

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
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1 Perspectives on Leaving the European Union

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Chairman's Update

Decision

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

3 LGA Boards & Panel Chair's Reports

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

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

Decision

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

4 Digest of the last meeting

Decision

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

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

Appendix A -Attendance

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

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

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