

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date:	Thursday 18 July 2019
Venue:	Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Chairman's Welcome
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Cllr James Jamieson welcomed members to the meeting and reminded members to sign in to the register.

2	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Kwasi Kwarteng MP
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Cllr Kevin Bentley gave an introduction on the work that the LGA has done for preparing for Brexit and then Cllr Kevin Bentley introduced Kwasi Kwarteng MP.

Kwasi Kwarteng MP updated the Councillors Forum on the work that the government has carried out since the last meeting that Kwasi Kwarteng MP attended back in January 2019. Kwasi Kwarteng MP highlighted the following points

- The withdrawal agreement is still the best deal that has come to parliament.
- Talks with the opposition were positive however, there is still not an agreement on how the UK will leave the EU.
- There is excitement around a new government that will be formed after the Conservative Leadership election.
- The EU is mistaken on how serious the UK is on leaving the EU, even with a no deal. However, the government's stance is still to leave with a deal.
- Both leadership candidates are serious about leaving, with a deal but also leaving by 31 October 2019, as agreed in the extension.
- Government departments are still working on no deal preparations and are working to ensure stability after leaving the EU.
- Local government is being heavily consulted and James Brokenshire MP is ensuring local government's voice is heard in the Brexit process.

Kwasi Kwarteng MP thanked the Councillors Forum for the invitation and stated that local government and the LGA has always been a helpful friend in leaving the EU.

Members made the following comments:

- When will the government repay local government for no deal planning, as many authorities have spent millions.
- Ferry companies are not being open about preparations with ports within local government and with government departments.
- The M25 is a concern with the preparations for no deal planning.

- The shared prosperity fund and local enterprise partnerships need to ensure they are engaging with local government and small businesses.

Kwasi Kwarteng MP

- There is no current timeline for repaying local authorities for no deal planning.
- UK ports are in a very strong place for leaving the EU despite the current issues local councils are facing.
- There should be better conversations between government departments and local councils on local issues, including the M25. However, do always write to Brexit ministers on general issues affecting local authorities,
- No deal is not the choice of the government and the shared prosperity fund will reflect that to all stakeholders in business
- The Shared Prosperity will see local government have a greater say in spending, but this is a debate that is still in going.

Cllr Kevin Bentley

- No deal refunds for local government will be raised with James Brokenshire MP.
- The Shared Prosperity fund will go through local government and will be for the benefit of the UK.

Cllr Kevin Bentley thanked Kwasi Kwarteng MP for attending Councillors' Forum.

3 Chairman's Update

Cllr James Jamieson reported on the new plans for Councillors Forum, including video recording of meetings and Board Chairs to report on board progress.

Members agreed the update.

5 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

Board Chairs and Lead Members gave updates on the following boards:

- **Children and Young People Board:** A briefing was issued ahead of a debate on free schools. The briefing highlighted councils' key roles in improving schools and our recent analysis that council-maintained schools receive better Ofsted ratings, and improve more quickly, than other types of schools.
- **City Regions Board:** The LGA launched Work Local at its Annual Conference in July 2019, in partnership with the City Regions Board.
- **Community Wellbeing Board:** The report reflecting on 'one year on' from the LGA's green paper for adult social care wellbeing was published.
- **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board:** The Board launched the museums handbook at the culture-led regeneration workshop. It has been received well by the sector and so far been downloaded over 270 times.
- **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board:** Members of the LGA's EEHT Board held a seminar with senior representatives from Network Rail to discuss their transformation to become a more customer focussed, service driven organisation that puts passengers first.
- **Improvement and Innovation Board:** The LGA will be asking the Government to look again at the issue of Public Notices. As part of this work, we will assessing the impact of this requirement and investigating how it could be done better.
- **People and Places Board:** The Post-Brexit England Commission published its final report on the future of non-metropolitan England at LGA Annual Conference

2019.

- **Resources Board:** The board has continued its engagement with the Government and the sector ahead of the 2019 Spending Review. Together with MHCLG, the board has continued to host a series of officer roundtables to support and influence Government's future decision making on funding for the sector.
- **Safer and Stronger Communities Board:** The LGA responded to final report on Draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

Members noted the board reports.

6 Digest of the last meeting

Members agreed the notes.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Nick Chard	Kent County Council
	Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Rory Love OBE	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
	Cllr Oonagh Moulton	Merton London Borough Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Nicholas Rushton	Leicestershire County Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Tom Beattie	Corby Borough Council
	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Peter John OBE	Southwark Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council

Apologies

Cllr Alan Seldon
Cllr Clive Woodbridge
Cllr Alan Rhodes

Herefordshire Council
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Nottinghamshire County Council

Cllr Paul Carter CBE
Cllr David Simmonds CBE
Cllr Nadeem Ahmed
Cllr Sean Anstee CBE
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE
Cllr Morris Bright MBE
Cllr Abi Brown
Cllr Geraldine Carter
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE
Cllr David Finch
Cllr John Fuller OBE
Cllr Charlotte Haitham
Taylor

Kent County Council
Hillingdon London Borough Council
Pendle Borough Council
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Staffordshire County Council
Hertsmere Borough Council
Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Essex County Council
South Norfolk District Council
Wokingham Borough Council

Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE
Cllr Linda Haysey
Cllr Matthew Hicks
Cllr Donna Jones JP
Cllr Rebecca Knox
Cllr Joanne Laban
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
Cllr Roy Perry
Cllr Andrew Proctor
Cllr Lynn Riley
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP
Cllr Martin Tett
Cllr David Williams
Cllr Nick Forbes CBE
Cllr Anne Western CBE
Cllr Judith Blake CBE
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
Cllr Clare Coghill
Cllr Amy Cross
Cllr Julie Dore
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE
Cllr Kate Haigh
Cllr Paulette Hamilton
Cllr Richard Henry
Sir Stephen Houghton
CBE

Gloucestershire County Council
East Herts Council
Suffolk County Council
Portsmouth City Council
Dorset County Council
Enfield Council
Bexley Council
Hampshire County Council
Norfolk County Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Northumberland Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Derbyshire County Council
Leeds City Council
Hackney London Borough Council
Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Blackpool Council
Sheffield City Council
Plymouth City Council
Gloucester City Council
Birmingham City Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Cllr Sabia Hussain
Cllr Brigid Jones
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Sir Richard Leese CBE
Cllr Vince Maple
Cllr Alice Perry
Cllr Bryony Rudkin
Cllr Rishi Shori
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE
Cllr Linda Thomas
Cllr Sian Timoney
Cllr Iain Malcolm

Slough Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Wolverhampton City Council
Manchester City Council
Medway Council
Islington Council
Ipswich Borough Council
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Bolton Council
Luton Borough Council
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough
Council

Cllr Keith Aspden
Cllr Abigail Bell
Cllr Alan Connett
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE
Cllr Chris White
Cllr Wayne Davies
Cllr Carolyn Rule
Cllr Chris Townsend

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Hull City Council
Devon County Council
Wiltshire Council
Birmingham City Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Cornwall Council
Surrey County Council