People & Places Board

Agenda

Thursday, 26 January 2017
1.00 pm

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House,
76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

This meeting is SOCIAL MEDIA FRIENDLY

Guidance notes for members and visitors
Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

Welcome!
Layden House is located directly opposite the Turnmill Street entrance to Farringdon station, which is served by the Circle, Hammersmith & City, and Metropolitan lines as well as the Thameslink national rail route.

Security
Layden House has a swipe card access system meaning that a swipe enabled security passes will be required to access the lifts and floors 1-5.

Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor** of Layden House which is open access and therefore does not require a swipe enabled security pass. **Access** to the rest of the building (floors 1-5) is via swipe enabled security passes.

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In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately via the nearest fire exit onto Turnmill Street and take the next turning on your left – Benjamin Street to St John's Gardens.
DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.
DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

Soft Seating Area
There is a small soft seating area on Floor 2 which will also operate as an 'Open Council' area for visiting members and officers from member councils. Please note however that unlike Open Council, this area does not have tea and coffee facilities, nor access to computers.

Toilets
There are accessible toilets on the Ground Floor, 2nd and 4th floors.

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If you have special access needs, please let the meeting contact know in advance and we will do our best to make suitable arrangements to meet your requirements.

Parking is available at the rear of the building for Blue Badge holders, accessed via the Turks Head Yard, North underpass. Disabled WCs are situated on the ground and 4th floors. An induction loop system is available in the 5th floor conference venue. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

Guest WiFi in Layden House
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Further help
Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

Why have the LGA's Headquarters moved?
The LGA has temporarily relocated from Local Government House (LGH) in Smith Square to Layden House in Farringdon, effective from Monday 31 October 2016. This is to allow extensive refurbishment work to be carried out to LGH.

The refurbishment works will see the ground floor conference centre and all meeting rooms fully refurbished. Floors 1, 2 and 3 will be upgraded and released for commercial letting to enable the LGA to maximise the income from this building as part of its drive for financial sustainability. A new and larger Open Council will be located on the seventh floor. The refurbishment is expected to last for nine months and we expect to be back in LGH by September 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

People & Places Board
26 January 2017

There will be a meeting of the People & Places Board at **1.00 pm on Thursday, 26 January 2017**
Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm.

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 the morning. 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 Layden House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:
Eleanor Reader-Moore
Eleanor.reader-moore@local.gov.uk/ 0207 664 3383

Carers' Allowance
As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.20 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Social Media
The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgapp

People & Places Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (12)	
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE (Chairman)	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Gillian Brown (Vice Chairman)	Arun District Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Roger Blaney	Newark & Sherwood District Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Chris Hayward	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr John Osman	Somerset County Council
Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Cllr Ken Turner	Pendle Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Philip Ham	Mendip District Council
Cllr Robin Howe	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Chris Saint	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Labour (4)	
Cllr Michael Payne (Deputy Chair)	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Jennifer Mein	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	Derbyshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Cllr Frank Radcliffe	North Hertfordshire District Council
Independent (3)	
Cllr John Pollard (Deputy Chair)	Cornwall Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
Cllr Amanda Martin	Council of the Isles of Scilly
Substitutes	
Cllr Helen Grant	North Yorkshire County Council
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Cllr Heather Kidd (Deputy Chair)	Shropshire Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council

People and Places Board - Attendance 2016-2017

Councillors	29/9/16	01/11/16
Conservative Group		
Mark Hawthorne MBE	Yes	Yes
Gillian Brown	Yes	Yes
Philip Atkins OBE	Yes	Yes
Derek Bastiman	Yes	Yes
Roger Blaney	No	Yes
Paul Carter CBE	Yes	Yes
Chris Hayward	No	No
Daniel Humphreys	Yes	Yes
Ken Meeson	Yes	Yes
John Osman	No	Yes
Blake Pain	Yes	Yes
Ken Turner	Yes	Yes
Labour Group		
Michael Payne	Yes	Yes
Vince Maple	Yes	Yes
Jenny Mein	Yes	Yes
Caitlin Bisknell	No	Yes
Independent		
John Pollard	Yes	No
Chris Townsend	No	Yes
Amanda Martin	Yes	Yes
Lib Dem Group		
Heather Kidd	No	Yes
Stan Collins	Yes	Yes
Sarah Osborne	Yes	Yes
Substitutes/Observers		
David Bill	Yes	
Leigh Redman	Yes	Yes
Chris Saint		Yes

Agenda

People & Places Board
Thursday 26 January 2017, 1.00pm
Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 9 March 2017, 1.00 pm, Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Title:	People & Places Board
Date:	Tuesday 1 November 2016
Venue:	Council Chamber, St John's Gate, 26 St John's Lane, London, EC1M 4DA

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions

1   Welcome, Introductions and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and listed apologies.

There were no declarations of interest.

2   Minutes of the Last Meeting

Regarding the minutes from the last meeting, the following points were made:

- Members requested that a briefing was produced on the work of other policy boards, and that this was considered as an item at the next board meeting.

- Officers advised that the Chief Executive of Ofcom would be attending the January board meeting.

- Officers advised that the Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group had considered suggestions made regarding an independent commission for the fair funding review at the last board meeting but instead expressed a preference for some form of independent scrutiny of the results of the Government's work rather than a full commission. The Leadership Board were now looking at the issue in more depth and officers would report back at the January board meeting.

- It was agreed that the paper commissioned on the Fair Funding Review by the task and finish group would be circulated to the board in December.

- Points made on the support offer currently received by Looked After Children at the last board meeting were raised. Officers advised these would be addressed in the Skills and Employment item.

Decision:

1. Members **agreed** the minutes as an accurate summary of the discussion.

Actions:

1. Officers to produce a paper on the work priorities of all policy boards for the next meeting.
2. The paper on Fair Funding Review commissioned by the Business Rates Task and Finish Group to be circulated to the board in December and officers to feedback at the January meeting.

3 Devolution Update

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the item. He advised members that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had been invited to a board meeting to discuss devolution deals (particularly in non-metropolitan areas). He gave an overview of press and public affairs work to highlight the case for devolution to non-metropolitan areas in advance of the Autumn Statement, and recent support activity including work to increase community engagement in the process of devolution.

The following points were made:

- Members requested that emphasis was placed on 'missed opportunities' in LGA work. A discussion followed on the different perspectives of central government and local areas to the mayoral model.

- A discussion took place on business rates retention. Members agreed it would be useful to have a further debate on this and asked for an update at the next board meeting.

- The role of England in issues such as Brexit and devolution (in comparison to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) was discussed. It was agreed that lead members would relate to this point to their political group offices.

Decision:

1. The board **agreed** to a press and public affairs campaign in advance of the Autumn Statement highlighting the case for devolution to non-metropolitan areas and missed opportunities.

Actions:

1. The letter to SoS to be followed up
2. Lead members to relate concerns about the lack of representation for England in the devolution debate (in comparison to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) to their political group offices.

4   Broadband, Mobile and the Digital Divide

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the item. He updated members on the LGA's recent activity on digital connectivity and advised that Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom, would attend the board in January.

Melanie Haslam, Public Affairs and Campaigns Adviser, updated members on the progress of the Digital Economy Bill. Published in July, the bill had had its 2nd reading in September. Two proposed amendments had been narrowly voted down. Officers advised that these would be re-introduced in the Lords. The LGA were now using the bill to inform its response to the Autumn Statement and would be meeting with MPs to raise the profile of the work.

The following points were made:

- There were concerns that many rural and remote rural areas had not yet benefited from the roll-out of the Superfast Broadband programme.

- It was suggested that compensation should be provided to those without the service.

- There was a discussion around the digital skills training provided by councils and the plans for digital inclusion to be covered by the Adult Education Budget. Officers suggested that it was unclear at present whether the AEB funding envelope was sufficient to fund anything additional, and were therefore proceeding with caution.

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the update.

Actions:

1. Officers to explore any progress on the funding of digital inclusion from the AEB and produce a short note for the next board meeting if there are any new developments.

5   Skills and Employment Update

Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, introduced the item, updating members on the progress of joint lobbying work between the People and Places Board and City Regions Board on employment and skills. Members made the following points:

Public Employment and Skills Service (PESS) project

- Members' views were sought on the project specification -

appendix C - P&P and CR lead members would have oversight of the project. Members were also asked for a steer on how Ministers could be engaged in the process.

- The project should identify the problem with the current system before setting out local government's alternative. Critical to the solution would be gearing the skills system – including colleges and schools - to local need and involvement of LEPs.

- The vision should develop an integrated skills, employment and careers guidance service which supported the unemployed / low skilled but also those looking for a career change. This could include different types of service, being publicly / privately funded.

- LGA should engage with CCN on developing a survey to councils on the impact of employment and skills provision in their area to feed into the wider project.

- The Danish model for skills was highlighted as a successful system for creating a skilled workforce, and should be included in the international evidence.

- With reference to correspondence between the Chairman and the Employment Minister on the Work and Health Programme (Appendix A), Members raised the challenge that large CPA areas would not achieve local targeting with additional access issues for rural areas.

- LGA to develop work on skills which links to impact of Brexit, industrial strategy, and technological innovation.

- It was suggested that the board consider working with the City Regions and Children and Young People Board in this area, possibly through a seminar.

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the recommendations.

Actions:

1. Officers to engage with CCN on their recent skills survey.
2. Officers to include the Danish model for skills in international evidence.
3. Officers to explore ways to bring together the board with the CYP and CRs board as part of the Public Employment and Skills Service project.
4. Officers to continue with work on the project, in line with the steer above.

6   Local Government's Position Following the EU Exit

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the item, advising members that the paper set out the details of a commission from the Leadership Board to consider English local government's position following Brexit. He asked the board to comment upon and agree the set of draft principles (set out at appendix B) in order to feed into this wider piece of work.

The following points were made:

- The loss of the European Social Fund and the impact this would have on communities was discussed. Funding going to the EU from the UK and its possible repatriation to local government was touched upon.

- It was suggested that the draft principles be expanded to take into account a local government post-Brexit perspective. The skills agenda could be fed into these.

- Members discussed secondary legislation based on directives which affected local government, and the need to be aware of amendments the government could make to these.

Decision:

1. Members **agreed** that officers would take forward further work in this area.

Action:

2. The draft principles to be adapted to reflect a local government (post-Brexit) perspective.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Deputy-Chairman	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Deputy-Chair	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Members	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Roger Blaney	Newark & Sherwood District Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
	Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr John Osman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
	Cllr Ken Turner	Pendle Borough Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Jennifer Mein	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Amanda Martin	Council of the Isles of Scilly
	Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
	Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Chris Saint	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Apologies	Cllr Chris Hayward	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr John Pollard	Cornwall Council

Broadband, Mobile and the Digital Divide

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper provides an update on recent national policy developments related to digital connectivity and seeks to confirm with members our proposed focus for lobbying over the next 12 months. A briefing for the visit of Sharon White, Ofcom Chief Executive, to the Board is provided separately.

Recommendation:

That the People and Places board consider and confirm our lobbying positions within the context of national policy and following discussions with Ofcom, as outlined in paragraphs **7, 14 and 27.**

Action:

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

Contact officer:	Daniel Shamplin-Hall
Position:	Adviser
Phone no:	020 7664 3314
Email:	Daniel.Shamplin-Hall@local.gov.uk

People and Places Board

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Broadband, Mobile and the Digital Divide

Background

1. The focus of the next People and Places Board will be on a discussion with Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom. To support members in getting the most from this conversation and to steer our work for the year ahead this paper provides an update on recent digital connectivity policy developments and sets out our proposed lobbying position for consideration by members.

2. A briefing paper for Ofcom's visit, outlining the regulator's remit, future planned activity and potential discussion points for Board discussions, is provided separately.

National policy context

3. The next 12 months will see a range of developments relating to digital connectivity in non-metropolitan areas:

    3.1. The council-led Superfast Broadband Programme will approach its last major milestone of reaching 95 per cent of premises passed by the end of 2017 (with a projected final reach of 97 per cent of premises passed by 2020.)

    3.2. The Government will formally decide on the design of the broadband USO and potentially commence its roll out before the year is out;

    3.3. The deadline for mobile operators to meet Government-imposed voice services and 4G obligations will pass at the end of the year, with potential fines being imposed by Ofcom if they are not met.[1]

Broadband

Superfast Broadband Programme

4. Councils have played a significant role in the extension of digital connectivity to households through the Superfast Broadband Programme. Around £740 million of the £1.7 billion invested in the programme has come from local government. Latest Government figures show that over 90 per cent of UK premises were covered by these speeds or faster with the programme passing over 4.1 million premises. Despite this positive national picture, there are still underlying and profound inequalities in coverage and speeds between different areas with only 59 per cent of premises in rural areas receiving superfast speeds, according to Ofcom's latest figures.[2]

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[1] The Government secured coverage obligations from MNOs to guarantee voice and SMS text coverage for 90 per cent of the UK landmass from each provider by 2017. Separately, O2 has a legal obligation to roll out 4G to cover at least 98 per cent of the UK population (when indoors) by 2017 at the latest.
[2] Ofcom defines superfast speed as 30Mbit/s+ compared to the Government's 24Mbit/s+ definition, meaning rural coverage is slightly higher according to the Government's definition.

5. Many councils are projecting to reach more than the Government's initial national target of 95 per cent coverage of premises passed by December 2017[3] some of which will be delivered using extra funding "clawed back" from the original contracts.[4] The increase in "alt nets" in the market has also given local authorities a wider choice when procuring extensions to contracts provision to the hardest to reach residents.

6. The LGA has worked with member councils to improve the sector's knowledge of the range of digital infrastructure suppliers now available in the marketplace and maintains a close relationship with a variety of alt-net stakeholders.

7. **In light of the continued poor provision of superfast speeds for rural areas it is proposed that the LGA will continue to push for high quality, high speed connections for rural and non-metropolitan communities.**

Broadband Universal Service Obligation

8. Despite the progress of the Superfast Broadband Programme, there are still 1.4 million premises that currently cannot receive a download speed of 10Mbps with 70 per cent of them in rural areas. This increases to 2.6 million if you include those premises that cannot achieve upload speeds of 1Mbps. It is not yet clear the extent to which new roll-out of superfast broadband will provide the remaining sub-10Mbps premises with faster broadband. Inevitably, a portion will be covered by further commercial and publicly-funded roll-out but some, particularly the most geographically isolated, will not. Ofcom estimates that even taking account of existing public intervention and future commercial roll out plans combined, 600,000 premises will not be able to access speeds of 10Mbps or higher by 2020.

9. After announcing proposals for a broadband Universal Service Obligation and launching its own consultation, Government also commissioned Ofcom to undertake a detailed technical analysis to inform and support the design of the USO. The LGA submitted evidence to the regulator's Call for Evidence in June 2016. Ofcom's final report, presented to Government last month, provided Government with three potential design specifications to implement:

    9.1. Scenario 1: a **standard broadband** service, characterised only by a 10Mbps download speed. This is the most basic scenario, only setting a minimum requirement of 10Mbps for download speed and would currently apply to 1.4 million premises in the country. **Members would not see this as acceptable as it fails to guarantee minimum standards for a range of other factors of importance to a good connection, like upload speed.**

    9.2. Scenario 2: a **more highly specified standard broadband** service, adding upload speed of 1Mbps as well as a range of other performance indicators.) This would currently apply to 2.6 million premises in the country**. This is the minimum standard the LGA has been lobbying for, although we suggested uploads speeds of 2Mbps would be more suitable for rural businesses.**

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[3] A few examples: Surrey County Council, Hampshire County Council, Shropshire County Council, Essex County Council
[4] Government Press Release: £440 million broadband boost to benefit more than half a million premises December 2016

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9.3. Scenario 3: a **superfast broadband** service, with download speeds of 30Mbps, upload of 6Mbps. This would currently apply to 3.5 million premises across the country. **Whilst this is an ideal scenario and one to be aimed for in the future through a rising minimum USO download speed, it is unlikely to be the Government's preferred option.**

Figure 3.2: The three scenarios for technical specification

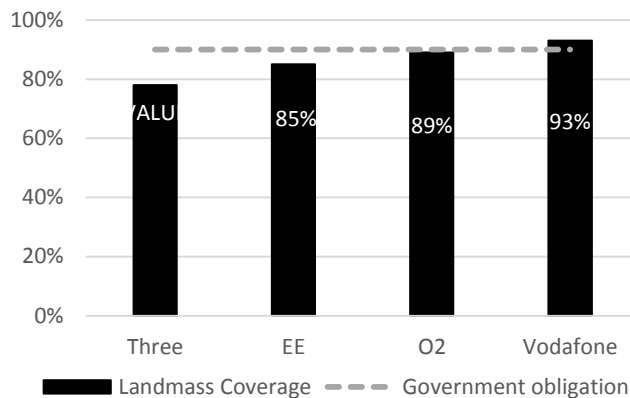|	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Download speed[38]	10Mbit/s	10Mbit/s	30Mbit/s
Upload speed	None defined	1Mbit/s	6Mbit/s
Latency[39]	None defined	Medium response time	Fast response time
Contention ratio/ Committed Information Rate[40]	None defined	50:1	CIR: 10Mbit/s
Data usage cap (monthly)[41]	None defined	100GB	Unlimited

10. Ofcom also revealed in the report that only BT (and KCOM in the City of Hull), have so far expressed interest in the delivering the USO. This is potentially concerning as a nationally delivered programme might not be able to provide bespoke technological solutions to local topography and sparsity of premises issues. The LGA has pushed for the providers of the USO to be locally procured rather than rolled out by a national provider to ensure value for money. However, if smaller providers show little interest, this preference may prove unviable.

11. The LGA has consistently made clear that the USO will only tackle the country's digital divide by providing a minimum download speed, rising in line with national averages, and guaranteeing a consistent performance of other elements which make for a good quality internet connection, such as upload speed.[5]

12. As a minimum, the LGA has made clear its support for a highly specified USO, as highlighted in Ofcom's scenario 2, which would obligate suppliers to provide the consistent performance of a range of indicators that make for a good connection.

13. The LGA has also continued to lobby for the Government to implement a social tariff as part of the USO for those that would face undue hardship paying for installation and monthly contract cost. Encouragingly, Ofcom has now also recommended that Government implements the measure. Future LGA lobbying will now focus on encouraging Government to follow Ofcom's recommendation and implement the social tariff in secondary legislation.

14. **It is proposed that the LGA will continue to lobby Government to implement a highly specified USO (scenario 2) as a minimum, and make clear the sector's aspiration for a USO that will eventually deliver superfast broadband, as outlined in scenario 3.**

Mobile connectivity

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[5] LGA submission to Ofcom's Call for inputs on the design of the broadband Universal Service Obligation, June 2016

15. Members have made clear that reliable mobile connectivity is increasingly important for residents in non-metropolitan areas. Many face challenges both in terms of the quality of coverage they receive, the lack of choice of mobile network operator (MNO) locally, and the prevalence of not spots.

16. Government and Ofcom expect significant improvements to the mobile coverage in the country by the end of 2017. This will coincide with the deadline of Government-imposed obligations on mobile network providers to guarantee voice and SMS text coverage for 90 per cent of the UK landmass.[6] The current level of geographic mobile voice call coverage so far achieved by the different operators for the purposes of their agreements is highlighted in Figure 1

Fig 1: **Voice coverage (landmass) by mobile network**

Connected Nations Report 2016

17. Separately, after winning an auction of 4G spectrum in 2013, the operator O2 has a legal obligation to roll out 4G to cover at least 98 per cent of the UK population (when indoors) by the end of the year at the latest. Ofcom expects other providers to match this aim.

18. Whilst Ofcom reports that national mobile connectivity is improving, country-wide coverage figures have a tendency to mask the deep disparity between coverage in urban and rural areas. This is highlighted in the figures 2 and 3 below.

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[6] Ofcom uses a lower minimum mobile signal level requirements to judge whether MNOs have met their obligations so 90 per cent coverage obligations would actually equate to 80-85 per cent in today's standards of measuring coverage.

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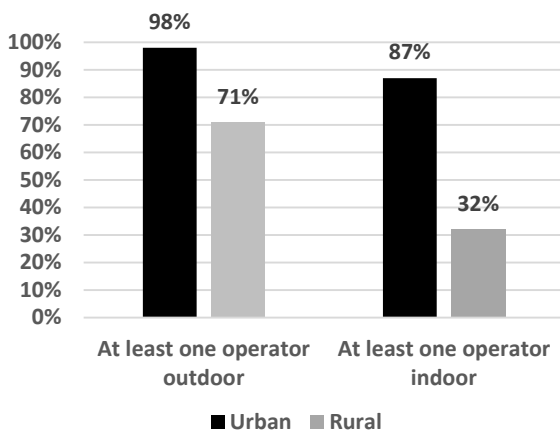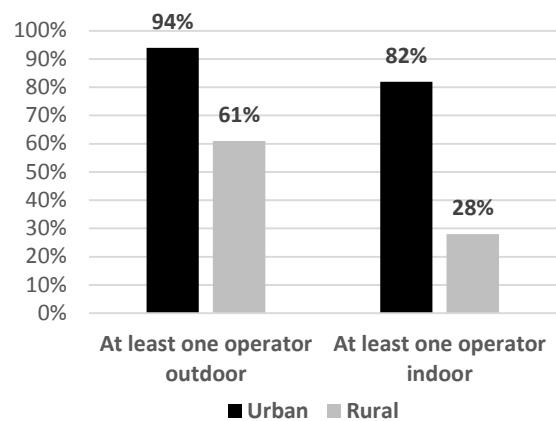Fig 2: **3G coverage (premises) - urban vs rural**

Fig 3: **4G coverage (premises) - urban vs rural**

Connected Nations Report 2016 – Interactive Data Dashboard

19. For residents to feel a noticeable difference in the quality of signal, there will need to be significant coverage improvements across all operators in rural areas.

20. Officers have previously outlined member councils' concerns at the representative nature of Ofcom's mobile coverage data. In some instances, councils believe it is not reflective of the realities on the ground in rural areas. This is concerning considering it is this data that will be used to hold MNOs to account on their aforementioned coverage obligations.

21. Councils have also made clear the disparity in resources Ofcom dedicates to verifying rural compared to urban coverage. Over the last year, Ofcom has released four detailed analyses of city mobile coverage. In comparison, they have released a crowd-sourced app (android phones only) to judge how well coverage is provided in rural areas. Whilst the latter is welcome, it is highly unlikely it will provide sufficient enough information to hold operators to account.

22. LGA officers recently fed these concerns to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) to inform its Connected Future report on mobile coverage. Subsequently, the NIC echoed our calls on mobile connectivity data recommending that:

    22.1. *"…Ofcom, government and mobile operators should report their coverage so that they are genuine and meaningful reflections of the services enjoyed by customers. Metrics should be measurable and based on the reality of service and coverage provided to customers, not based on simulated or predicted performance."*
    National Infrastructure Commission – Connected Future, December 2016

23. Members have previously discussed the potential role councils can play in helping catalyse improvements to mobile provision and holding mobile network operators to account on the services they provide to residents. It is clear that there is an increasing recognition of the

importance of local authorities in helping facilitate the role of mobile infrastructure. In its report to Government, the NIC also recommended that councils:

23.1. Coordinate local mobile connectivity delivery plans in discussion with mobile network operators and infrastructure owners which would consider the role of local government assets and infrastructure,

23.2. Consider how the deployment of digital infrastructure can be established as a priority in local planning policy.

23.3. Identify a designated individual with lead responsibility for engaging with mobile telecoms infrastructure providers.

23.4. Report annually to the government department with responsibility for digital infrastructure on their progress delivering against these plans.

24. Many councils actively facilitate the deployment of digital infrastructure working with communities to find the best locations for new mobile infrastructure masts. However, there is further work to be done ensuring councils across the country are better placed to have more strategic level conversations with MNOs to fully understand their roll out plans and, where appropriate, help the extension of provision through the use of public infrastructure.

25. The NIC's proposals helpfully highlight the role of councils in this area and, more importantly, would help them to hold mobile operators feet to the fire and focus them on meeting local needs.

26. Disappointingly, the proposals recommend councils must submit a yearly progress update to Government are outdated and inefficient, and LGA officers have made clear to civil servants that this would create a needless burden on already overworked and under-resourced local authorities.

27. **It is proposed that officers pursue a stronger focus on mobile connectivity, through the Up to Speed campaign, with the aim of supporting local government to play an impactful role in catalysing improvements to mobile provision in rural areas.**

Autumn Statement announcement

28. At 2016 Autumn Statement, the Government announced £1bn of new funding to boost the UK's digital infrastructure. This included:

28.1. £400 million in a new Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund to boost commercial finance for emerging fibre broadband providers;

28.2. Funding for further rollout of fibre broadband networks, which in partnership with local authorities across the UK who bid for fibre broadband connections, will prioritise faster connections for businesses and help build a better more productive economy;

28.3. Funding a new programme of fibre and 5G trials.

29. Further details on these programmes will be announced at Budget 2017, alongside the Government's 5G strategy.

30. Whilst the LGA has welcomed the new funding, we have made clear to Government that focussing on rolling out fibre to the premise in mainly urban areas will not serve to tackle the disparity that some rural residents face not being able to receive close to superfast broadband speeds.

31. The LGA have also publicly stated that, although the announcement of significant new investment in 5G technology is welcome, 5G will be no panacea for rural mobile connectivity issues. LGA officers have already met with civil servants to press home the importance that Government maintains focus on challenging mobile providers to extend 4G or even 3G technology across rural areas with the aim of coverage ubiquity across the country.

Next Steps

32. Members to consider and confirm our lobbying positions within the context of national policy and following discussions with Ofcom, as outlined in paragraphs **7, 14 and 27:**

   32.1. **We will continue to push for high quality, high speed connections for rural and non-metropolitan communities.**

   32.2. **We will continue to lobby Government to implement a highly specified USO and make clear the sector's aspiration for a USO that will eventually deliver superfast broadband.**

   32.3. **We will pursue a stronger focus on mobile connectivity, through the Up to Speed campaign, with the aim of supporting local government to play an impactful role in catalysing improvements to mobile provision in rural areas.**

People and Places Board

26 January 2017

Autumn Statement 2016

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report highlights the announcements in the 2016 Autumn Statement with a direct impact on the work programme of the People and Places Board and consequently asks Board Members to provide a steer on how best to balance priorities in the year ahead.

Recommendation:

That the People and Places Board:

1. **Note** announcements contained in the 2016 Autumn Statement with a direct impact on the work programme of the Board and LGA related activity.

2. **Consider** the proposal to prioritise the wider work of the Board in the short term in anticipation of a substantial role in shaping the LGA's response to the national industrial strategy due for release at the end of January.

Action:

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

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People and Places Board

26 January 2017

Autumn Statement 2016

1. The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his first and last Autumn Statement on 23 November. In anticipation and in response, the LGA embarked on a significant and sustained campaign of press and lobbying activity, highlighting the three priorities set out in our Autumn Statement submission:

    1.1 Creating the conditions for change: maintaining momentum on devolution and putting councils on a sustainable footing.

    1.2 Delivering opportunities for all: ensuring national and local government work together to develop the infrastructure required to ensure each area of the country can contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth.

    1.3 Supporting everyone to contribute and benefit: supporting other vital council services that allow councils to continue taking care of their communities.

2. We also produced and circulated an on-the-day briefing to councils and other key stakeholders and have committed to following up with departmental officials on the detail of specific announcements.

3. From the perspective of the LGA, the Statement was notable for its failure to address a number of key issues for local government. In particular, adult social care and the education services grant.

4. Following a concerted effort by the LGA and others the government used the provisional local government finance settlement to create additional flexibility by allowing the social care precept to rise by an additional 1 per cent in 2017/18 and 2018/19 on the condition that the total increase to 2019/20 does not exceed 6 per cent. However, no new money was included in the settlement and social care continues to face a £2.6 billion funding gap. The LGA's on-the-day briefing provides further analysis.

5. More specifically, within the context of the People and Places Board's work programme two areas of focus, digital infrastructure and devolution, present a somewhat contrasting picture.

6. On digital infrastructure our submission highlighted the fact that access to a fast and reliable digital connection is increasingly a necessity for households and businesses in the UK and a major driver of growth, jobs and the emerging creative industries.

7. Through the Autumn Statement the Chancellor announced that the Government will invest more than £1 billion by 2020/21 in digital infrastructure including:

    7.1 £740 million through the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund, targeted at supporting the roll out of full-fibre connections and future 5G communications and;

    7.2 £400 million match funded by the private sector for a new Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund.

8. In response, while we recognised the announcement of new investment for digital infrastructure as good news, we called on the government not to lose sight of the needs

of rural communities already struggling to receive a basic broadband service and highlighted the need to encourage new entrants into the broadband market to benefit those communities outside better connected areas.

9. Officers are currently following up with DCMS officials on how councils will be able to access the announced funds and have actively engaged with Infrastructure Commission to influence the government's thinking this area.

10. A separate item on the agenda sets out the LGA's proposed work on digital connectivity over the next few months, but it is worth reflecting that this area is both a priority for the government and one where the Board has clear opportunity to secure significant influence in addition to positive outcomes for member councils and residents.

11. By contrast the Autumn Statement had relatively little to say on devolution – announcing work to bring forward a second devolution deal in the West Midlands, a commitment to begin talks to devolve transport funding to Greater Manchester and setting out proposals to allow Mayoral Combined Authorities to borrow for new investment. Notably, there were no announcements relating to devolution to non-metropolitan areas.

12. At the November meeting of the People and Places Board, Members were clear that the Autumn Statement represented a clear milestone for non-metropolitan devolution and called for the LGA to lobby strongly on its behalf for greater progress and engagement from government.

13. As such, the LGA's response highlighted the fact that if momentum on non-metropolitan devolution is lost, billions of pounds worth of economic growth, hundreds of thousands of jobs and homes on offer through greater local leadership will be lost with it. We also called for the new borrowing powers for Mayoral combined authorities to be made available to all devolution deal areas.

14. We reiterated these points in our response to the Secretary of State's Annual Report on Devolution 2015-16.[1] Just before the New Year we also announced the findings of commissioned research by Shared Intelligence which revealed £23 billion of growth funding is spread out across 70 government departments and stressed the important role local devolution can play in building homes and driving economic growth.[2]

15. On behalf of the Board we have sought and will continue to seek a meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss the specific challenges and opportunities of rural and non-metropolitan areas. It should be noted that the Secretary of State is currently scheduled to attend Councillors Forum on 19 January. Members may wish to work with their groups to ensure these issues are raised at this meeting in advance of securing a meeting with the Board at a later date.

16. Board members will be conscious of the differential pace of devolution both within and between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. In discussions with LGA officers, officials from the Department of Communities and Local Government have maintained

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[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573518/Annual_Report_on_Devolution_2015-16__Print.pdf
[2] http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/8124410/NEWS

that devolution remains a priority for national government, but have stressed that significant work remains to be done to support the legislative process underpinning the existing round of deals and prepare the ground in advance of Mayoral elections in May. This could have a knock on effect on the capacity available to progress other devolution proposals.

17. As part of its agreed business plan for 2016-17 the LGA is committed to working with councils to help them increase the powers and responsibilities devolved to them from Government. However, in light of the continued uncertainty regarding the government's vision and capacity for non-metropolitan devolution and the challenges of gaining traction at a national level on this issue it may be appropriate to consider a change in the short-term focus of the board's priorities.

18. **As such, it is suggested that rather than continuing to develop a narrative in which the LGA focuses on calling for devolution deals to be negotiated in non-metropolitan areas, we maintain support for the underlying principle of greater devolution while prioritising those areas in the Board's work programme where the greatest practical progress might be made: Brexit, Leading Places, Digital Connectivity and Employment and Skills.**

19. **We also expect the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to launch a 'green paper' on the national industrial strategy towards the end of January. Given the remit of the Board it is suggested Members may wish to add to the priorities identified above and play an active role in shaping the LGA's response to this consultation, with a substantial discussion on this item at the next Board meeting in March.**

20. **In support of this work and in line with previous advice to the Board, LGA officers are currently in the process of commissioning research into a strengthened sub-national trade and investment strategy. This will include consideration of the challenges and opportunities for both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas within the context of Britain's departure from the EU. Officers will circulate emerging findings from this work to Lead Members and it will be used to develop the LGA's wider policy activity in the year ahead.**

People and Places Board

26 January 2017

Leading Places Update

Purpose

For discussion.

Summary

This report provides members with an update on the current phase of Leading Places project, advises that initial work in support of a second phase of the project has begun and describes additional proposals for joint work with the higher education sector.

Recommendations:

That the People and Places Board:

1. **Note** project progress to date.

2. **Comment** on the design principles that might underpin an LGA-funded second phase of the project.

3. **Consider** the proposal from HEFCE to further develop two additional projects aimed at strengthening joint working between local government and the higher education sector.

Action:

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

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People and Places Board

26 January 2017

Leading Places Update

Overview

1. This report provides members with an update on the current phase of Leading Places project, highlights that initial work in support of a second phase is currently being undertaken by officers and describes additional proposals from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for joint work between local government and the higher education sector.

Leading Places

2. Leading Places is a joint project aimed at fostering place-based collaborative leadership developed in partnership between the LGA, HEFCE and Universities UK (UUK). The first phase of the project has been funded by HEFCE, who are the lead partner.

3. The project launched in May 2016 and is now underway in six areas, with academic and local government partners engaged in a wide range of project activity:

Pilot Area	Local Partners	Project Theme
Gloucestershire	• Gloucestershire County Council • University of Gloucestershire • Royal Agricultural University	Development of a 2050 and beyond vision and agreement on a range of strategic, economic initiatives to transform Gloucestershire.
Manchester	• Greater Manchester CA • Greater Manchester LEP • Cheshire and Warrington LEP • New Economy Manchester • University of Manchester • University of Salford • Manchester Metropolitan University • Bolton University	Focused around health innovation by building upon the work of the recent Science and Innovation Audit as well as the devolution opportunities from around the health and social care budget.
Newcastle	• Gateshead Council • Newcastle City Council • University of Newcastle • Northumbria University	Building Community Research and Innovation Infrastructure: Healthy Eating and Food Takeaways.
Bristol	• Bristol City Council • University of the West of England • University of Bristol	Engaging with communities in Bristol, leveraging support from the newly elected Mayor and his City Office.
Coventry	• Coventry City Council • University of Warwick • Coventry University	Reducing health and wellbeing inequalities through sport and raising awareness of health issues.
Brighton	• Brighton and Hove City Council • University of Brighton • University of Sussex	Developing strategies to increase self-managed care amongst older people to reduce, delay or prevent escalation in the cost of care.

4. On 21 November representatives from each of these areas attended a national peer challenge event facilitated by the project consultants the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE). The event was well-attended and well-received and there was clear evidence of tangible progress in each of the pilot areas. **A report summarising the key discussions and outcomes of the event prepared by LFHE is attached at <u>Appendix A</u>. A copy of the presentation given by Professor Markku Sotarauta from the University of Tampere is available <u>online</u>.**

5. Over the next three months each area will undertake further work to develop and refine their project in anticipation of a national conference on 28 March. The positive progress across the six partnerships has also reignited interest in a second phase of the project, starting in April 2017 and potentially covering a greater number of areas**.** In light of this LGA officers are continuing to support the current pilot and exploring next steps related to the design and commissioning of a second phase. **Board members are asked to note project progress to date. They may also wish to comment on the design principles underpinning a second phase of the Leading Places Project.**

Additional Projects

6. Encouraged by the progress of the Leading Places project and within the context of a renewed drive at a national level for stronger more inclusive growth in all places that draws on the joint contribution of institutions from the public, health and higher education sectors HEFCE have approached the LGA with proposals to participate in the oversight of two additional projects:

    6.1 'Local Growth Academy': This project aims to build the operational capacity and capability of local anchor institutions in order to grow their individual and collective contribution to local and inclusive growth by focusing on the professional, technical and managerial skills needed for delivery of practical actions. Subject to organisational clearance it is due to be formally launched at the end of January and invitations along with supporting information will be sent to all council chief executives in England.

    6.2 'Know Your Place': HEFCE will fund the Leadership Foundation to deliver a pilot of a new high level programme for senior leaders in both universities and local councils in the form of a two-day programme that will focus on understanding the context of devolution, why it matters for local anchor institutions, the strategic challenges facing leaders and what solutions can be found to work more effectively across sectors. This project is still at the early stages of design and is scheduled to launch in May.

7. As these projects develop the LGA will continue working with HEFCE, Universities UK and other stakeholders to align their shape and direction with the related activities and priorities of member councils. **Members are asked to consider the two proposals from HEFCE and comment as appropriate. Officers will report back on progress at a future board meeting.**

Leading Places Peer Review Conference – Report
Prepared by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, Dec 2016

The Leading Places (LP) project, developed in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Universities UK (UUK), launched in May 2016. Its objectives and aims are to support devolution, public service reform, closer civic partnerships and economic growth. At the heart of this project is a process of action learning facilitated by the Leadership Foundation of Higher Education (LFHE). This method enables true partnership working as it promotes co design in the delivery of practical solutions.

The project draws on research, originally commissioned by the LFHE on 'place based leadership' authored by John Goddard, Emeritus Professor of Regional Development Studies, Newcastle University. The project is set to run until March 2017. Deliverables post this date will include a national learning event and the dissemination of a report from the LFHE.

For the pilot, six localities were chosen across England. These were Newcastle and Gateshead, Manchester, Coventry and Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol and Brighton. Each partnership is steered by a Senior Leadership Group, with a Challenge Team convened to carry through the project to its end. To date, the six action learning partnerships have been engaged in a process of action based learning to arrive at a single priority theme on which to focus:

ALP	Theme
Newcastle and Gateshead	Building a Community Research & Innovation Infrastructure: Healthy Eating and Food Takeaways.
Manchester	Health innovation with an emphasis on collaborative activity on this theme that links to the recent inter-institutional 'Science and Innovation Audit'.
Coventry and Warwickshire	Reducing health and well-being inequalities focusing on developing a healthy, age-friendly city and the place of sport in improving health for all.
Gloucestershire	Development of a 2050 and beyond vision and agreement on a range of strategic, economic initiatives to transform Gloucestershire.
Bristol	Focus to be on developing the new Mayor's office as a truly collaborative space for partner organisations across the city. One outcome may be an innovation hub that the city is planning in collaboration between both universities and local authorities and the mayor's office.
Brighton	Developing strategies to increase self-managed care amongst older people living in Leach Court to reduce, delay or prevent escalation in the cost of care.

Note: Some partnerships are in the process reshaping their themes as a result of reflection and peer challenge during conference. Lessons learnt and next steps for each partnership can be found in Appendix A.

Peer Review Conference

A critical phase in the project, the Peer Review Conference took place Monday 21 November and this was designed to give opportunities for the partnerships in each locality to reflect, review and impact assess the current status of their projects. Their fellow participants were

also able to provide support and challenge. This was made possible through LFHE facilitators, Alastair Work and Louisa Hardman leading a process of cross-peer review, friendly critique and challenge, within a collaborative, cross-organisational space.

Teams were asked to prepare an elevator pitch to present as well as, an illustrative timeline of their projects up to March 2017. Representatives pitching from each locality team were drawn from higher education institutions, local authorities and other relevant organisations; many in substantive and senior leadership roles.

Keynote speech - Professor Markku Sotarauta's reflections

The conference opened with a keynote speech, delivered by Professor Markku Sotarauta, a professor of regional studies at the University of Tampere, Finland and an international expert in collaborative place-based leadership. Two key themes around the need for a coherent strategy and questioning what it means to have a shared vision became identifiable as being of specific stimulation to the partnerships. These were often referred to throughout the day and are expanded on below:

Strategy
Within collaborative projects, leadership is needed at multiple levels to reach beyond familiar fields of activity to exert influence. Professor Sotarauta reinforced the need to have a strategy and to stick with it, as place based leadership needs consistency and stability. A further observation was that the LP project requires significant trust in the leadership character and competency of all stakeholders. On reflecting how to get LP to lift off in HEIs, it needed to be system led, at all levels. Finally, as place based leadership takes on the cultural complexities of the country or locality in which it is being exercised this would enable the HEI sector in the UK to evolve its own version.
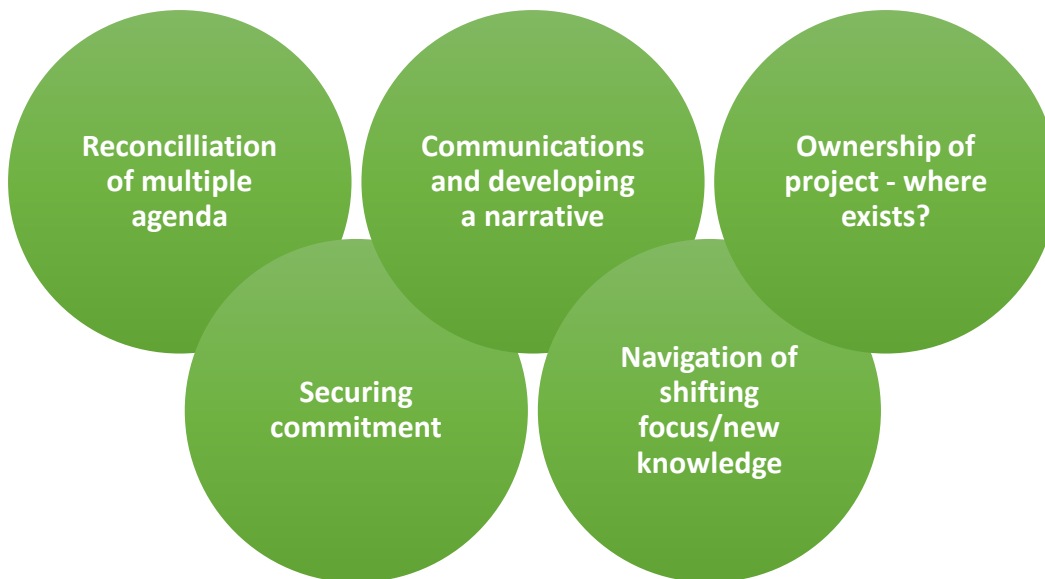
Shared vision
Professor Sotarauta dismantled the importance of having a 'shared vision' as differences of opinion in what vision actually means and priorities and actions are inevitable (due to realities of information sharing) and leads to a weakening of commitment and trust. Instead, he suggests we need a shared language, as agents are drawn from differing sectors so key is the use of a straight forward, shared language (no acronyms). This would enable all to be faithful to ambition and understanding of the project. This is crucial to LP as groups are drawn from HEIs, LAs and multiple organisations with contrasting languages and work flows. Understanding how colleagues work and therefore how they will undertake their share of the project is fundamental to any success.

Following Professor Sotarauta's keynote address, participants were led, by LFHE facilitators Alastair Work and Louisa Hardman, through a number of group work sessions that enabled each partnership to reflect on the intent and purpose of their project, as well as the challenges experienced in its genesis.

Summary of key challenges faced by partnerships in relation to the project

This graphic shows the outputs from a World Café session, wherein the facilitators asked each group to identify three key challenges of collaborative working. These were then clustered around the following themes:

Reconcilliation of multiple agenda

Communications and developing a narrative

Ownership of project - where exists?

Securing commitment

Navigation of shifting focus/new knowledge

Key challenges emerging from the process of collaborative working unpacked
During plenary sessions, participants were able to unpack these themes and begin to reflect on actions that could be taken to overcome such challenges. The cross-organisational and peer-review learning that took place within these sessions was particularly important.

- Attendees from all partnerships see LP as a foundation to further work. Taking a longitudinal approach to their projects, the partnerships are using the LP framework as a basis to set up networks that enable a collaborative cross-organisation approach to be taken. LP has in many cases opened the doors, with the facilitated meetings enabling effective relationship building. These will enable greater success in navigating competing agendas.

- LP has enabled partnerships to create a better environment in which they can suggest challenging and ambitious decision making.

- A strong theme of social consciousness runs through all of the projects showcased, seeking to improve outcomes for local communities, not just linked to LAs or HEIs. Partnership of HEIs and LAs brings a distinctive knowledge pool and capacity to innovate. Many of the projects fielded highlighted improving health and health outcomes.

- Many could see the process of collaborative learning and leadership as possibly more significant than the outcomes of the project in March. This ties back to the longitudinal approach being taken and using LP as a building block in the journey.

- The event highlighted the importance of cultivating relationships of trust within the project team – trust of each other's expertise, trust in facilitators, trust in the steering group and trust in external organisations.

Next Steps

As the project enters its final phase, the partnerships will be participating in their final facilitated challenge group meetings and preparing for the national event, due to take place on Tuesday 28 March. The national learning event will provide a platform to showcase the outcomes of the projects and future intentions as well as, an opportunity for interested parties to gain an understanding of the pilot.

You can find further information via the Leading Places website:

http://www.local.gov.uk/leading-places

Appendix A:
Lessons learnt and next steps for the partnerships

<u>Brighton</u>

    A. Learning around the personal nature of collaboration and need for trust in all involved. Relationship building takes time and is difficult to do in a formal space

    B. Amount of progress depends on level of buy in from all partners, challenges faced so far have been due to this lack of buy in from all involved so need to articulate clearer objectives for project in order to bring in all on periphery

<u>Gloucestershire</u>

    A. Realisation that project is tackling big questions about the role of the university within the locality and length of journey extends beyond project life of LP

    B. Need to clarify agenda for project aiming to create a positioning in locality and develop place for HEI as a long term trusted strategic contributor to the community

<u>Coventry</u>

    A. Felt that project is on track and helpful to have space to focus discussion and prioritisation, learning regarding personal nature of relationships and establishing these in formal/informal settings

    B. Need to leverage funding and social engagement aspect of project so that outcome of project can be realisable and appreciated to communities, take next steps to make project of public value

<u>Manchester</u>

    A. Positive about position in relation to other partnerships and helpful to have a dedicated, collaborative structure and space to hear from alternative perspectives

    B. Need to map relationships of all stakeholders, commit to further research with key players, important to distil what project will achieve and communicate this with partners in spirit of collaboration

<u>Bristol</u>

    A. Clearer conceptualisation of two strands of work: setting up city officer then beginning work of wider focus issues, project has acted as a slight reality check regarding collaborative leadership with political partners and all stakeholders (and their respective roles in project)

    B. Need to take map out timeline to March and focus on what is achievable within timeframe

<u>Newcastle</u>

    A. Useful to see diversity of projects, learning how to manage project through LP process and beyond, co-ownership of project is key

    B. Need to develop rationale for what project is and why and expand on detail, grounding it in individual organisation and what they are doing already, identifying and understanding transactional issues on how it can be transformational

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People and Places Board

26 January 2017

For Information: Update on the LGA's lobbying on the Digital Economy Bill and the upcoming LGA digital connectivity event 16 March 2017

Purpose

For information.

Summary

A summary of our recent lobbying on the digital economy bill and an update on the upcoming LGA digital connectivity event 16 March 2017.

Recommendation:

That the People and Places Board note the report.

Action:

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

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For Information: Update on the LGA's lobbying on the Digital Economy Bill and the upcoming LGA digital connectivity event 16 March 2017

The Digital Economy Bill

1. Since the last Board, The Digital Economy Bill has now passed to the House of Lords, and had its Second Reading on 12 December.[1] A date for the Committee Stage is yet to be announced. LGA officers have secured the re-tabling of at least one of our proposed amendments at the Bill's Committee Stage (paragraph 28.1), with the possibility of further probing amendments also being tabled, although not yet confirmed (paragraph 28.2 to 28.4):

    1.1. **An obligation for providers to fix faults with connections within reasonable timescales:** the LGA has welcome proposals in the Bill to allow consumers to receive compensation when their broadband services are below standard. To prevent residents and businesses suffering from long term broadband outages, the Bill should be amended to include a specific obligation for providers to fix faults with connections within appropriate timescales.

    1.2. **An Ofcom annual report on the USO**: to ensure residents and member council can gain a full understanding of the success of the broadband USO we would like to see a new clause in the Bill to include a reporting function which would compel Ofcom to report annually on the progress, success and take-up of the USO.

    1.3. **A call on Ofcom to review the USO specification in 2020:** to consider whether its design is still appropriate for residents to utilise online public services and in line with rises with average download and upload speeds.

    1.4. **A call for a financial impact assessment of the new obligation on Adult Education Budgets to deliver a digital Skills qualification to all qualifying 19+ residents:** including a call on Government to provide a comprehensive and sustainable funding solution for the measure

2. Full details of our tabled amendments are listed in **Appendix A**.[2]

    Connecting the nation – local government digital connectivity summit 16 March 2017

3. At the September Board, members commissioned officers to host a national event on mobile connectivity. Since then, officers agreed with lead members to use the event to broach the role of local government more broadly in improving digital connectivity across the country rather than a sole focus on rural mobile coverage.

4. With lead member approval, officers have produced a programme to enable attendees to hear from experts across local government and central government, the telecoms and regulatory industry and business on the role of local government in catalysing better digital

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[1] A copy of our accompanying briefing is available on our website.
[2] Amendments listed in paragraphs 28.2 to 28.4 are re the LGA's suggested wording, and are subject to change by tabling parties.

connectivity. An outline with speakers confirmed is provided in **Appendix B**. There will also be opportunities for those who attend hear in more detail on what the role of rural, coastal, urban and suburban councils should be in this area, and hear from local case studies delivering first class digital connectivity to residents. To register to attend the event, members can visit our website.

Appendix A

Part 6 – OFCOM: reports etc

Clause **71**, page **75**, line **45**, at end insert—

"Universal service order: annual report

(1) OFCOM must publish an annual report about the implementation of the universal service order for all areas pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

(2) The annual report must include information on—

(a) the number of premises that have been supplied with the minimum download speed as specified in the USO secondary legislation

(b) the number of premises that have been required to cover some of the cost of connection,

(c) of the premises in (b) the average cost of connection per premises covered by residents, disaggregated by local authority area,

(d) the number of premises that have chosen not to be connected via the universal service order after being provided with an estimate, and

(e) the amount of time on average it takes to provide an estimate and connect a premise, disaggregated by local authority area."

Amendment to obligate providers to fix faults with connections within reasonable timescales

Amendment
Part 1 – Access to Digital Services
Clause **3**, page **2**, line **35** after "obligation", add "within reasonable timescales"
    Annex C[3]

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[3] To prevent residents and businesses suffering from long term broadband outages, the Bill should be amended to include a specific obligation for providers to fix faults with connections within appropriate timescales.
We expect the Government to lay the details of the compensation scheme down in secondary legislation and as an example of an appropriate timescale, Ofcom compel Openreach as a minimum over the course of a given year to complete "around 80 per cent" of fault repairs within two working days of being notified.[3]
This draft amendment does not specify the parameters of the compensation condition but, from the perspective of consumers seeking redress for the convenience caused by poor service, we would like it to be made clear on the face of the Bill that the scheme should compensate consumers within an appropriate time frame.

Amendment 1: A probing amendment calling for digital skills qualifications to be appropriately funded, in line with the Adult Education Funding budget

Page 89, after line 25, insert the following:

(1) Sections 2 to 4 shall not come into force until the Secretary of State has
   a. provided a financial impact assessment of the additional qualification in making use of information technology
   b. put in place a comprehensive and sustainable funding solution, which addresses the funding of qualifications for persons aged 19 or over, as specified in section 88 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, and the additional requirements for a specified qualification in making use of information technology, arising from this Act.

(2) The financial impact assessment established under subsection (1)(a) should consult with local authorities, the Local Government Association, education providers, employers, and others with an interest.

Amendment 2: A probing amendment to call for Ofcom to publish a review of national average broadband speeds and upload speeds, with a view to the Government committing to keep pace with the rate of change, via secondary legislation.

After Clause 71, insert a new Clause:

Comparative overview of broadband services
   (1) The Communications Act 2003 is amended as follows.
   (2) After section 134D insert:

134E Comparative overviews of broadband services
   (1) OFCOM may, in the interest of end-users of public electronic communications services, carry out comparative review of the minimum connection performance required to benefit from a basket of online digital public services including online tax services, applying for farming subsidies and receiving universal credit.
   (2) This comparative review may also take account of national average broadband download and upload speeds.
   (3) Utilising this information, OFCOM must make a full assessment of whether the USO specification, including download and upload speeds, is still fit for purpose and, if not, suggest how it might be reformed or upgraded.
   (4) OFCOM should publish a comparative overview carried out under this section by the end of 2020.

People and Places Board

26 January 2017

**Connecting the nation –
local government digital
connectivity summit
16 March 2017**

Appendix B

Conference Programme - The Hatton, Conference Venue, Farringdon-

09.45	**Registration and refreshments**

10.30	**Opening remarks**

- **Cllr Mark Hawthorne** LGA People and Places Board

10.40	**Government spokesperson**

An update on the Government's position

10.55	**What are the risks for communities and businesses from poor connectivity and what role can local government play in addressing these?**

An opportunity to hear from key stakeholders, reliant on fast and reliable digital infrastructure, on the opportunity cost of poor connectivity, and the role local government can play in facilitating faster speeds for communities and businesses.

11.30	**Refreshments**

11.45	**What does the future hold for the country's fixed-line connectivity? What level of coverage can residents and businesses aspire to and what will it mean for the digital divide?**

- **Sean Williams**   BT Group Director of Policy
- **Malcolm Corbett** INCA
- **Rob McNally**   Calderdale Council

The Government has shown an increased willingness to intervene in the markets to catalyse investment in fibre digital infrastructure. On the other side of the spectrum, the broadband universal service obligation promises to provide residents with a basic safety net of minimal connectivity. What can our rural and urban residents expect in terms of connectivity in the next 5 years and what does this mean for the digital divide?

Questions to the panel

12.40	**Lunch**

People and Places Board

26 January 2017

Local Government Association

13:35 **What is the current state and future of mobile connectivity in this country? Working towards near universal 4G coverage world leadership on 5G.**

- **Hamish McLeod** Mobile UK
- **Prof. William Web** Cambridge Wireless

The Government has announced big ambitions on 5G whilst signalling improving mobile 3G and 4G coverage across the country. In this session, attendees will get the latest read out from Ofcom on the current state of mobile provision, and discuss with the industry how mobile operators can and work in tandem with councils and communities to identify and address coverage blackspots and make the UK's cities global leaders in 5G.

Questions to the panel

14:35 **Case study workshops**

Workshop 1

Realising the public sector dividend of better connected residents and businesses.

- **Raj Sivalingam** TechUK

With councils increasingly looking to take advantage of better connected residents, we hear from two speakers on how local government can best utilise better digital infrastructure to deliver services.

Workshop 2

Practical case studies of local authorities improving rural broadband and mobile coverage locally.

This session will hear directly from two councils on their efforts to help connect residents in their rural area.

Workshop 3

What is the role of the public sector in facilitating 21st century digital infrastructure in our cities?

- **Will Brayne** City Fibre
- **Philip Saunders** City of London

Hear local practical examples of where councils have played an important role in rolling out future proof digital infrastructure in their urban areas.

15.25 **Workshops repeat**

16.15 **Close**

People and Places Board

26 January 2017

LGA Policy Work Programme

Purpose

For consideration.

Summary

This report summarises the work programmes of eight LGA policy boards.

Recommendation:

That People and Places board members consider the content of this report.

Action:

LGA officers to proceed as directed.

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LGA Policy Work Programme

1. At the November meeting of the People and Places Board Members requested a summary of the work currently being undertaken by the LGA's policy boards with a view to gaining a greater understanding of whether and where issues with particular relevance to rural communities were being discussed. As such, the work programmes of eight LGA policy boards are summarised below:

2. **City Regions Board:**

   2.1 Develop the LGA's work and lobbying position in relation to devolution.

   2.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on: devolution and the position of English local government.

   2.3 Support the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission.

   2.4 Work with the People and Places Board to support the Leading Places project.

   2.5 Work with the People and Places Board on employment and skills policy and lobbying.

3. **Community Wellbeing Board:**

   3.1 Develop the LGA's work and lobbying activity in relation to the wellbeing of adults, including health and social care, community cohesion and asylum and immigration.

   3.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on: developing a new legal base of European legislation and community cohesion.

   3.3 Promote a shared vision relating to the integration of health and adult social care.

   3.4 Continue work to on the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP).

   3.5 Support local areas to develop ambitious plans for health devolution.

   3.6 Evidence the mounting pressure on adult social care and make the case for increased investment in public health.

   3.7 Ensure the role of local government in mental wellbeing is appropriately recognised and resourced.

   3.8 Continue to develop work relating to councils responsibilities to serving members of the armed forces.

   3.9 Work the Resources Board to support an integrated health and care workforce and with the Children and Young People's board to support a place based approach to children and young people's health issues.

4. **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board:**

   4.1 Provide leadership and oversight of the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to sport and physical activity.

   4.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on culture, tourism and sport and feed into the LGA's wider work.

   4.3 Support effective local political leadership and the transformation of culture, libraries and sport services.

   4.4 Work with Sport England to reflect councils' leadership role in the implementation of their new strategy.

   4.5 Work with DCMS to influence the Culture White Paper.

   4.6 Steer the Libraries Taskforce.

   4.7 Further consider the case for culture, tourism and sport within devolution deals to help boost local growth and improve wellbeing.

   4.8 Works with the Community Wellbeing Board to support the role of culture and sport promoting better health, and with the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board in relation to the historic environment and place shaping.

5. **Children and Young People Board:**

   5.1 Responsible for LGA activity on the wellbeing of children and young people, including education, social care and careers.

   5.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on: rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the area of child abuse and the protection of young people at work.

   5.3 Lobby for a clear and sustainable role for councils in supporting local schools and for a stronger role for councils in making new schools are fit for purpose.

   5.4 Support councils to implement the new national funding formula.

   5.5 Support councils to implement the provisions in the Children and Social Work Bill, including proposals for Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

   5.6 Support Councils to improve fostering and adoption outcomes.

   5.7 In conjunction with the Community and Wellbeing Board support councils to take a place-based approach to children.

6. **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board:**

   6.1 Provide strategic oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to the economy and environment, including transport, employment and skills,

People and Places Board

26 January 2017

economic development and business support, housing, planning, waste and climate change.

6.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on those areas within the Board's remit.

6.3 Continues to press for the council role in building more homes to be recognised in government policy and to influence the development of the government's white paper.

6.4 Lobby for a better funded, proactive planning system to deliver homes.

6.5 Work to prevent homelessness and ensure the Homelessness Reduction Bill meets the needs of the homeless.

6.6 Work to ensure local authorities have the freedom to collect and dispose of waste in the way that is best suited to their residents.

6.7 Work to increase the certainty and flexibility of transport funding.

6.8 Work to improve to improve bus services by all areas having automatic rights to bus franchising powers.

6.9 Increase local leadership and flexibility in the approach to flood risk management through the devolution of capital and revenue funding.

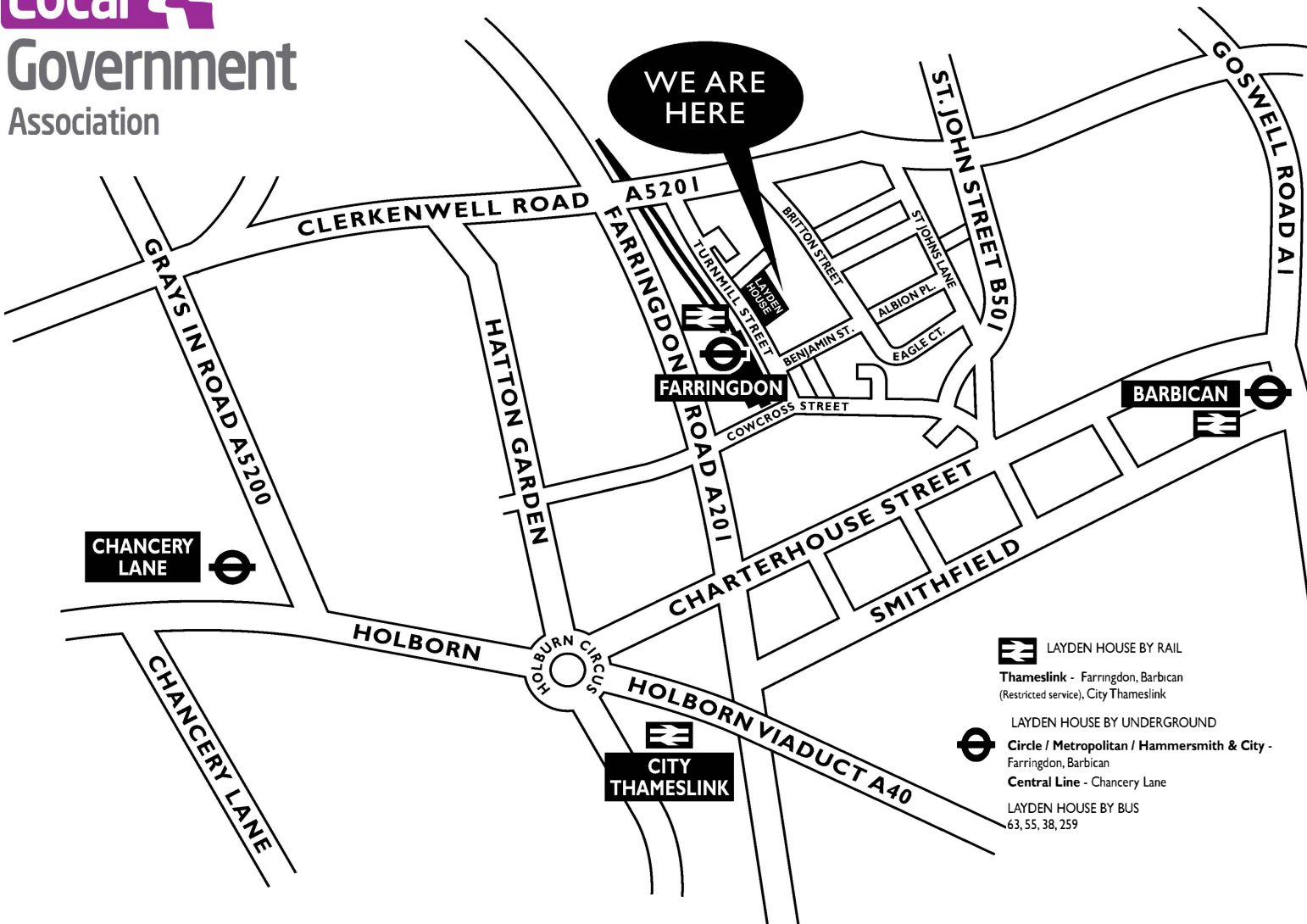6.10 Work with the LGA Resources Board to establish options relating to a post-2020 regional aid successor scheme.

7. **Improvement and Innovation Board:**

7.1 Offer improvement support to councils and set the strategic framework for all LGA activity designed to help councils drive their own improvement.

7.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union across a range of high level priority EU Directives and Regulations.

8. **Resources Board:**

8.1 Develops the LGA's policies and programmes in line with the LGA priorities in relation to: Local Government Finance, Strategic Finance, Welfare Reform and Workforce issues.

8.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union and look to secure the current quantum of £5.3bn funding to English local areas up to 2020 and post-Brexit domestic regional aid.

8.3 Support councils in obtaining value for money in their pay bill by negotiating fair and affordable pay settlements.

8.4 Coordinate responses to consultation on changes to employment law and regulations with a growing emphasis on the potential consequences of EU Exit.

8.5 Investigate combining assets in pension funds in England and Wales into pools and work on legislation for the Secretary of State to intervene in investment matters.

8.6 Continue to assist councils in modernising their approaches to organisational design, pay and rewards and other workforce development issues.

8.7 Look at the following issues on Business Rates Retention: responsibilities to be transferred to be funded through business rates, designing the retention system, and the needs review to form the needs baseline that will underpin the system.

8.8 Consider Capital Financing and develop policy improvements to suggest to Government in this area.

8.9 Undertake research into the local impacts of continued welfare reform.

8.10 Work on the case for adequate funding for the local safety net Homelessness prevention and housing affordability with the EEHT board. Support the most disadvantaged jobseekers in partnership with Cities and P&P Boards. Explore the resourcing of early intervention and support for families with children in partnership with CYP and CWB Boards.

9. **Safer and Stronger Communities Board:**

9.1 Responsible for the promotion of the health and safety of local communities.

9.2 Consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union as it relates to community cohesion and the need to develop a new legal base for council enforced regulatory services.

9.3 Support regional workshops for councillors on the counter-extremism and Prevent agenda.

9.4 Work with the national FGM Centre to research the costs of domestic violence and support councils in relation to the planned 'National Statement of Expectation'.

9.5 Maintain lobbying around proposals for Police and Crime Commissioners to assume responsibility for fire and rescue services and contribute to the development of new models of devolution and emergency services.

9.6 Develop a new package of support for councils on taxi licensing and refreshing our 2015 taxi licensing handbook. Continuing to lobby the Home Office for changes to the licensing system to give councils greater flexibility in managing their local economy and protecting local residents.

9.7 Work with councils and the government to ensure that the new medical examiners system does not impose additional costs on councils and continuing to highlight the pressures created by the Coroners and Justice Act.

Local Government Association

WE ARE HERE

CLERKENWELL ROAD A5201

GRAYS IN ROAD A5200

HATTON GARDEN

FARRINGDON ROAD A201

Turnmill Street

LAYDEN HOUSE

BRITTON STREET

ST JOHNS LANE

ALBION PL.

EAGLE CT.

Benjamin St.

FARRINGDON

COWCROSS STREET

ST. JOHN STREET B501

GOSWELL ROAD A1

BARBICAN

CHARTERHOUSE STREET

SMITHFIELD

CHANCERY LANE

HOLBORN

HOLBURN CIRCUS

HOLBORN VIADUCT A40

CHANCERY LANE

CITY THAMESLINK

LAYDEN HOUSE BY RAIL
Thameslink - Farrıngdon, Barbıcan
(Restricted service), City Thameslink

LAYDEN HOUSE BY UNDERGROUND
Circle / Metropolitan / Hammersmith & City -
Farringdon, Barbican
Central Line - Chancery Lane

LAYDEN HOUSE BY BUS
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The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment works take place at Local Government House in Smith Square.