

19 July 2018

## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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**Title:** Councillors' Forum  
**Date:** Thursday 7 June 2018  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

### Item Decisions and actions

#### 1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

The LGA Senior Vice-Chair, in the Chair for the meeting, welcomed Members and noted the apologies set out at **Appendix A**.

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 2 Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

The Senior Vice-Chair welcomed The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, to the meeting.

The Minister thanked Members and the Senior Vice-Chair for the invitation to speak to them about apprenticeships and post-16 education. She commented that Councils were excellent agents for positive change in many ways, and had excellent knowledge and means to push forward Further Education options in their areas.

She explained the key reforms which had arisen as part of Lord Sainsbury's review of post-16 technical education, and the new T Levels, the most significant reform in technical education in the previous decade which would include work experience and rival the traditional academic options. The first T Levels would be construction, digital, education, and childcare.

The Minister also set out the work which the Government was undertaking to refresh apprenticeship programmes across the country. They would enable employers to design the standards and end points of apprenticeships, and make them much more attractive for individuals as they would get paid, in some cases gain a degree, have no student debt, and undertake work experience. The new arrangements had been delivered in partnership with the Institute of Apprenticeships.

Members also noted that the Government had developed a National Retraining Scheme, which was a collaboration between the Government, the CBI and the TUC. 49% of the adult population had numeracy skills below what was expected. 25% had literacy skills of an 11 year old or less. Many people did not have basic digital skills. Persuading people to retrain was difficult, and a number of options were being piloted.

In the discussion which followed the following points were raised by Members:

- Regarding work experience, the Minister set out that children should have 7 meaningful experiences of work before they left school. Work experience should be about skills which would be beneficial across multiple sectors.
- In response to a question on barriers to young people entering apprenticeships, the Minister stated that the Government were considering this issue, and that local authorities should look at apprenticeships fairs for children and older people looking to retrain to encourage them to join a scheme. The apprenticeship minimum wage was appealing to many young people.
- Regarding quality assessment of apprenticeships, the Minister set out that the Institute of Apprenticeships would monitor quality, and would look at the rate of uptake and retention of learners. It was important that the frameworks were right, and people received a real qualification.
- In response to a question on local accountability of FE colleges, the Minister advised that local authorities should be on the Boards of FE colleges to ensure that local priorities were joined up.
- It was noted that the first T Levels which had been developed were not the areas the Government considered to be top priorities, but simply the first three which had been finalised. It was anticipated that there would shortly be a T Level in Social Care.

The Minister agreed to follow up on some Members' specific issues which had arisen following the meeting. The Senior Vice-Chair thanked the Minister for attending.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the Minister's presentation.

### **3 Chairman's Update**

Members **noted** the Chairman's update.

### **4 LGA Boards Chair's Reports**

Members **noted** the LGA Board Chair's reports.

### **5 Digest of the last meeting**

Members **agreed** the minutes as an accurate summary of the discussion at the previous meeting on 8 March 2018.

## Appendix A -Attendance

| Position/Role                       | Councillor              | Authority                              |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Senior Vice-Chair<br>(in the Chair) | Cllr Nick Forbes        | Newcastle City Council                 |
| Members                             | Cllr David Simmonds CBE | Hillingdon London Borough Council      |
|                                     | Cllr Paul Carter CBE    | Kent County Council                    |
|                                     | Cllr Peter Fleming OBE  | Sevenoaks District Council             |
|                                     | Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE  | Warwickshire County Council            |
|                                     | Cllr Nigel Ashton       | North Somerset Council                 |
|                                     | Cllr John Beesley       | Bournemouth Borough Council            |
|                                     | Cllr Paul Bettison OBE  | Bracknell Forest Borough Council       |
|                                     | Cllr Gillian Brown OBE  | Arun District Council                  |
|                                     | Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick    | North Norfolk District Council         |
|                                     | Cllr Keith Glazier      | East Sussex County Council             |
|                                     | Cllr Peter Golds        | Tower Hamlets Council                  |
|                                     | Cllr John Hart          | Devon County Council                   |
|                                     | Cllr James Jamieson     | Central Bedfordshire Council           |
|                                     | Cllr Donna Jones JP     | Portsmouth City Council                |
|                                     | Cllr Robert Light       | Kirklees Metropolitan Council          |
|                                     | Cllr Rory Love          | Shepway District Council               |
|                                     | Cllr Colin Noble        | Suffolk County Council                 |
|                                     | Cllr Roy Perry          | Hampshire County Council               |
|                                     | Cllr Martin Tett        | Buckinghamshire County Council         |
|                                     | Cllr Colin Riley        | Castle Point Borough Council           |
|                                     | Cllr Alan Rhodes        | Nottinghamshire County Council         |
|                                     | Cllr John Merry CBE     | Salford City Council                   |
|                                     | Cllr Kate Haigh         | Gloucester City Council                |
|                                     | Cllr Sue Woodward       | Staffordshire County Council           |
|                                     | Cllr Graham Chapman     | Nottingham City Council                |
|                                     | Cllr Helen Holland      | Bristol City Council                   |
|                                     | Cllr Linda Thomas       | Bolton Council                         |
|                                     | Cllr Anne Western CBE   | Derbyshire County Council              |
|                                     | Cllr Judith Blake CBE   | Leeds City Council                     |
|                                     | Cllr Roger Lawrence     | Wolverhampton City Council             |
|                                     | Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe  | Bradford Metropolitan District Council |
|                                     | Cllr Amy Cross          | Blackpool Council                      |
|                                     | Cllr Debbie Wilcox      | Newport City Council                   |
|                                     | Cllr Tudor Evans OBE    | Plymouth City Council                  |
|                                     | Cllr Howard Sykes MBE   | Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council    |
|                                     | Cllr Heather Kidd       | Shropshire Council                     |
|                                     | Cllr Alan Connett       | Devon County Council                   |
|                                     | Cllr Jon Hubbard        | Wiltshire Council                      |
|                                     | Cllr Colin Mann         | Caerphilly County Borough Council      |
|                                     | Cllr Alan Seldon        | Herefordshire Council                  |
|                                     | Cllr Chris Townsend     | Surrey County Council                  |
|                                     | Cllr Robert Bucke       | Tendring District Council              |
|                                     | Cllr Jo Beavis          | Braintree District Council             |
|                                     | Cllr Nicholas Rushton   | Leicestershire County Council          |
|                                     | Cllr Michael Wilcox     | Lichfield District Council             |
|                                     | Cllr Samantha Dixon     | Cheshire West and Chester Council      |
|                                     | Cllr Shabir Pandor      | Kirklees Metropolitan Council          |
|                                     | Cllr Gerald Vernon-     | Portsmouth City Council                |

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|           | Jackson CBE<br>Cllr Ron Woodley                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Southend-on-Sea Borough Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Apologies | Lord Porter of Spalding<br>CBE<br>Cllr Sean Anstee<br>Cllr Philip Atkins OBE<br>Cllr Kevin Bentley<br>Cllr Morris Bright MBE<br>Cllr Vanessa Churchman<br>Cllr Neil Clarke MBE<br>Cllr Simon Cooke<br>Cllr Deborah Croney<br>Cllr John Fuller<br>Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE<br>Cllr Martin Hill OBE<br>Cllr Rebecca Knox<br>Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE<br>Cllr Jonathan Owen<br>Cllr Stephen Parnaby<br>OBE<br>Cllr Roger Phillips<br>Cllr David Renard<br>Cllr Glen Sanderson JP<br>Cllr Geoffrey Theobald<br>OBE<br>Cllr Barry Lewis<br>Cllr Catherine Rankin<br>Mayor Tim Bowles<br>Mayor James Palmer | South Holland District Council<br><br>Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council<br>Staffordshire County Council<br>Essex County Council<br>Hertsmere Borough Council<br>Isle of Wight Council<br>Rushcliffe Borough Council<br>Bradford Metropolitan District Council<br>Dorset County Council<br>South Norfolk District Council<br>Gloucestershire County Council<br>Lincolnshire County Council<br>Dorset County Council<br>Bexley Council<br>East Riding of Yorkshire Council<br>East Riding of Yorkshire Council<br><br>Herefordshire Council<br>Swindon Borough Council<br>Northumberland Council<br><br>Derbyshire County Council<br>Tunbridge Wells Borough Council<br>West of England Combined Authority<br>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough<br>Combined Authority<br>Lambeth London Borough Council<br>Gedling Borough Council<br>Wakefield Metropolitan District Council<br>Manchester City Council<br>Manchester City Council<br>Blackpool Council<br>Islington Council<br>Durham County Council<br>Bury Metropolitan Borough Council<br>Islington Council<br>Waltham Forest London Borough Council<br>Slough Borough Council<br>Flintshire County Council<br>Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council<br>Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council |
|           | Cllr Lib Peck<br>Cllr Michael Payne<br>Cllr Peter Box CBE<br>Cllr Sue Murphy CBE<br>Sir Richard Leese CBE<br>Cllr Simon Blackburn<br>Cllr Richard Watts<br>Cllr Simon Henig CBE<br>Cllr Rishi Shori<br>Cllr Alice Perry<br>Cllr Clare Coghill<br>Cllr Sabia Hussain<br>Cllr Aaron Shotton<br>Cllr Timothy Swift MBE<br>Sir Stephen Houghton<br>CBE<br>Cllr Bryony Rudkin<br>Cllr Judi Billing MBE<br>Ms Fiona Twycross AM                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | Cllr Vince Maple<br>Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE<br>Cllr Iain Malcolm<br>Cllr Richard Henry<br>Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ipswich Borough Council<br>North Hertfordshire District Council<br>London Fire and Emergency Planning<br>Authority (LFEPA)<br>Medway Council<br>Stevenage Borough Council<br>South Tyneside Council<br>Stevenage Borough Council<br>Birmingham City Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Cllr Richard Kemp CBE  
Cllr Claire Hudson  
Cllr Abigail Bell  
Cllr Keith Aspden  
Cllr Chris White  
Cllr Wayne Davies  
Cllr Carolyn Rule

Liverpool City Council  
Mendip District Council  
Hull City Council  
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council  
Cornwall Council