

Digest of Meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date and time:	17 March 2011, 12.30pm
Venue:	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square

Item

Action by

Welcome and Introductions

Baroness Eaton welcomed colleagues to the meeting of the Forum and introduced the Minister for Decentralisation, Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP.

The Minister indicated that he would like to hear about some of the LGA's business prior to his presentation and so the Chairman agreed to progress through Items 2 - 4 first.

For ease of reference, the digest remains in the order of the Agenda.

1 Localism

Members received a presentation from the Minister, which outlined the Government's decentralisation programme, its initiatives and key actions essential for success.

The Minister acknowledged the challenges facing the sector and outlined the importance of sharing best practice at both a local level and with Central Government. Members received details of the proposed timescale and were invited to respond to the consultation, providing comment on any issues including statutory requirements.

The Minister invited questions from the Forum and Members raised several issues which were addressed in turn. It was suggested that, further to the Localism Bill's Royal Assent, a joint event might be held as a briefing opportunity.

The Chairman thanked the Minister for his presentation and for enabling the opportunity for discussion.

Decision

Councillors noted the Minister's presentation.

Action

Officers to take forward future lobbying as directed by the Forum.

LG Group
Officers

2 Chairman's Report

Members accepted the Chairman's report.

3 Chief Executive's Report

John Ransford, LG Group's Chief Executive, outlined the report and asked Members in particular, to note the success of the LGA in securing agreement from the Government for additional money to enable councils to prioritise work to repair roads damaged by the severe weather.

Members commented on media coverage criticising council cuts.

Decision

Councillors noted the report and further updates received from the Chief Executive.

4 Programme Board Chairs' Reports

Members noted the updates from each of the LG Group's Programme Board Chairs.

Apologies were received from Cllr Box CBE, Chair, LG Group Economy and Transport Programme Board.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19 May 2011, Local Government House