

Agenda

Thursday, 9 March 2017 1.00 pm

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





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.

When you visit Layden House, please show your Local Government House security pass to reception and they will provide you with a temporary pass which will allow you access to floors 1 5 if required. Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email <u>member services</u> with your name and a recent photo and a pass will be made for you. You can pick this up from the Layden House reception desk on your next visit.

Fire instructions

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.

Accessibility

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

WiFi is available in Layden House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling "Wireless Network Connection" on your computer and connecting to LGA-Free-WiFi. You will then need to register, either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

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 9 March 2017

There will be a meeting of the People & Places Board at **1.00 pm on Thursday, 9 March 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 prior to the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

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

Conservative:Group Office:020 7664 3223email:lgaconservatives@local.gov.ukLabour:Group Office:020 7664 3334email:Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.ukIndependent:Group Office:020 7664 3224email: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)	Clausestandhina Cauntu Caunail
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
(Chairman)	Arun District Council
Cllr Gillian Brown (Vice Chairman)	Afun district Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
Clir Roger Blaney	Newark & Sherwood District Council
Clir 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
Labour (4)	
Cllr Michael Payne (Deputy	Gedling Borough Council
Chair)	
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
In donon dont (0)	
Independent (3)	Computall Courteil
Cllr John Pollard (Deputy Chair)	Cornwall Council
Cllr Amanda Martin	Surrey County Council
Cllr Amanda Martin	Council of the Isles of Scilly
Substitutes	
Substitutes Clir Helen Grant	North Varkahira County Council
Clir Phelim MacCafferty	North Yorkshire County Council Brighton & Hove City Council
Cili Filelli i MacCalletty	Diighton & riove City Council
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Cllr Heather Kidd (Deputy Chair)	Shropshire Council
Clir Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Clir Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council
Oili Garaii Goboliic	LOWGO DISTRICT COURTOR
Substitutes	
Cllr David Bill MBE	Leicestershire County Council



People and Places Board - Attendance 2016-2017

Councillors	29/9/16	01/11/16	26/01/17
Conservative Group			
Mark Hawthorne MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gillian Brown	Yes	Yes	Yes
Philip Atkins OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Derek Bastiman	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roger Blaney	No	Yes	Yes
Paul Carter CBE	Yes	Yes	No
Chris Hayward	No	No	No
Daniel Humphreys	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ken Meeson	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Osman	No	Yes	Yes
Blake Pain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ken Turner	Yes	Yes	Yes
Labour Group			
Michael Payne	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vince Maple	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jenny Mein	Yes	Yes	No
Caitlin Bisknell	No	Yes	No
Independent			
John Pollard	Yes	No	Yes
Chris Townsend	No	Yes	No
Amanda Martin	Yes	Yes	No
111 0			
Lib Dem Group	.		
Heather Kidd	No	Yes	Yes
Stan Collins	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sarah Osborne	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substitutes/Observers			
David Bill	Yes		
Leigh Redman	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chris Saint		Yes	Yes



Agenda

People & Places Board

Thursday 9 March 2017

1.00 pm

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

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 15 June 2017, 1.00 pm, Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG



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Broadband, Mobile and the Digital Divide

Purpose

For information

Summary

Following the visit of Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom, to the Board this report updates members on the actions officers are undertaking following the meeting, outlines the next steps of the Up to Speed Campaign, and summarises officers' progress on the Digital Economy Bill as it passes through the House of Lords.

Recommendation

That the People and Places Board note update.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

Contact officer: Daniel Shamplin-Hall

Position: Adviser

Phone no: 020 7664 3314

Email: <u>daniel.shamplin-hall@local.gov.uk</u>



9 March 2017

Broadband, Mobile and the Digital Divide

Introduction

Following the visit of Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom, to the Board this
report updates members on the actions officers are undertaking following the
meeting, outlines the next steps of the Up to Speed Campaign, and summarises
officers' progress on the Digital Economy Bill as it passes through the House of
Lords.

Ofcom

- 2. Members engaged in a wide ranging discussion with Ms White at the last Board. The following actions were agreed with lead members and are currently ongoing:
 - 2.1 Officers have invited members of the Board to share their local connectivity issues for collation via an online form¹. Officers will use this information to inform conversations with Openreach and provide Ofcom with an overview of the issues councils face.²
 - 2.2 At present officers are working to set up a meeting between Lord Porter, Cllr Mark Hawthorne and the new independent chair of Openreach Mike McTighe. Following the meeting, officers will explore the best way for the Board to engage with Mr McTighe and his new independent board, to understand how BT's proposed separation will improve customer service and tackle issues such as those outlined by councils in our survey.
 - 2.3 Regarding inaccurate "up to" speed ads, officers will engage with the Advertising Standards Agency, which is currently reviewing broadband speed advertising regulation, to understand its next steps and how accuracy will be improved, especially for connections in rural areas.
 - 2.4 Officers will explore the feasibility of whether Ofcom fines imposed on mobile operator for poor coverage could be pumped back into mobile connectivity (rather than fed back into the Treasury).
 - 2.5 LGA officers will invite Ms White back to the Board at an appropriate point to reflect on the progress of Ofcom's planned activity.

Update of Up to Speed Campaign

3. Following steer from lead members, officers will update the <u>lgauptospeed.org.uk</u> campaign website to reflect LGA lobbying lines on the broadband universal service

¹ To request a hardcopy of this form please email <u>daniel.shamplin-hall@local.gov.uk</u>.

² Ofcom made clear at the last Board they wish to hear more from members about local connectivity issues. However, they do not have powers to investigate individual matters. Nonetheless, members may feel it important to share such matters with the telecommunications regulator to help steer their future policy decisions.

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- obligation (USO) in preparation for the upcoming Government consultation on the measure as well as to raise mobile connectivity as a priority.
- 4. It is proposed that two themed sections will cover 'broadband and the USO' and 'mobile connectivity.' Each will include case studies and 'plain English explainer' pages to offer simple guidance on the subjects including the basics of superfast broadband, what residents can expect from the USO and how councillors can respond to the Government consultation. A 'Spread the word' page will be included in each section containing a communications pack with editable press releases, tweets, Twitter images, posters and other marketing collateral for councillors to promote the campaign in their own areas.
- 5. The speed test will remain on the front page to encourage both councillors and residents to take the test but there is scope to also include a map of where speed tests have been taken. We propose that councillors will be able to email their speed test results and their thoughts on how broadband speeds affect them, their ward and their council for potential future case studies or inclusion on the site. On the pages dedicated to information on mobile connectivity, we are exploring how we can develop our work with Ofcom to signpost or host a mobile connectivity checker for users of the site. The Board might wish to receive a presentation on the work of the campaign to date at the next Board.

Digital Economy Bill

- 6. The Digital Economy Bill has now passed to the House of Lords Report Stage. Officers have worked with opposition peers to table a range of amendments. At the time of writing, the progress of LGA-supported amendments is as follows:
 - 6.1 An amendment seeking the establishment of a USO social tariff in the primary legislation was withdrawn. However, in response to the amendment the Minister confirmed that the Government are sympathetic to the need for a social tariff.
 - 6.2 An amendment requiring Ofcom's reporting on the USO to be presented to Parliament was not moved. The Minister gave a number of reasons for this including reporting requirements should be set out once the design of the USO has been finalised.
 - 6.3 An amendment to ensure the USO specifies minimum download and upload speeds, tabled by a combination of Labour and Lib Dem peers, was pushed to a vote by Labour peers. The amendment passed, meaning the Government will have to put some of this on the face of the Bill. The LGA supported the intention behind this amendment, but have said specifications on download and upload speeds should be in secondary legislation in order that they can be reviewed and updated more often than having to amend primary legislation would allow.

A New Government Digital Strategy

7. At the time of writing the Government has announced it will launch a new Digital Strategy. Officers can update members in more detail at the Board on the contents of the Strategy after its publication. So far, it is understood there will be a specific focus on digital skills. This follows the Government's recent announcement that basic digital skills training will be offered free of charge to adults in England who need it. The Government's commitment to upskill people with basic digital skills Page 67



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training is a step in the right direction, and one which we welcome. However, it has been made clear that all new training will have to be funded through the £1.5 billion a year Adult Education Budget across England. The AEB is already the result of three reduced and consolidated funds and is being progressively devolved to combined authorities. The budget for this was set prior to the recent skills announcement so it is not yet clear what further analysis has been done to qualify how free training for all will increase the entitlements element of AEB. Nor are we clear if it will fully fund Level 2 training for 19-23 year olds.

8. Officers are working with LGA parliamentary stakeholders to table an amendment calling for Government to fund the digital skills qualification appropriately by providing a financial impact assessment of the additional qualification and putting in place a comprehensive and sustainable funding solution.



Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Title: People & Places Board

Date: Thursday 26 January 2017

Venue: Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,

London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

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

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and listed apologies. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

The Chairman updated members on the request for LGA Leadership Board to consider independent overview of the fairer funding proposals, advising members that Leadership Board would be asking the government to ensure there was independent scrutiny of this.

3 Sharon White, Ofcom Chief Executive and Broadband, Mobile and the Digital Divide

The Chairman introduced Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom.

Ms White outlined Ofcom's priorities on the provision of mobile and broadband across the UK. She emphasised the need to reach a position where every household had a good level of broadband and mobile coverage, highlighting that only 60% of premises in rural areas were currently able to receive superfast speeds. On the Universal Service Obligation, she outlined the three potential specifications Ofcom had presented to Government for its decision – a basic minimum download speed only, a highly specified USO including other elements such as upload speed, or a guaranteed superfast download speed.

The following points were made:

 In response to a question about the inaccuracy of up to speed advertisements, Ms White recognised the frustrations of members



and outlined two Ofcom authored Voluntary Residential and Business Broadband codes agreed amongst major broadband providers to tackle the issue. However, it was emphasised that the codes only recommended providers release customers from a contract should their connection fall below the speed achieved by the bottom 10 percentile of similar customers.

- Ms White was questioned on the levers Ofcom would use to encourage mobile operators to roll out better mobile connectivity across the country. Members felt that mobile phone companies could provide better information on this and improve engagement with residents. Ms White outlined Ofcom's ability to fine mobile network operators (MNOs) for poor coverage with the money returning to HM Treasury. She also advised members that Ofcom were trying to reach a position where mobile coverage was more accurately captured for every premise in the country. A publication on this would be issued later this year.
- Ms White was asked to outline how Ofcom's plans to further separate BT and Openreach would secure better coverage for rural areas. In addition, many members outlined local issues with Openreach including with the poor quality of roadwork completion, the fixing of infrastructure faults and the missing of engineer appointments. It was felt that consumers had to be further empowered to be able to break a contract when a service was unreliable or failing. Members were assured that Ofcom would start to publish customer service league tables for all companies that used Ofcom and were working to impose tougher customer service standards.
- There was a brief discussion on the frustrations of being unable to find out if the installation of a mast would provide better coverage in an area, as this information was confidential. Members were advised that providers needed to balance consumer interests with confidentiality rules. However, new rules meant operators would be obliged to make telegraph polls available to other operators, whilst BT would also be asked to produce a database to show where underground ducts were, which could potentially reduce the cost of building new networks by 15-20%.
- Ms White was asked if Ofcom would have any role in regulating smaller, private providers. Although Ofcom would not be regulating these companies, they would spread best practise to all providers.
- Members raised concerns on plans to build new houses in areas with poor or no mobile or broadband coverage. The importance of ensuring that this was recognised and coverage provided in these areas was emphasised. Members were advised that Ofcom were analysing new build areas, and would welcome members sending information on specific examples.
- There was a point made on planning. Ms White shared the observations she had been passed by mobile operators that they



were more likely to invest in an area if they thought the local planning system was more receptive to the placement or upgrading of mobile infrastructure.

The Chairman thanked Ms White.

Daniel Shamplin-Hall, Adviser, briefly updated members on the LGA's lobbying priorities on broadband and mobile. He also drew their attention to the Digital Connectivity Summit the LGA to be held in March.

 Members requested that it should be made clear that the USO apply to the whole of the UK. There was also a brief discussion on the reasons that BT were the only supplier who had signed up to the USO.

Decision

1. The board **noted** the presentation.

Actions

- The LGA to continue lobbying government to improve broadband and mobile connectivity, working with Ofcom to achieve this.
 Officers to continue encouraging the sharing of best practise.
- 2. Officers to send details to members to enable them to submit examples of poor coverage to Ofcom.
- 3. Officers to continue to look into opportunities for sharing updates with members (e.g. through events).
- 4. Officers to liaise with Ofcom to obtain the document setting out consumer rights.
- 5. Officers to explore options for fines imposed on mobile operators being put back into funding connectivity.
- 6. Officers to explore plans for broadband access to be set under planning rules.
- 7. Officers to provide a further update at the next board meeting,

4 Autumn Statement

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the item. He discussed the announcements in the 2016 Autumn Statement which directly impacted on



the work programme of the board. As a consequence of government priorities, it was suggested that the board pursue work streams on Brexit, Leading Places, Broadband and Digital Connectivity, Skills and Employment and the emerging Industrial Strategy.

Decision

1. The board **noted** the update.

Action

1. Members **agreed** that officers should take forward the suggested work streams.

5 Leading Places

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the item and updated members on the progress of Leading Places Project. He advised that initial work in support of a second phase of the project had now begun and that there were additional proposals for further joint work between the LGA and the higher education sector.

The following points were made:

 Members raised concerns that duplicate work was being undertaken by the LEPs in other areas, and that there needed to be awareness of similar projects across the country.

Decision

1. Members **noted** the update.

Action

Officers to take forward work in line with comments from members, and the specification for phase 2 to be written in line with lead members' steers.

7 Skills and Employment

Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, introduced the item. She updated members on the progress of joint employment and skills lobbying work between the People and Places and City Regions Boards. She asked members for a steer on the contents of Appendix A (progress report on Public Employment and Skills Services Research Project). She highlighted the green paper (Appendix B), advising members that the LGA's response to this would be submitted by the 8 February. She asked members for feedback on this.



Members were also advised that the LGA was working with councils to produce a paper on a locally commissioned and co-ordinated careers service, with personal guidance tailored to fit the individual needs of young people and those that wanted to progress in work or change career.

The following points were made:

 The careers paper needed to recognise and reflect constant changes in the job market.

Decision:

1. The board noted the update.

Actions

- 1. The LGA's response to the green paper to be circulated to lead members for approval on the 8 Feb. Members were invited to submit comments on Appendix B by the 3 February.
- 2. Officers to update the careers paper to recognise the constant changes in the job market.
- 3. The draft careers paper to be circulated to lead members.
- Members to email Jasbir Jhas with any comments on Appendix A

 these will be fed into the paper for March's board meeting.

10 Constitutional Implications of Brexit

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the item, updating members on work to secure the future autonomy of local government as the UK developed its negotiating strategy for leaving the EU. He suggested that the board consider commissioning joint work with the City Regions Board in this area.

The following points were made:

- There were many opportunities for local government on Brexit, and detailed work would need to be undertaken in this area. Members were advised that the Brexit Task and Finish Group was leading on this.
- Members requested that board member briefings on Brexit were organised and events on Brexit took place throughout the LGA conference in July.

Decision

1. The board **noted** the update.



Actions

- 1. The LGA to continue to engage with the government on Brexit, and ensure opportunities for local government are acted upon.
- 2. Officers to organise board member briefings on Brexit.
- 3. Officer to work with the events team on the inclusion of Brexit session at LGA conference.
- 4. Officers to propose that a joint Brexit discussion be included in the meeting between CRs and P&P LMs on 20th Feb.
- 5. Officers to provide a further update at the next board meeting.

12 Update - LGA's lobbying on the Digital Economy Bill and LGA Digital Connectivity Event

Decision

1. The board **noted** the report.

Action

1. Officers to take forward as directed by members.

13 The Work of the LGA Policy Boards

Decision

1. The board **noted** the report.

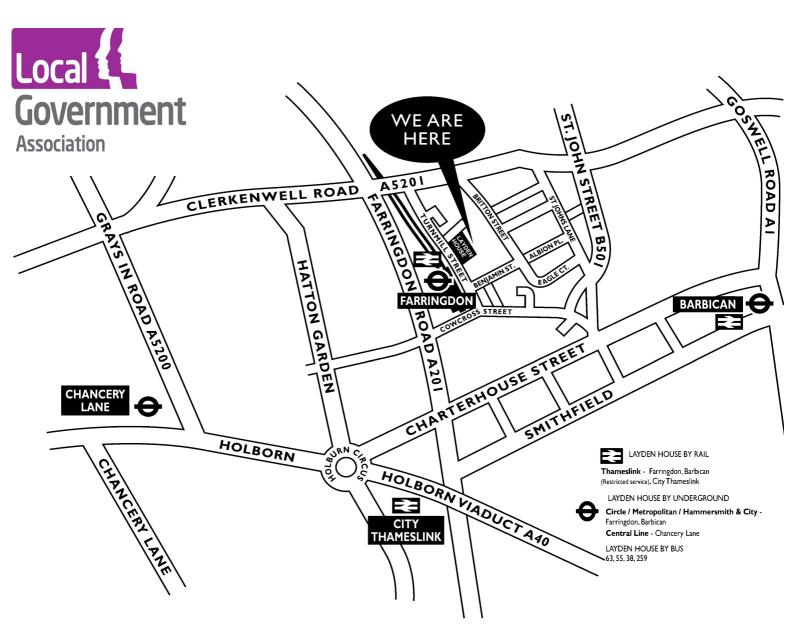
Action

1. Officers to share the briefing on the housing white paper with members when it becomes available.



Appendix A - Attendance

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



Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,

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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.