CBE | Derbyshire County Council |
| Cllr Sue Murphy CBE | Manchester City Council |
| Cllr Peter Box CBE | Wakefield Metropolitan District Council |
| Cllr Judi Billing MBE | North Hertfordshire District Council |
| Cllr James Dawson | Erewash Borough Council |
| Cllr Sarah Hayward | Camden Council |
| Cllr Paul Watson | Sunderland City Council |
| Cllr John Merry CBE | Salford City Council |
| Cllr Warren Morgan | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Cllr Kate Haigh | Gloucester City Council |
| Cllr Aaron Shotton | Flintshire County Council |
| Cllr Sue Woodward | Staffordshire County Council |
| Cllr Timothy Swift | Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Sir Stephen Houghton CBE | Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Clyde Loakes | Waltham Forest London Borough Council |
| Cllr Bryony Rudkin | Suffolk County Council |
| Cllr Helen Holland | Bristol City Council |
| Cllr Graham Chapman | Nottingham City Council |
| Cllr Richard Watts | Islington Council |
| Sir Richard Leese CBE | Manchester City Council |
| Cllr Linda Thomas | Bolton Council |
| Cllr Claire Kober OBE | Haringey Council |
| Cllr Judith Blake | Leeds City Council |
| Cllr David Acton | Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Roger Lawrence | Wolverhampton City Council |
| Cllr Barrie Grunewald | St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Anthony Hunt | Torfaen County Borough Council |
| Cllr Tudor Evans OBE | Plymouth City Council |
| Cllr Alan Rhodes | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Cllr Andy Moorhead | Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Rishi Shori | Bury Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Amy Cross | Blackpool Council |
| Mayor Marvin Rees | Bristol City Council |
| | |
| Substitutes | |
| Cllr John Clarke | Gedling Borough Council |
| Cllr Tom Beattie | Corby Borough Council |
| Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe | Bradford Metropolitan District Council |
| Cllr Shabir Pandor | Kirklees Metropolitan Council |
| | |
| Independent (10) | |
| Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair) | Lincolnshire County Council |
| Cllr Peter Reeve | Cambridgeshire County Council |
| Cllr Bob Dutton OBE | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Cllr Chris Townsend | Surrey County Council |
| Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons | Cornwall Council |
| Cllr Robert Bucke | Tendring District Council |
| Cllr Alan Seldon | Herefordshire Council |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Cllr Phelim MacCafferty | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Cllr Geoff Knight | Lancaster City Council |
| Cllr Colin Mann | Caerphilly County Borough Council |
| | |
| Liberal Democrat (9) | |
| Cllr Keith House | Eastleigh Borough Council |
| Cllr Lisa Brett | Bath & North East Somerset Council |
| Cllr Jeremy Hilton | Gloucestershire County Council |
| Cllr Richard Kemp CBE | Liverpool City Council |
| Cllr Claire Hudson | Mendip District Council |
| Cllr Howard Sykes MBE | Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Heather Kidd | Shropshire Council |
| Cllr Mike Bell | North Somerset Council |
| Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE | Bedford Borough Council |
| | |
| Substitutes | |
| Cllr Stan Collins | South Lakeland District Council |
| Cllr Ross Henley | Taunton Deane Borough Council |
| Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP | City of London Corporation |
| Cllr David Neighbour | Hart District Council |
| Cllr Chris White | Hertfordshire County Council |
| Cllr Alan Connett | Teignbridge District Council |
| Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE | Sutton London Borough Council |
| Cllr Liz Green | Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council |
| Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE | Watford Borough Council |

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 20 October 2016

12.30 pm

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 19 January 2017, 12.30 pm, 5th Floor Conference Suite, **Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG**



What next for housing?

Purpose

For information.

Summary

Housebuilding is well below the levels required for an efficient and fully functioning housing market. Around 130,000 new homes were built last year, whilst estimates of the housing need of people across the country vary between 220,000 and 250,000 homes a year.

Councils are well placed to help bridge the gap, and to provide the mix of different homes that deliver on their wider duties and ambitions for places and communities. In advance of the Government's Autumn Statement and Housing White Paper, which will set out how it plans to deliver 1 million new homes, the LGA is continuing to develop its strategy for putting councils at the centre of locally led housing, planning and homelessness solutions.

We have invited Terrie Alafat, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, and Hugh Ellis, Interim Chief Executive of the Town and Country Planning Association, to provide their perspectives on how the Government and councils can work together to build and plan for the homes communities need. The conversation will be chaired by Emma Maier, Editor of Inside Housing.

Biographies for the speakers are attached at [Appendix A](#).

Recommendation

That Councillors' Forum note the presentations and raise issues on how the sector can enable the building of homes that communities need.

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Policy
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Appendix A

Chair: Emma Maier, Editor Inside Housing



Emma Maier joined Inside Housing as editor in 2014, having edited Local Government Chronicle since 2009. Before that she was deputy editor of social workers' magazine Community Care, where she led the Stand Up Now for Social Work campaign to improve media portrayals and public perceptions of the profession. She has also worked in the charity sector as deputy editor of Voluntary Sector, the magazine of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. She is the co-author of a book titled "The Good Giving Guide: A supporter's guide to charities and campaigning". Emma tweets at twitter.com/emmamaier.

Terrie Alafat CBE, Chief Executive Chartered Institute for Housing



Terrie Alafat is chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, the independent voice for housing and the home of professional standards. She was most recently director of housing in the Department for Communities and Local Government, with overall policy responsibility for the supply and management of housing across all tenures, housing growth, and homelessness prevention and support. As part of this, she also led on sponsorship of the Homes and Communities Agency. She has worked in the civil service covering various housing policies and programmes since 2003. Terrie was given a CBE in 2013 for services to homeless people.

Hugh Ellis, Interim Chief Executive Town and Country Planning Association



Hugh joined the TCPA as senior planner in April 2009. Before taking the post he had been senior planning advisor to Friends of the Earth for 10 years and had previously worked as a lecturer in the University of Sheffield planning school. Since joining TCPA Hugh has been involved in providing expert advice and analysis of the NPPF and Localism Act and the more recently the Growth and Infrastructure Act. In 2013 he co-wrote Planning out Poverty, a year-long research project with the Webb Memorial Trust which explored the overarching question 'how can we re-focus planning to be more effective in dealing with social exclusion?'

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum: 21 July 2016 – 20 October 2016.

LGA business

- Sean Hanson (Chief Executive) - Local Partnerships
- Matthew Hamilton (Director) – District Councils' Network
- Cllr Blackburn (Safer & Stronger Communities Board) – LGA
- AMA Board
- Liam Booth-Smith (Chief Executive) – Localis
- Markku Markkula (EPP) - President of the EU Committee of Regions
- Julie Girling MEP
- Cllr Ken Browse (Chairman) - National Association of Local Councils
- Cllr Sir Richard Leese (City Regions Board) - LGA

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

- The Rt Hon Lord Freud (Minister of State for Welfare Reform) – Department for Work and Pensions
- Marcus Jones MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- The Rt Hon David Gauke MP (Chief Secretary to the Treasury) – HM Treasury
- Gavin Barwell MP (Minister of State for Housing and Planning and Minister for London) - Department for Communities and Local Government
- Bob Blackman MP
- Meg Hillier MP (Chair) - Public Accounts Committee
- The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP (Chairman Conservative Party; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) – Cabinet Office

Meetings with organisations and individuals

- Chris Mould (Chairman), David McAuley (Chief Executive) – Trussell Trust
- Moira Fraiser (Director of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns) - Macmillan Cancer Support
- Soha Housing Association – Scrutiny panel
- Kru Desai (Partner - Government and Infrastructure practice) – KPMG LLP (UK)
- Jon Sparkes (Chief Executive) – Crisis
- Matthew Reed (Chief Executive) - Children's Society
- Brian Berry (Chief Executive) - Federation of Master Builders
- UCLG Congress - World summit of Local and regional leaders

Children and Young People Board – report from Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)

Conferences, Meetings and Public Events

1. On Wednesday 21 September, I attended a Westminster Education Forum event on alternative provision and exclusion within the education system. I hosted a seminar on this topic, highlighting the LGA's positions on best practice, quality and progression.
2. On Tuesday 27 September Cllr Liz Green, Deputy Chair of CYP Board, attended a conference hosted by Westminster Briefing entitled: *Improving School Admissions: Meeting the Needs of Parents, Carers and Pupils*. Cllr Green engaged in a policy-focussed seminar attended by admissions officers and Governors from across the country.
3. On Wednesday 19 October Cllr Roy Perry gave a talk entitled 'Exploring the Changing Relationship Between Schools and Local Authorities', at an event hosted by Inside Government on the 'Future Role of Local Authorities in Education Services'. His keynote considered the implication of the March 2016 White Paper *Educational Excellence Everywhere* and the *Education and Adoption Act*. He addressed the challenging environment for local authorities currently and the crucial role of local authorities in achieving high outcomes for children.
4. On Monday 17 October, Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair), Cllr Roy Perry (Vice Chairman) and Clive Harris (Adviser, Children) attended a Centre for Public Scrutiny Roundtable, chaired by Lord Bob Kerslake, on the future of children's services. The roundtable was prompted by the publication of DfE's paper *Putting children first*, and focused on new models for delivery, the rise of children's trusts and how to these trusts might be structured and held accountable.

Children and Social Work Bill

5. On Wednesday 28 September I attended a meeting with representatives from groups campaigning around the forthcoming Children and Social Work Bill, including Article 39, the National Association of Independent Reviewing Officers, the British Association of Social Workers, the Association of Lawyers for Children and Liberty. We discussed the Bill, their concerns around clauses 29 to 33 and our work addressing these concerns with the Department for Education.
6. On Tuesday 11 October, Cllr David Simmonds (Chairman of the Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group) and I attended a meeting with the Rt. Hon. Edward Timpson MP (Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, DfE). We discussed the Children and Social Work Bill and the upcoming debate in the House of Lords. We addressed areas of strength and weakness within the Bill, highlighting clauses 29 to 33 and our particular concerns around the proposed powers to allow the Secretary of State, without the consent of local partners, to exempt individual authorities from requirements imposed by children's social care legislation.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Summit

7. On Thursday 13 October, the Children and Young People Board, in conjunction with the Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group, hosted a summit on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and the National Dispersal Scheme. The summit was attended by a range of local authorities and campaigning groups, and enabled the LGA to encourage the voluntary dispersal of children throughout the country as well as discuss alternative dispersal mechanisms.

The Alan Wood External Advisory Group

8. In my capacity as Chair of the Board, I have attended multiple meetings of the Alan Wood External Advisory Group. This group is chaired by Alan Wood (former ADCS President) and advises the ongoing DfE review of the role of the council in education and children's services. Our focuses are the role of the local authority in: the planning of school places; special educational needs and disability provision; early years provision; post-16 education and training; and effectiveness and quality in schools. Of particular importance to the group is the potential reduction in the Education Services Grant as well as the proposed transition to academy status, the timeline and possible mandatory nature of this process, and the extent to which new trusts would infringe upon local authority powers.

Consultations

Early Years National Funding Formula Consultation

9. On Thursday 22 September the LGA submitted a response to the DfE's EYNFF consultation. The LGA noted that a review of the historical formula and methodology was welcome, and should see funding allocations more closely match the costs of provision in different places. However, the LGA response also raised considerable concerns about the deliverability of the additional 15 hours of free childcare for working parents at the current levels of national funding, and argued strongly against constraints on local flexibility.

Soft Drinks Industry Levy

10. The LGA responded to the government's Soft Drinks Industry Levy Consultation which ended on 13th October. The LGA has previously called for fundamental reforms, such as a mandatory reduction of sugar in soft drinks, better sugar labelling on food and drinks products, calorie counts on menus in chain restaurants and for councils to be given powers to ban junk food advertising near schools.

Local Transformation Plans for Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services

11. The LGA has undertaken a survey to seek views from Directors of Children's Services on how efforts to transform CAMHS are progressing. Results will be fed into the planned LGA's "State of the Nation Report" for CAMHS, which will identify key recommendations for national partners to support local transformation, and highlight good practice underway in some areas.

Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect

12. The LGA and ADCS submitted a joint response to the joint consultation by the Home Office and DfE on reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect. We have opposed the introduction of mandatory reporting or a formal duty to act, arguing that there is no evidence that these systems will provide greater protection for children and young people nor lead to better outcomes. We are concerned that the resulting increase in inappropriate contacts / referrals risks weakening the child protection system in this country, which already receives a higher volume of referrals than many countries with mandatory reporting systems. Instead, we have advocated for the investment of efforts and available resources in prevention, early identification and early help through a host of measures aimed at children and young people themselves, professionals and the general public.

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City Regions Board – report from Sir Richard Leese (Chair)

Devolution

1. Over the summer, the LGA has taken forward a wide-ranging programme of work in support of further devolution and has continued to develop and deliver a bespoke offer of support for areas across the country, including: Greater Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the Tees Valley CA.
2. A meeting with the Chief Executive of Liverpool City Region took place on 12 September and discussions are currently underway to firm up the LGA's support offer to cities and established combined authorities. The first meeting of the Combined Authority Chief Executive Network chaired by Martin Reeves took place on 26 September and considered papers on the LGA's devolution support offer, Brexit, housing and the Commonwealth mayoral network. It was agreed that the network should meet bi-monthly with the LGA providing the secretariat. Proposed future agenda items include: fiscal devolution, health devolution and employment and skills.
3. On 4 August, LGA officers from across the finance and policy directorate facilitated a day-long workshop attended by council officers and officials from DCLG that explored the potential devolution of new responsibilities relating to employment and skills that might arise from the government's proposal for the full retention of local business rates. The discussion from this event was used to inform the LGA's response to Government.
4. On 9 August, supported by senior council representatives, LGA officers attended a workshop facilitated by DCLG to identify key risks and opportunities to devolution arising from the outcome of the EU referendum. The outputs from this discussion have been passed to the Department for Exiting the European Union. In addition, the LGA will be working across Whitehall to ensure full consideration of the potential implications for local government.

Skills and Employment

5. The board continues to work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the new Work and Health Programme (WHP). This programme is designed to assist the long term unemployed into work with as much local government involvement as possible. Ten devolution deal areas are currently working bilaterally with DWP on the design of the programme in their local area.
6. The board are working jointly with People and Places Board members on this, and are continuing to make the case for the current national system to be more integrated and localised. With the Chair of the People and Places Board, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, I met with Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, on 12 September to discuss the sector's concerns and to propose a way forward which could allow the minister to launch the WHP with the backing of local government. On Friday 30 September, the Minister responded with a detailed response setting out why the LGA's asks could not be met. An LGA response is currently being drafted.

7. The board's Deputy Chairman, Councillor Robert Light, attended the Sub-Committee on Education, Skills and the Economy on 14 September to give oral evidence on apprenticeship for the apprenticeships inquiry.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

8. Work continues on the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission which the LGA is co-sponsoring. Chaired by Stephanie Flanders and directed by Charlotte Alldritt, the commission aims to understand and identify practical ways to make local economies across the UK more economically inclusive and prosperous. In June, the commission hosted a series of seminars to examine how new approaches to skills and labour markets might drive growth and productivity alongside greater inclusion and participation in local economies. Speakers included David Hughes, Chief Executive of the Learning and Work Institute, and Tony Tweedy, Director of Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities at Sheffield City Council.
9. The commission has also held deep dive research sessions in the cities of Sheffield, Bradford, Cardiff and Newcastle, involving private in-depth interviews supplemented by analysis of public strategy documents, data and other available material. A formal call for evidence has now been launched inviting responses to a broad range of questions across three themes: economy, place and governance. The Commission launched its Emerging Findings report on 23 September. The report calls on Government to make inclusive growth "its working definition of economic success and give policy makers at all levels of government a mandate finally to bring economic and social policy together."

Leading Places Project

10. With input from both the City Regions and People and Places Boards, the LGA is continuing to work with HEFCE and UUK to deliver the [Leading Places Project](#): a programme of leadership development for both the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth. The [website](#) for the project is now live.
11. Four of the six pilot areas have now held their Senior Leadership Group Meetings and confirmed their project themes. Notably, the Manchester pilot has identified a project on Health improvement supported by digital innovation. Arrangements are underway for the peer challenge event on the 21st November, which will give each pilot area to showcase their work in front of a national audience. The event will provide a clear milestone against which to evaluate progress and to make an early assessment of the value of the approach to strengthening collaborative leadership between councils and universities.

Other Events

12. On 7 September, Cllr Robert Light spoke at APSE's Annual Seminar on the challenges and pressures facing local government in delivering frontline services. He discussed a range of issues, including the economic regeneration of local areas in the face of declining resources, initiatives to work with citizens and improve local democracy, and the need to maintain progress with devolution deals.

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox
Position: Principal Policy Adviser



Agenda Item 3b

Councillors' Forum

20 October 2016

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E-mail:

Rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chairman)

Community Wellbeing Board Away Day

1. On Friday 7 October the Board met for the first time this meeting cycle to discuss our priorities for 2016-17 and hear from guest speakers on a variety of topics related to the Boards work, such as the future of integration, adult social care funding, public health and prevention, and homelessness. Members heard perspectives on the various topics from Stephen Dorrell (Chair of NHS Confederation), John Jackson (ADASS Resources Lead), Frank Ursell (Char of the Care Providers Alliance), Shirley Cramer CBE (Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Public Health, Paul Plant (Deputy Director at Public Health England), David Buck (Senior Fellow at the Kings Fund) and Gill Leng (Public Health England national adviser on health and homes).

Armed forces

2. On 22 July 2016 Cllr Richard Kemp chaired a round table discussion with representatives of the armed forces and Directors of public health to explore opportunities for working closer together.
3. At the end of August we published the joint report with Forces in Mind Trust – [“Our Community, Our Covenant”](#) - a report into the local implementation of the armed forces covenant, recommendations for improvement and sharing examples of good practice. It has been very well received by the armed forces community, Government as well as councils, and we look forward to taking the recommendations in the report forward.

Carers

4. We submitted our call for evidence to inform the development of the [Carers Strategy](#) to the Department of Health. We focused on the opportunities of Carer Friendly Communities and the importance of health support to carers as well as those cared for.

Learning disabilities and autism

5. Cllr Jackie Meldrum represented the CWB Board at the National Learning Disabilities Board on 19 July, meeting the new parliamentary-under-secretary for social care, David Mowat, on his first day in the job. Cllr Meldrum will also be chairing the LGA's event on Autism: [Think Autism: Supporting the person, their family and their carers](#) – being held on Wednesday 23 November in London.

Children and Young People's Mental Health

6. We undertook a survey into the opinions of Directors of Children's Services into the provision of mental health services at a local level, with a focus on the impact of the [Local Transformation Plans](#). The results will form part of a 'state of nation'-style report into Children and Young Peoples' mental health, services and support, and the role of councils, due for publication in December 2016. This is alongside the development of a wider LGA campaign on Children and Young People's mental health.

Supported Housing for vulnerable people

7. After much representation from the LGA, Government announced that they would not be introducing the Local Housing Allowance cap on rents for [supported housing](#) until 2019, when they would be introducing a new funding model for the sector, that is likely to involve a ring-fenced grant going to councils to commission supported housing. The LGA [responded to the announcement](#) and we are awaiting the publication of the fuller consultation, due out imminently. Cllr Jackie Meldrum also spoke at the National Housing Federation's annual conference on [Health and Housing](#) in Birmingham on housing and councils working together to improve health.

Dementia

8. In July 2016 Cllr Gillian Ford co-chaired the PM Challenge on Dementia 2020 (Public Services) thematic group teleconference and in August 2016 Councillor Gillian Ford was a judge for the Alzheimer Society's Dementia Friendly Awards.
9. In August and September 2016 Cllr Jackie Meldrum attended the Prime Minister Challenge on Dementia 2020 Citizens Engagement Programme Task and Finish advisory group. The purpose of the group is provide advice on engaging with citizens to find out if the PM Challenge is making a difference to the lives of people with dementia and carers.

Personalisation

10. In September 2016 Cllr Colin Noble attended the Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) Programme. An output of the programme is the publication: 'Engaging and empowering communities - Our shared commitment and call to action'. This will be published at NCAS.

Mandated Health Visitor Checks

11. Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Community Wellbeing Board Chairman) and Cllr Richard Watts (Chair of the Children and Young People's Board) have written to Nicola Blackwood MP, (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation) requesting that the Government does not make a decision about the mandation of health visiting services in isolation. We have proposed that a collective review of all mandated public health services delivered by local councils should be undertaken next year. This will help to ensure that councils are not forced to redirect existing public health budgets to mandated services and that within the context of a reduced funding envelope, there is local flexibility to determine how to target available resources. We have invited the Minister to meet with us discuss this proposal further.

Kings Fund Annual Integration and Care Summit

12. Cllr Izzi Seccombe recently represented the Board at the King's Fund annual Integration and Care Summit, which explored the ways NHS organisations and their partners can collaborate in order to meet the needs of the population they serve. It also focused on the work being done to develop sustainability and transformation plans and how place-based systems offer can enable commissioners and providers to collaborate in response to the pressures they are faced with.

Press Releases and Statements

13. We have recently made public statements on a report by the [Children's Commissioner on school nurses](#), [latest diabetes figures](#), [the Kings Fund report on social care](#), [latest immunisation figures](#), [latest dental statistics](#), [the PACAC report on unsafe discharge from hospital](#), [latest Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards statistics published by NHS Digital](#), and [drug misuse death statistics](#). The LGA has also called for the [prescription of exercise to reduce obesity](#), and [mandatory use of traffic light labelling on food & drink to show nutritional content](#).

| | |
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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)

Libraries

1. I was delighted to meet the Rt Hon Rob Wilson MP, Minister for Civil Society (with responsibility for libraries) in September 2016. We discussed the work of the Libraries Taskforce, which has achieved a significant win for local government through the roll-out of funding for free Wi-Fi in libraries. I also emphasised to the Minister the local government views with regard the proposed Ambition for Libraries document and Action Plan and that this needs to reflect the priorities and budget position in local government.

Sport and Physical Activity

2. I was pleased that Mike Diaper, Executive Director Community Sport at Sport England spoke at the Councillors Forum in June 2016, where he outlined Sport England's new strategy and the key role that local authorities have in the successful implementation of the strategy. I plan to meet with Sport England in the coming months to highlight the specific local government offer in relation to the Sport England strategy.
3. Local government's close working relationship with Sport England has resulted in the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with partners in Greater Manchester. The MoU sets out a framework of how Sport England and Greater Manchester partners, including councils will take forward a shared focus on tackling inactivity to improve health, social and economic outcomes.
4. Cllr Geraldine Carter gave the introductory presentation at the latest Sport England/LGA Leadership Essentials Sport Programme on 21-22 July 2016. The event supported seven portfolio holders to lead transformational change of sport services.

Culture

5. I am delighted that the LGA and Arts Council England have updated their shared statement of purpose agreement. The agreement outlines how each organisation will work with each other nationally to support a place based approach to local cultural offers. We continue to have an excellent working relationship with Arts Council England and this was reflected in the comments made by Paul Bristow, Director Strategic Partnerships at Arts Council England who at a recent CTS Board meeting stated the local government remains a key delivery partner for the Arts Council.
6. The LGA has submitted a response to the Arts Council Tailored Review. Given the strong track record of locally-led interventions, the LGA supported the Arts Councils intentions to re-balance funding to all parts of the country. The LGA emphasised that councils and their local partners are well placed to lead a step-change in cultural participation that will lead to more growth and improve the nation's wellbeing. We also mentioned that councils have an important leadership role to play, bringing schools, voluntary/ community arts sector organisations, National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs), health, and the private sector together to forge partnerships, unblock barriers to cultural participation and growth.

CTS political leadership offer 2016-17

7. I am pleased to announce that both Arts Council England and Sport England have confirmed again financial support to jointly organise with the LGA the CTS political leadership offer.
8. The funding will enable five Leadership Essentials Sport and Culture events and four culture peer challenges to be organised as well as the development of an online cultural hub on the LGA's website. Since 2011, over 500 councillors have attended the various CTS political leadership events, which we have organised in partnership with Arts Council England and Sport England.
9. I will be speaking at the next Leadership Essentials Culture and Sport events in November and December 2016.
10. I am also delighted that the next CTS Annual Conference will take place on 22nd & 23rd February 2017 in Bristol. This follows on from this year's conference which was a great success with over 150 delegates attending and the feedback was very positive.

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Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Martin Tett (Chairman)

Homelessness Reduction Bill

1. Following a short consultation exercise with councils and key partners, the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board published a policy briefing on the Homelessness Reduction Bill, which is available [here](#). There is growing awareness in the sector about the potential impact of the Bill. Although it is a private members Bill, it is looking increasingly likely that it will gain government support and therefore pass at the second reading in the House of Commons, which is scheduled for 28 October. Our briefing has been circulated to councils and other key partners, and will form the basis ongoing discussions with government and the Bill's sponsor, the Rt. Hon. Bob Blackman MP.
2. On Tuesday 4 October, I meet with the Mr Blackman to discuss the LGA's concerns. Our conversation included the following reservations about the draft Bill:
 - 2.1 56 day accommodation duty for those with nowhere safe to stay regardless of whether or not they have priority need - There is an insufficient supply of suitable accommodation to discharge this duty, and attempts to do so rely on sourcing expensive temporary accommodation which risks detracting from prevention work.
 - 2.2 The requirement to recognise an expired section 21 notice as proof of homelessness. This requirement will limit the time available to local authorities to engage in preventative work to avoid evictions.
 - 2.3 The duty to help to secure accommodation in 12 month tenancies for people who are homeless regardless of whether or not they have priority need - There are insufficient 12 month tenancies available to successfully discharge this duty for all applicants.

Joint session with the British Property Federation and senior managers of Milton Keynes Council

3. On Monday 19 September, the LGA held a joint session on the issue of infrastructure and growth. Civil servants and leaders from the development industry took part in discussions, offering their valuable thoughts, reflections and expert knowledge into what will help Milton Keynes achieve its growth ambitions and attract investment. This event follows on from an earlier occasion held in Southampton. Key messages will be shared widely with local government, the development industry and Government.

Commercial Waste Service

4. During the week commencing the 19 September, the Board, in conjunction with the legal team at the LGA, supported the Treasury and HMT to successfully defend a judicial review of the VAT exemption for council commercial waste services.

Conferences, Meetings and External Events

5. On Tuesday 11 October and accompanied by Kamal Panchal (Senior Adviser, International Affairs and Economic Growth) I met with the Rt. Hon. Andrew Jones MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport). This conversation covered a broad range of topics, but included the LGA's priorities of vibrant and cost-effective bus services, tackling congestion and infrastructure investment.
6. On Tuesday 4 October I also spoke at the Centre for Progressive Capitalism event on driving housing growth through Land Value Capture.
7. On Wednesday 13 July Cllr Keith House (Deputy Chair) spoke on connection between homeless and house building at the Housing Quality Network Annual Conference. On Thursday 29 September Cllr House also spoke at the Planning for Housing Conference, where his talk revolved around the implications for housing of Britain leaving the European Union. Cllr House also spoke at an Inside Government event on rogue landlords on Tuesday 27 September.
8. On Tuesday 14 June, Cllr Julian German (Deputy Chair) attended a workshop on food waste with the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser and Rory Stewart MP.

Responses to select committees and other consultations

9. The Board has engaged with a range of select committees and other consultations, including:
 - 9.1 Responding in August to a Department for Energy and Climate Change consultation on the future of the Energy Company Obligation funding energy efficiency;
 - 9.2 Responding in August to an Ofgem consultation on opening up funding from voluntary redress payments by energy companies to a wider group of stakeholders including councils;
 - 9.3 Submitting written evidence in September to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee Inquiry into the economic, social and environmental impact of food waste in England.
10. The Board has briefed on a number of issues, including the Neighbourhood Planning Bill, the recent Parliamentary debate on quality and affordability of housing as well as submitting evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Planning about the private rented sector.
11. I have personally written to both Clive Betts (Chair of Communities and Local Government Committee) and the Rt. Hon. Marcus Jones MP (Minister for Communities and Local Government) with evidence on the Homelessness Reduction Bill. I have also written to the Public Accounts Committee on the review into the sale of public land.

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Improvement and Innovation Board – report from Cllr William Nunn (Chairman)

Improvement

1. The LGA has secured the option for local government to appoint auditors through a dedicated sector-led national procurement body. The Government has approved Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) as that body and we are encouraging councils and local bodies to opt-in and maximise the significant financial and quality related benefits that this scheme will offer. Nearly 270 councils and local bodies have expressed interest in opting in to the national scheme. PSAA has published an initial draft prospectus and is inviting views on proposed arrangements.
2. The deadline for councils to submit an Efficiency Plan to access the Government's four year financial settlement offer was 14 October. As part of its range of support to assist councils with those Plans, the LGA, together with CIPFA, consulted a group of local government colleagues and produced 'top tips' for councils. The document, together with other resources for financial improvement, is available [here](#).
3. The LGA hosted a Member Peer Conference in Birmingham on 8 September, attended by councillors who contribute their time, experience and expertise to sector-led improvement projects. Over 100 peers attended from all regions. It was an opportunity to network, work both within political groups and cross-party, hear the latest on the LGA's improvement plans and attend briefing sessions on key work areas supported by peers. Delegates also contributed ideas for development of future LGA offers and future peer training. An action plan will be put together to take those ideas forward.

Leadership

4. We have produced and promoted [a new film](#), showing our range of political leadership development programmes and resources helping individual councillors become more confident and effective.
5. We have also updated the LGA's political leadership development offer. The latest programme dates can be found [here](#).

Productivity

6. On 5 October the LGA, in partnership with YPO, launched a national [Commercial Skills Procurement Solution](#), providing councils with a bespoke solution to finding specialist expertise, to make the delivery of commercial projects easier and ensuring councils pay a competitive price.
7. We have launched, with the Cabinet Office, the next phase of the [One Public Estate Programme](#), whereby councils can apply for up to £500,000 to support delivery of ambitious cross-public sector property-based projects that boost local growth, deliver more customer-integrated services, generate capital receipts and reduce running costs.

Transparency

8. Our Research and Information Team is leading on the National Action Plan for open government 2016-2018 core commitment on the creation and use of a data standard for consistent publishing of elections data. The [second round consultation](#) concluded on 14 October, building on an earlier first round and refinements and clarity provided by key stakeholders.
9. Our Research and Information team's [LG Inform Plus Powers and Duties Tool](#) guides users through the legislative framework that underpins all local authority and fire and rescue services, and includes direct links to legislative documentation. The tool now supports statutory and discretionary obligations arising in secondary legislation. [This single data sheet provides more information](#).

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People & Places Board – report from Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE (Chairman)

Devolution

1. Over the summer, the LGA has taken forward a wide-ranging programme of work in support of further devolution and has continued to develop and deliver a bespoke offer of support for areas. This has included working directly with Greater Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and Tees Valley CA. Local support needs have included: implementation of deals, leadership development, governance, constitution development, completion of assurance frameworks, communications, and civic and democratic engagement. Discussions are also currently underway to firm up the LGA's support offer to established combined authorities.
2. On 4 August, LGA officers from across the finance and policy directorate facilitated a day-long workshop attended by councils and officials from DCLG that explored the potential devolution of new responsibilities relating to employment and skills that might arise from the government's proposal for the full retention of local business rates. The discussion from this event was used to inform the LGA's response to Government.
3. On 9 August, supported by senior council representatives, LGA officers attended a workshop facilitated by DCLG to identify key risks and opportunities to devolution arising from the outcome of the EU referendum. The outputs from this discussion have been passed to the Department for Exiting the European Union. In addition, the LGA will be working across Whitehall to ensure full consideration of the potential implications and opportunities for local government.
4. The case for further devolution will be included in the LGA's submission to government in advance of the Autumn Statement on 23 November.

Skills and Employment

5. The board continues to work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the new Work and Health Programme (WHP). This programme is designed to assist the long term unemployed into work with as much local government involvement as possible. Ten devolution deal areas are currently working bilaterally with DWP on the design of the programme in their local area.
6. The board are working jointly with City Regions Board members on this work, and are continuing to make the case for the current national system to be more integrated and localised, and for the sector to benefit from the devolution deal process. With the Chair of the City Regions Board, Cllr Sir Richard Leese, I met with Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, on 12 September to discuss the sector's concerns, repeat the LGA's offer and to propose a way forward which could allow the minister to launch the WHP with the backing of local government.
7. Officers are now preparing a response to key employment and skills messages which are expected in the Autumn Statement in November.

Leading Places Project

8. With input and a steer from both the City Regions and People and Places Boards, the LGA is continuing to work with HEFCE and UUK to deliver the [Leading Places Project](#): a programme of leadership development for both the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth. The [website](#)

for the project is now live, and in September 2016, I wrote an article in the [LGA First Magazine](#) on the project's progress so far.

9. Four of the six pilot areas have now held their Senior Leadership Group Meetings and confirmed their project themes. Notably, the Gloucestershire pilot has identified a theme which will focus on developing the collective leadership necessary to deliver a vision of strategic and economic initiatives to transform Gloucestershire in 2050 and beyond. A countywide challenge group including the rural based Royal Agricultural University and urban based Gloucestershire University are now taking this forward.
10. Arrangements are underway for the peer challenge event on the 21st November, giving each pilot area to showcase their work in front of a national audience. The event will provide a clear milestone against which to evaluate progress and to make an early assessment of the value of the approach to strengthening collaborative leadership between councils and universities.

Superfast Broadband and Mobile Connectivity

11. Board members continue to support councils in their efforts to extend superfast broadband and mobile connectivity. It is clear that access to fast and reliable digital connectivity is no longer a luxury.
12. In September, the LGA [responded](#) to the second reading of the new Digital Economy Bill (announced in the [Queen's Speech](#) in May). Amongst other issues, the LGA welcomed the new requirements in legislation for residents to obtain a new broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) of at least 10Mbps, whilst emphasising that standards must keep pace with national average speeds. LGA officers will continue to work closely with members to monitor the Bill's progress and take appropriate steps to ensure the concerns of councils are properly reflected.
13. The board-commissioned [Up to Speed Campaign](#) website page continues to receive a high number of visits.
14. Officers have secured national media coverage supporting the board's lobbying lines, including on the placement of mobile infrastructure, which received coverage in [the Daily Mail](#), broadband providers' advertising of misleading "up to" broadband speeds which was covered in [The Telegraph](#), [The Daily Mail](#), [The Sun](#), [The Daily Mirror](#), [the BBC online](#), on ITV's Good Morning Britain and BBC Radio 4's Today programme. The LGA has called on Government to [reaffirm its commitment to enacting the Universal Service Obligation](#) after reports of delays to the Digital Economy Bill receiving national coverage on [BBC online](#). As a result, the government issued a response reiterating its commitment to the USO.

Rural Issues

15. On 12 July, Cllr Heather Kidd spoke at the Rural Housing Conference on the need for more affordable homes in rural areas to allow rural communities to continue to be sustainable and the potential for partnership work between housing associations, the Rural Housing Network and local government in this area.
16. On 6 September, I spoke at the Rural Conference in Cheltenham on the work of the People and Places Board on key issues in rural areas.

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Resources Board – report from Cllr Claire Kober OBE (Chair)

Board governance and Member Champions

1. Following a review of the portfolio model that the Board was operating last year, the Leadership Board has decided to revert to a Board system of governance. The Board met for the first time in this political cycle on 23 September and agreed a number of Member Champion roles to take responsibility for a specified subject area. Members appointed the following Member Champions:
 - 1.1. Local Government Finance – Cllrs Claire Kober and John Fuller
 - 1.2. EU matters including funding– Cllr Clarence Barrett
 - 1.3. Welfare Reform – Cllr Claire Hudson
 - 1.4. Skills – Cllr Linda Van de Hende
 - 1.5. Pensions – Cllr Roger Phillips

Local government finance

2. At its first meeting the Resources Board considered local government finance issues that could form part of the LGA's Autumn Statement submission, which was finalised in line with the Government's deadline of 7 October. .

EU matters including funding

3. Members also agreed to proceed with key recommendations for the Resources Board under the Leadership Board commissioned work streams: "*Responding to issues arising from the referendum decision to leave the EU*" and "*Developing a new legal base for local government (after we leave the EU)*". Priority areas will include: (i) Lobbying to secure the full quantum of EU funding allocations (£5.3bn) to local areas up to 2020; (ii) Contributing to the LGA's broader work to inform imminent Brexit negotiations, by reviewing and prioritising key local government services and responsibilities which are currently based on EU law (regulations and directives) (iii) Developing early-thinking options for successor arrangements to EU regional aid, once we have left the EU. As the Board's member champion for EU matters, Cllr Clarence Barrett (LB Havering - Ind), will lead a small group of members to develop this work between meetings.

Fair Funding Review

4. The LGA has responded to the Government's initial consultation on business rates retention and the call for evidence on the Fair Funding Review. In its responses, the LGA stressed the need to consider existing funding pressures before phasing out grants and introducing new responsibilities on local government.

DCLG/LGA regional

5. As part of the process of gathering views on the Government's consultations on business rates retention, the LGA organised a series of regional workshops, delivered jointly with the Department for Communities and Local Government. The six sessions were held in York, Newcastle, London, Cambourne, Taunton and Birmingham.

6. Overall, around 190 authorities were represented by 250 delegates across the six events.
7. While discussions were lively and wide-ranging, a number of common themes emerged. Where possible they were reflected in the LGA's consultation responses. In any case, all views have been noted by the Government as part of its consultation process.

Business Rates Task and Finish Group

8. Work on the detailed development of the policy continues with further meetings of the LGA's member Task and Finish Group, and the joint LGA and Department for Communities and Local Government officer-level steering group and sub-groups. Papers and minutes from the officer meetings are published on the LGA's business rates hub [here](#).

Check, Challenge, Appeal consultation

9. The LGA has also responded to the Government's consultation on the Check, Challenge, Appeal regulations which aim to reduce the number of appeals. As part of this response, the LGA stressed the need for stricter time limits for appeals to be raised after the publication of a new valuation list.

London Finance Commission

10. Cllr Fuller, the Vice-Chair of the Resources Board, provided oral evidence to the London Finance Commission at its London hearing on 8 October.

National Living Wage

11. We commissioned research into the impact of the National Living Wage in local government and related areas (e.g. procured social care), with a focus on the likely level of the NLW in 2020. The draft report from Incomes Data Research is being considered and the findings will be reported to a meeting of the National Joint Council Employers' Side in early November.

Meeting with the Pensions & Local Government Minister

12. Cllr Roger Phillips in his capacity as chair of the Local Government Pension Scheme advisory Board met with the Pensions Minister (Richard Harrington MP) and the Local Government Minister (Marcus Jones MP) in September. Both meetings usefully covered a range of pensions issues such as cost and charges, asset pooling and academies and it was agreed that officials will follow up in a number of areas of shared interest.

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Safer & Stronger Communities Board – report from Councillor Simon Blackburn (Chair)

Chief Fire Officer's Association Presidential Team and Lead Members of the FSMC

1. On the 27 July the then Lead Members of the FSMC met with the Presidential Team of the Chief Fire Officer's Association (CFOA) to discuss CFOA's internal reform programme. CFOA will become the National Fire Chiefs Council in April 2017 following the changes.

Home Office meeting with FSMC

2. On 31 August a number of FSMC members met with the Home Office to discuss the Government's fire reform programme.

Firefighters Memorial Trust - Annual memorial service and wreath laying

3. Cllr Rebecca Knox, Deputy Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the Annual memorial service and wreath laying on the 11 September to represent the LGA.

Medical examiners

4. I wrote jointly with Cllr Izzi Seccombe and Joanne Roney, Community Wellbeing Spokesperson for SOLACE, to Lord Prior of Brampton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, raising concerns about proposals for reforming death certification and the introduction of medical examiners.

National FGM Centre Advisory Group

5. Cllr Brett chaired the National FGM Centre's Advisory Group on the 29 September, bringing together a range of stakeholders to discuss the work of the Centre. Cllr Brett also spoke at a Westminster Briefing event on FGM, and highlighted the work the National FGM Centre has been doing with the six pilot local authorities it is working with.

APPG Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

6. Cllr Anita Lower gave evidence at an inquiry hearing held by the APPG FOBTs.

Integration City report

7. Cllr Janet Daby attended the launch of the Integration City report by the social integration charity The Challenge (NB - not confirmed yet)

Gambling licensing

8. Cllr Clive Woodhouse chaired a conference on gambling licensing focusing on what councils can do to implement and support recent changes to local gambling controls.

Consumer Protection Framework

9. Cllr Anita Lower fed into the National Audit Office review of the consumer protection framework.

Taxi licensing regional events

10. Cllr Lisa Brett chaired a taxi licensing conference in the South West

CCTV

11. I spoke at a Westminster Briefing CCTV seminar about the CCTV Code of Practice and council use of CCTV, and also spoke to the Surveillance Camera Commissioner in the fringes of the event about CCTV issues related to local authorities.

Danger of 'tombstoning'

12. Cllr Joy Allen and I warned about the danger of young people, some fuelled by drink, are risking their lives 'tombstoning' – jumping or diving from a height into water unsupervised – into the sea and canals. We called on the Government to extend an awareness raising campaign by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the dangers of jumping into water and cold water shock - which can lead to drowning – to schools nationwide

Business rates debts and press work

13. I called for new powers to allow councils to suspend the licences of businesses which wilfully or persistently fail to pay their business rates. This would tackle the current loophole in licensing and business laws that is being exploited and resulting in millions of pounds owed to councils having to be written off. I also did media releases on FGM, illegal tattooist and Public Space Protection Orders.

Institute of Economic Affairs report on use of FOBTS

14. In response to a report by the Institute of Economic Affairs on the use of fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTS) by gamblers, I highlighted councils' frustration at the lack of powers to curb betting shops and FOBTS. Independent research has shown that areas close to betting shops tend towards higher levels of crime, deprivation and unemployment.

HMIC Fire Inspection External Reference Group

15. Lead Members from the Fire Services Management Committee attended the first of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's meetings looking at how a fire inspection regime could work.

Breaking Barriers 2 – Criminal Justice

16. Following on from the LGA's involvement with the first Breaking Barriers report on social care I met the Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears and Dr Jon Bashford to discuss their second report on criminal justice in a devolved system.

Security Industry Authority

17. The Security Industry Authority's chief executive met me to discuss their work on violence reduction, council use of private security services and councils' use of devolved enforcement powers.

Counter-Extremism

18. I met the Home Office's Director of Counter-Extremism to discuss implementation of the Counter-Extremism Strategy, their support to councils and how they can engage with all councils around tackling extremist ideology.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Title: | Councillors' Forum |
| Date: | Thursday 21 July 2016 |
| Venue: | Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ |

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

| Item | Decisions and actions | Action |
|------|-----------------------|--------|
|------|-----------------------|--------|

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|----------|---|--|
| 1 | Perspectives on Leaving the European Union | |
|----------|---|--|

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and referred them to a recent publication from the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, which had been distributed on arrival.

For more information please visit citizensadvice.org.uk or contact Judith.edwards@citizensadvice.org.uk.

Members noted the LGA's work in formulating a strategy for its involvement in negotiations following the country's decision to leave the European Union. Lord Porter introduced Nick Golding, News Editor of the Local Government Chronicle who would be Chairing this item, and also guest speakers Andrew Carter, Deputy Chief Executive of the Centre for Cities and Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, who would be providing both urban and rural perspectives on the opportunities and threats of leaving the EU and the challenges facing the LGA.

Mr Golding said that he was honoured to Chair the discussion and referred to the recent LGA Conference, where confirmation had been given that Councils would have a seat at the table in negotiating exit arrangements. He went on to introduce Shaun Spiers.

Mr Spiers spoke about key issues affecting rural areas and ways in which these would be affected. He focussed on these key areas:

- Mr Spiers outlined current funding levels for agricultural support and issues already arising from the decision to leave, including a collapse in the house building and planning industry. Greater investment should be encouraged by providing a physical stimulus to enable the country to build the many houses needed. Local Authorities would need to adopt new systems for better spending.
- Rural areas would find it harder to justify level of funding going to

farming and land management. There were concerns around immigration and the impact on many who currently work in agriculture.

- Continued plans for devolution needed to address how money is spent for European structural funds in order to include sustaining ongoing developments.

Mr Carter continued, referring to the need for urgent clarification on EU funding and the negotiation process. He spoke about the LGA and cities' roles in determining what is mandatory and how these and Local Authority priorities would be reconciled. Members agreed that there would be challenges ahead and Whitehall should be encouraged to move more speedily in addressing these queries. He said that the broader agenda around growth and investment should not get lost in negotiations and that devolution deals already struck taken forward without delay. Members agreed that housing supply needed to be urgently addressed and debated current constraints on building more local authority housing and problems around the cost and availability of appropriate land.

Members agreed that Local Government were best placed to advise Central Government on local issues affecting their communities further to the decision to leave the European Union. It was important to continue the agenda on devolution and in particular on issues around housing.

The Chairman thanked the Panel for their attendance and an enjoyable debate, and suggested that housing and planning should be a subject for discussion at a future meeting of the Councillors' Forum.

2 Chairman's Update

Decision

Members **noted** the report from the Chairman.

3 LGA Boards & Panel Chair's Reports

Lord Porter invited Board Chairs and members to comment on these reports.

Members were saddened to hear Cllr Izzi Secombe's announcement of the recent death of Harold Bodmer, the president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and agreed he would be greatly missed.

Decision

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

4 Digest of the last meeting

Decision

Members **agreed** the note of the last meeting.

The next Councillors' Forum will be held on Thursday 20 October 2016.

Appendix A -Attendance

| Position/Role | Councillor | Authority | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Chairman | Lord Gary Porter | South Holland District Council | |
| Members | Cllr David Acton | Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council | |
| | Cllr Nigel Ashton | North Somerset Council | |
| | Cllr John Beesley | Bournemouth Borough Council | |
| | Cllr Kevin Bentley | Colchester Borough Council | |
| | Cllr Peter Box CBE | Wakefield Metropolitan District Council | |
| | Cllr Gillian Brown | Arun District Council | |
| | Cllr Robert Bucke | Tendring District Council | |
| | Cllr Melvyn Caplan | Westminster City Council | |
| | Cllr Paul Diviani | East Devon District Council | |
| | Cllr Bob Dutton OBE | Wrexham County Borough Council | |
| | Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons | Cornwall Council | |
| | Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick | North Norfolk District Council | |
| | Cllr Peter Fleming OBE | Sevenoaks District Council | |
| | Cllr Nick Forbes | Newcastle upon Tyne City Council | |
| | Cllr Keith Glazier | East Sussex County Council | |
| | Cllr Peter Golds CBE | Tower Hamlets Council | |
| | Cllr Jeremy Hilton | Gloucestershire County Council | |
| | Cllr David Hodge | Surrey County Council | |
| | Cllr Tony Jackson | East Herts Council | |
| | Cllr Richard Kemp CBE | Liverpool City Council | |
| | Cllr Robert Light | Kirklees Metropolitan Council | |
| | Cllr John Merry CBE | Salford City Council | |
| | Cllr Colin Noble | Suffolk County Council | |
| | Cllr Roger Phillips | Herefordshire Council | |
| | Cllr Alan Seldon | Herefordshire Council | |
| | Cllr Chris Townsend | Surrey County Council | |
| | Cllr Paul Watson | Sunderland City Council | |
| | Cllr David Wilcox OBE | Derbyshire County Council | |
| | Apologies | Cllr Jason Ablewhite | Huntingdonshire District Council |
| | | Cllr Sean Anstee | Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council |
| | | Cllr Mike Bell | North Somerset Council |
| | | Cllr Judi Billing MBE | North Hertfordshire District Council |
| | | Cllr Caitlin Bisknell | High Peak Borough Council |
| Cllr Simon Blackburn | | Blackpool Council | |
| Cllr Lisa Brett | | Bath & North East Somerset Council | |
| Cllr Morris Bright | | Hertsmere Borough Council | |
| Mayor Sir Steve Bullock | | Lewisham London Borough Council | |
| Cllr David Burbage MBE | | Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough | |
| Cllr Paul Carter CBE | Kent County Council | | |

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| Cllr Graham Chapman | Nottingham City Council |
| Cllr Neil Clarke MBE | Rushcliffe Borough Council |
| Cllr Simon Cooke | Bradford Metropolitan District Council |
| Cllr Amy Cross | Blackpool Council |
| Cllr Phil Davies | Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Tudor Evans OBE | Plymouth City Council |
| Cllr John Fuller | South Norfolk District Council |
| Cllr Kate Haigh | Gloucester City Council |
| Cllr Kay Hammond | Surrey County Council |
| Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE | Gloucestershire County Council |
| Cllr Sarah Hayward | Camden Council |
| Cllr Simon Henig CBE | Durham County Council |
| Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE | Bedford Borough Council |
| Cllr Helen Holland | Bristol City Council |
| Sir Stephen Houghton CBE | Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Keith House | Eastleigh Borough Council |
| Cllr Claire Hudson | Mendip District Council |
| Cllr Anthony Hunt | Torfaen County Borough Council |
| Cllr James Jamieson | Central Bedfordshire Council |
| Cllr Mike Jones | Cheshire West and Chester Council |
| Cllr Heather Kidd | Shropshire Council |
| Cllr Claire Kober OBE | Haringey Council |
| Sir Richard Leese CBE | Manchester City Council |
| Cllr Claire-Louise Leyland | Camden Council |
| Cllr Vince Maple | Medway Council |
| Cllr Andy Moorhead | Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE | Bexley Council |
| Cllr Ivan Ould | Leicestershire County Council |
| Cllr Marianne Overton MBE | Lincolnshire County Council |
| Cllr Jonathan Owen | East Riding of Yorkshire Council |
| Cllr Tony Page | Reading Borough Council |
| Cllr Blake Pain | Harborough District Council |
| Cllr Liz Hackett Pain | Monmouthshire County Council |
| Cllr Michael Payne | Gedling Borough Council |
| Cllr Lib Peck | Lambeth London Borough Council |
| Cllr Alice Perry | Islington Council |
| Cllr Roy Perry | Hampshire County Council |
| Mayor Jules Pipe | Hackney London Borough Council |
| Cllr Peter Reeve | Cambridgeshire County Council |
| Cllr Alan Rhodes | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Baroness Coughtre of Downe | Westminster City Council |
| Cllr Bryony Rudkin | Suffolk County Council |
| Cllr Izzi Seccombe | Warwickshire County Council |
| Cllr Aaron Shotton | Flintshire County Council |
| Cllr David Simmonds CBE | Hillingdon London Borough Council |
| Cllr Timothy Swift | Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council |
| Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE | Northumberland Council |
| Cllr Howard Sykes MBE | Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council |



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| | Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE | Stevenage Borough Council |
| | Cllr Martin Tett | Buckinghamshire County Council |
| | Cllr Linda Thomas | Bolton Council |
| | Vacancy | Independent Group |
| | Cllr Keith Wakefield OBE | Leeds City Council |
| | Cllr Richard Watts | Islington Council |
| | Cllr Anne Western CBE | Derbyshire County Council |
| | Cllr Sue Woodward | Staffordshire County Council |
| | Alderman Sir David Wootton | City of London Corporation |
| In Attendance | Andrew Carter | Centre for Cities |
| | Nick Golding | Local Government Chronicle |
| | Shaun Spiers | Campaign to Protect Rural England |
| LGA Officers | Mark Lloyd | LGA Chief Executive |

LGA location map

Local Government Association

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 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131
 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@local.gov.uk
 Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

