

Chairman's Update (7 October 2010 – 4 November 2010)

1. On Thursday 7 October I made my maiden speech to the House of Lords. The Lords Hansard text for that day can be found here:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101007-0001.htm>
2. On 11 October I attended our Vice Presidents lunch kindly hosted by LGA President, Lord Richard Best. It was a very useful opportunity for senior members from the Local Government Association to discuss the way in which the role of the Vice Presidents Group might develop.
3. On 13 October I chaired LG Leadership Board and in the afternoon Richard Kemp and I visited the Cabinet Office and met with Deputy Prime Minister Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP to discuss the spending review, big society and decentralisation, among other issues.
4. That evening I met briefly with Welsh Local Government Association Leader, Cllr John Davies to discuss a range of issues and the forthcoming spending review.
5. On 18 October I participated in a roundtable discussion on executive pay at Eland House with Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Communities and Local Government. We had interesting discussions on a number of issues including remuneration committees, transparency and the need to ensure senior pay levels were fair and justifiable in the context of recruiting the best people. Later that day I attended an introductory meeting with Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, [Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport](#) when we discussed topics including the Big Society, tourism, digital issues and the Schools Olympics.
6. On 19 October I addressed the Local Partnerships conference 2010, Ready for the Challenge: the Coalition, the Economy, the Reality. That afternoon myself and Cllr David Rogers met with Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP, Secretary of State for Health and Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Care Services to discuss the NHS White Paper and the spending review.
7. Later on that day I met with Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to discuss welfare reforms, including the local impacts of the new universal credit and the case for aligning Work Programme contractual geography with the boundaries of local

enterprise partnerships. In the evening I met with Baroness Andrews to discuss working with English Heritage, and in particular how local government and English Heritage could share resources more effectively.

8. On 20 October I attended a short briefing with Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where he outlined the impact of the spending review announcement on local government.
9. On 21 October I addressed the Spending Review conference at Local Government House – Facing the Future; making the position of the Local Government clear, that these cuts will hit local people hard and will require councils to make very tough choices.
10. Throughout 20 and 21 October I was interviewed regarding the LG Group's reaction to the Spending Review by the BBC, ITV and various other news agencies.
11. Later in the morning I participated in a DEFRA/LGA Summit to discuss Total Environment with Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Around 50 to 60 Elected Members, Council Officers, and representatives from Defra, the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England attended. The event was extremely successful and there will be a follow-up next year.
12. In the afternoon I attended a meeting with Lord Heseltine to discuss the work of local government, in particular his advocacy of elected mayors in big cities and his new role within the Regional Growth Fund.
13. Later that day I attended a Local Partnerships Shareholders meeting.