

Chairman's Update, 7 May 2011 to 6 June 2011

1. On 11 May, I, together with Cllr Richard Kemp, met with Darra Singh OBE, Chief Executive, Jobcentre Plus to discuss future work between Jobcentre Plus and local government.
2. That afternoon I had a very interesting visit to Kettering Borough Council. It was great to see the pioneering work Kettering is undertaking with local partners such as the NHS and the police and examples of the innovations that the council are implementing to adapt to delivering public services in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.
3. On 12 May I attended a Ministerial Advisory Group meeting at Department for Education. The main item on the agenda was an LG Group paper on the council role in education, which won support from partners around the table, including representatives from the government and from schools. I then attended an event at the House of Commons hosted by Philip Davies MP on the subject of 'Reconnections - a service providing humanitarian support and care to vulnerable economic migrants from Eastern European EU states'. In the afternoon I spoke alongside John Ransford, Chief Executive at Employee Forum in Bevin Hall about the future work of the LG Group and the changes which have taken place over the last few months.
4. Later that day I met with Anna Southall, Interim Chair, Big Lottery Fund to discuss her recent work and community budgets. Following the meeting I then recorded a blog piece for the new annual conference blog, looking forward to the highlights of this year's 'Localism Works' conference.
5. On Monday 16 May I attended the 20th Adult Learners' Week Award Ceremony, co-ordinated by NIACE. I was delighted to present the Baroness Margaret Eaton Young Adult Learner of the Year Award for the first time and to meet the worthy winner. It was a great pleasure to participate in the impressive ceremony marking the 20th Adult Learners' Week as a celebration of learners and learning, and to have the opportunity to congratulate NIACE, its partners, and all of the award winners on this great achievement.
6. On 17 May I met with Cathy Newman, Political Correspondent, Channel 4 News to discuss local government and the challenges ahead.

7. On 18 May I chaired LGA Leadership Board and on 19 May I chaired LG Group Executive and Councillors' Forum at which Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Care Services and the BBC's David Cowling spoke. Later that day I attended a meeting with Regional Representatives on the LG Group Executive to discuss collaborative working between the Local Government Group and Sub-national Partnerships.
8. That evening I attended and spoke at the Northern Housing Consortium dinner in Leeds. Discussion focused on the impact of housing policy developments in the North and how the LG Group can work with the consortium to capture knowledge and expertise.
9. On 25 May I was delighted to speak at 'Leading Ladies' an LG Group event for Women Leaders in local government held at Local Government House. Inspired by International Women's day the event was organised to provide an opportunity for discussion about how women can support each other in these demanding roles.
10. On 26 May I met Martin Temple CBE, Chairman of the Engineering Employers' Federation and a member of the Design Council, to discuss support for Local Enterprise Partnerships.
11. That afternoon I attended a meeting with Baroness Newlove to discuss her new role at the Department for Communities and Local Government as the Government Champion for Active Safer Communities and was able to highlight some of the good work councils already do around community engagement and the important role of elected councillors. Later that day I met with Cllr Alex King, Deputy Leader of Kent County Council to discuss the Local Government Challenge.