

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday 9 February 2012
12.30pm

The Westminster Suite (8th floor)
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Councillors' Forum
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Guidance notes for visitors

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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Councillors' Forum

9 February 2012

The **Councillors' Forum** meeting will be held on **Thursday 9 February 2012 at 12.30pm** in the **Westminster Suite (8th floor), Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.**

Please note: The Political Group meetings will be held **prior** to this, as follows:

11.00am	Conservative	Westminster Suite (8 th floor)
11.00am	Labour	Smith Square Rooms 3 and 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Smith Square Rooms 1 and 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Meeting Room 6 (6 th floor)

Lunch will be served in The Terrace Lounge (Members' Lounge) after the Councillors' Forum from 1.30pm and coffee / tea will be available at the Group meetings.

Apologies

Please notify your political group office (contact information below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

Conservative:	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Attendance Sheet

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Location

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

Contact

Virginia Ponton (Tel: 020 7664 3068, Email: virginia.ponton@local.gov.uk)

Carers' Allowance: As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.08 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (ie. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Hotels: The LGA has negotiated preferential rates with Club Quarters Hotels in central London. Club Quarters have hotels opposite Trafalgar Square, in the City near St Pauls Cathedral and in Gracechurch Street, in the City, near the Bank of England. These hotels are all within easy travelling distance from Local Government House. A standard room in a Club Quarters Hotel, at the negotiated rate, should cost no more than £149 per night.

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Councillors' Forum 2011-2012

Updated 04.01.12

Membership of Councillors' Forum – 2011-2012

This Forum comprises 100 members appointed by the LGA political groups in proportion to their political strength on the Association.	
Representative	Authority
Conservative (45)	
Sir Merrick Cockell (Chairman)	RB Kensington & Chelsea
Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Les Lawrence	Birmingham City Council
Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest BC
Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire CC
Shona Johnstone	Cambridgeshire CC
Richard Stay	Central Bedfordshire Council
Paul Findlow	Cheshire East Council
Mike Jones	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Peter Goldsworthy	Chorley BC
Ken Taylor	Coventry City Council
Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Angus Campbell	Dorset CC
Stephen Castle	Essex CC
Peter Martin	Essex CC
Ken Thornber CBE	Hampshire CC
Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Rob Gordon DL	Hertfordshire CC
David Simmonds	Hillingdon LBC
David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Rob Light	Kirklees MBC
Clare Whelan	Lambeth LBC
David Parsons CBE	Leicestershire CC
Brian Coleman	LFEP / Greater London Authority
Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
Keith Mitchell CBE	Oxfordshire CC
Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
Ken Hudson JP MBE	Preston City Council
Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC
Kate Wild	Solihull MBC
Ken Maddock	Somerset CC
Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Jeff Milburn	South Tyneside MBC
Philip Atkins	Staffordshire CC

Sir William Lawrence Bt	Stratford-upon-Avon DC
Frances Roden	Stroud DC
Mark Bee	Suffolk CC
David Hodge	Surrey CC
Andrew Bowles	Swale BC
Rod Bluh	Swindon BC
Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
Labour [32] <i>(plus sub pool)</i>	
Rocky Gill	Barking & Dagenham LBC
Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Catharine Grundy	Birmingham City Council
Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Eion Watts	Bolsover DC
Linda Thomas	Bolton MBC
Ian Greenwood	Bradford MDC
Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Theo Blackwell	Camden LBC
Joe Hendry	Carlisle City Council
Justin Madders	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Ann Lucas	Coventry City Council
John Mutton	Coventry City Council
Stewart Young	Cumbria CC
Anne Western	Derbyshire CC
David J Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
David H Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
Simon Henig	Durham CC
Julie Young	Essex CC
Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney LBC
Tony McDermott MBE	Halton BC
Claire Kober	Haringey LBC
Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak BC
Jagdish Sharma MBE JP	Hounslow LBC
Ruth Cadbury	Hounslow LBC
Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich BC
Catherine West	Islington Council
Robert Khan	Islington Council
Judith Blakeman	Kensington and Chelsea RLBC
Mehboob Khan	Kirklees MBC
Ronnie Round JP	Knowsley MBC
Steve Reed	Lambeth LBC
Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
Rory Palmer	Leicester City Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham LBC
Robert Parker	Lincolnshire County Council
Tim Moore	Liverpool City Council
Sian Timoney	Luton BC

Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Sue Murphy	Manchester City Council
Anne Schofield	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Sir Robin Wales	Newham LBC
Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire DC
Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Graham R Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Jim McMahan	Oldham MBC
Tudor Evans	Plymouth City Council
Tony Page	Reading BC
Roger Stone OBE	Rotherham MBC
John D Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Steve Eling	Sandwell MBC
Roger Hutchinson	South Gloucestershire Council
Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside MBC
Richard Williams	Southampton City Council
Catherine McDonald	Southwark LBC
Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Marie Rimmer CBE	St Helens MBC
Mohammed Pervez	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
David Phillips	Swansea City Council
Brenda Warrington	Tameside MBC
David Edgar	Tower Hamlets LBC
Peter Box CBE	Wakefield City Council
Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest LBC
Tony Belton	Wandsworth LBC
Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
Liberal Democrat (16)	
Roger Symonds	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Keith House	Eastleigh BC
Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire CC
David Neighbour	Hart DC
Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RBC
Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC
Duwayne Brooks	Lewisham LBC
Richard Kemp OBE	Liverpool City Council
Howard Sykes	Oldham MBC
Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset CC
Cathy Bakewell MBE	Somerset CC
Stan Collins	South Lakeland DC
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LBC
Alan Connett	Teignbridge DC
Liz Tucker	Worcester CC
Substitutes	
Keith Whitmore	Manchester City Council
Stephen Knight	Richmond upon Thames LBC

Terry Stacy MBE JP	Islington Council
Chris White	Hertfordshire CC
David Rogers OBE	East Sussex CC
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC
Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Sian Reid	Cambridge City Council
Hilary Jones	Derby City Council
Independent [7]	
Peter Jones	Babergh DC
Apu Bagchi	Bedford Council
Julian German	Cornwall Council
Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council
Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire CC
Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County BC
<i>Substitute</i>	
Norman Murphy	Scarborough DC

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

9 February 2012

12.30 – 1.30pm

The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

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1.	Police and Crime Commissioners Deputy Chief Constable Robert Beckley of Avon and Somerset Police, Jane Kennedy ex Labour MP seeking to stand as the Police and Crime Commissioner in Merseyside, and Cllr Peter Jones Leader of East Sussex County Council will attend the meeting.	3	12.30pm
2.	Chairman's Update	9	1.20pm
3.	LGA Board and Panel Chairs' Reports a: Children & Young People Board – Cllr David Simmonds b: Community Wellbeing Board – Cllr David Rogers OBE c: Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Cllr Chris White d: Environment & Housing Board – Cllr David Parsons CBE e: Improvement Board – Cllr Peter Fleming f: Economy & Transport Board – Cllr Peter Box CBE g: Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Cllr Mehboob Khan h: Workforce Board – Mayor Sir Steve Bullock i: European & International Board – Cllr Dave Wilcox OBE j: 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Task & Finish Group – Cllr Stephen Castle k: Bonds Task & Finish Group – Cllr Edward Lord OBE JP	11	

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 15 March 2012, Local Government House

Police and Crime Commissioners

Purpose of report

For noting and discussion.

Summary

Members will hear from Deputy Chief Constable Robert Beckley of Avon and Somerset Police, Jane Kennedy ex Labour MP seeking to stand as the Police and Crime Commissioner in Merseyside, and Cllr Peter Jones Leader of East Sussex County Council who is seeking to stand as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the different perspectives provided by the presentations on the role of Police and Crime Commissioner, and raise any issues on the implications for local government.

Action

As directed by the Forum.

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Police and Crime Commissioners

Background

1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act became law in September 2011, and as a result Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be elected on 15 November for 41 police force areas in England and Wales. London already has a PCC as the Mayor of London became the PCC for the Metropolitan Police on 16 January, through the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime.
2. The PCC's main responsibilities will be to:
 - 2.1 secure an efficient and effective police force for their area
 - 2.2 appoint the chief constable, hold them to account and if necessary dismiss them
 - 2.3 set local policing and crime objectives through their five year Police and Crime Plan
 - 2.4 set the annual force budget and the police precept
 - 2.5 contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary in the Strategic Policing Requirement
 - 2.6 co-operate with the criminal justice system, and
 - 2.7 work with partners to tackle crime and disorder.
3. While the PCC sets local objectives for their force and holds the police to account, the Policing Protocol published in November makes it clear that operational responsibility for the day-to-day work of the police remains with the chief constable.

A changing police relationship with councils

4. Directed elected PCCs are one of the Government's flagship policies at the heart of the wider public sector reform agenda. Accountabilities and interdependencies with other emerging policies such as elected mayors in the major cities (also to be elected on 15 November), the transfer of responsibility for public health to councils and the creation of Health and Wellbeing Boards, still need to be worked through in order to avoid confusion at local level.
5. The role of PCCs will be a high profile one. Evidence shows that the most successful approach to cutting crime is multi-agency working. We can therefore expect working with local government to be an important part of a PCC's strategy, particularly in terms of preventing crime, enforcement and reducing re-

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offending. To reinforce the importance of that relationship there is statutory duty for PCCs and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to co-operate.

6. Further change will come from the commissioning role PCCs will have. The PCC's budget will include funding previously given to CSPs through the Community Safety Fund as well as the Neighbourhood Policing funding. It is likely to include some of the Drug Intervention Programme funding, and an element of Youth Offending Teams' budgets. In Wales however, the Welsh Assembly Government plans to continue to provide Welsh CSPs with funding and this will not go to PCCs.
7. Councils will be responsible for scrutinising and supporting the PCC in their role through Police and Crime Panels. The Panel's key powers will be to require the Commissioner or a member of their staff to attend the Panel; veto the PCC's proposed precept; veto the PCC's proposed appointment of a chief constable; question the PCC on their annual report; and review the draft Police and Crime Plan. Panels in England will be set by councils, but in Wales they will be set up by the Home Office, while in London the Panel is a committee of the Greater London Assembly.

Support for councils on the transition to PCCs

8. The LGA has been raising awareness amongst councils of the implications of the elections of PCCs through a series of national and local events since last summer. We are now starting delivery of a comprehensive programme of support for councils in preparing for the elections of PCCs. This will include:
 - 8.1 continued awareness raising presentations at national and regional events
 - 8.2 specialist advice on those parts of the legislation relating to Police and Crime Panels and CSPs
 - 8.3 a growing range of publications building on the guide to PCCs for councils, guidance on setting up Panels, and guide for CSPs on preparing for PCCs that have already been published
 - 8.4 additional materials which will cover Panel arrangements and political proportionality on Panels, rules of procedure and terms of reference for Panels, and the relationship between Panels and overview and scrutiny crime and disorder committees
 - 8.5 support for CSPs to help them prepare for the new commissioning landscape
 - 8.6 access to peer support and peer mentoring on establishing Panels;
 - 8.7 a network for those involved in setting up Panels, supported by a community of practice on the LGA's Knowledge Hub for sharing ideas, information and experience, and
 - 8.8 the development of training and leadership packages for members and staff involved with Police and Crime Panels.

Who will be standing as PCCs?

9. Members will be aware that the national political parties are putting in place arrangements to select candidates to stand as prospective PCCs. As a result an increasing number of people are expressing an interest in standing including Alun Michael MP, Lord Prescott and Colonel Tim Collins. The Government is keen that figures independent of party politics stand as well. A number of locally known independents have said they are considering standing, but those celebrities such as Nick Ross, who have been named as potential independent candidates, have so far ruled themselves out. It seems therefore that a number of PCCs will either be sitting or councillors or have strong links to local government.

A national body for PCCs

10. It is likely that many PCCs will have made public commitments to tackle crime issues that the police are unable to deal with on their own. Indeed, a recent survey commissioned by the LGA showed that the public's top priority for any incoming PCC is anti-social behaviour. The crime element of a Commissioner's title is as likely to be as important as the policing element in ensuring they have a successful term of office.
11. Building relations with councils and other partners will therefore be important if Commissioners are to reduce crime and disorder. Establishing successful relationships as structures change and budgets reduce further will be a challenging task. We believe that job would be facilitated by strong links at a national level between PCCs and leaders of councils and other key organisations they have to work with. Bringing together the membership body for PCCs with the LGA would help ease the transition to the new arrangements while ensuring collectively the focus remains on driving down crime.
12. The LGA has therefore developed a business case and compelling membership offer for PCCs and will be enthusiastically promoting this over the coming months.

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Chairman's Update
21 December 2011 – 27 January 2012

LGA business

1. On 9 January I attended a joint event between the LGA and **North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership** in Wigan. It was great to discuss key challenges for local government in the region and to hear from North West Leaders about how the LGA can better support their councils. I took the opportunity to see the wonderful Wigan Life Centre on its opening day.
2. During the 11 January **Leadership Board** we discussed joint working with the House of Commons Select Committee and Graham Allen MP on political and constitutional reform. Also, we agreed to set up a new Finance Task and Finish Group with responsibility for Finance Policy, and for the National Fraud Framework.
3. The following day I chaired the **LGA Executive** where we considered items including public health in local government, work on troubled families and local authority bonds. At the Councillors' Forum we heard from Louise Casey about her new role as Head of a new Troubled Families Team and how local government can work together with her team to deliver the Prime Minister's commitment to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families.
4. On 16 January, alongside Eric Pickles, I addressed the **Local Government Summit on Growth**. I outlined why we had launched the Local Growth Campaign, councils' ambition for new jobs and prosperity and how good local leadership can help achieve growth in local economies.
5. On 17 January I was pleased to address **West Midlands Councils** annual conference in Birmingham – 'Getting To Grips With Local Government's New Role In Health'. I was pleased to meet briefly with Cllr Mike Whitby and to sit in on part of a fascinating Q&A session chaired by Cllr Philip Atkins.
6. On Friday 27 January I addressed our **finance conference**. We discussed the different strategies that councils are exploring to take on new responsibilities, while assuming a lead role in reshaping local public service delivery and kick starting local economic growth. I outlined how councils are up to the challenge of the coming year and that it is now time to see if Whitehall can follow our lead.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

7. This month, Group Leaders, Carolyn Downs and myself attended a meeting with Bob Neill MP at Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss the matters that the LGA wished to raise in relation to the provisional **Local Government Finance Settlement** for 2012-13.

8. Group Leaders, Carolyn and I also met with **Louise Casey** in early January to discuss how the LGA and the Troubled Families Unit can work together. I also provided oral evidence to the **Communities and Local Government Select Committee** inquiry into Community Budgets for families with multiple problems. I outlined how we can meet the challenge of finding further savings without damaging frontline services, by removing fragmentation of local public service provision, shifting spending to prevention, and reshaping the way the state tackles complex issues.
9. Alongside Cllr David Simmonds, I met with Lord Hill, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, to discuss the LGA's consultation response on the academies top slice and Carolyn Downs and I also met with Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, regarding the work of the Children's Improvement Board.

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

10. I met with Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson OBE, Chair of the **Association of Police Authorities** and Chief Executive Mark Castle to discuss future work. I attended a joint meeting of local authority Leaders and senior figures from the property industry to explore how we can work together to stimulate and sustain local growth. This is being led jointly by the LGA and the **British Property Federation**. The work will examine the major challenges local areas are facing in getting economic development underway and explore different funding options and investment tools available to councils and their partners to overcome barriers.
11. I met with Sir Tony Hawkhead, Chief Executive of **Groundwork UK** to talk about Groundwork's DFE funded project on mutualised youth services.
12. I also met with Sir Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive of **ACEVO**; it was useful to discuss how the LGA and ACEVO might work together to support councils who want to work more closely with their local communities and voluntary and community sector organisations.
13. I held discussions with Sir Michael Lyons and Hilary Cottam from **Participle** exploring how we can work with Participle in future, including how we can share the learning and evidence from programmes with councils.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

14. This month I was pleased to meet with Cllr Geoff Driver, Cllr Lord Smith of Leigh and Cllr Roderick Bluh.
15. I visited Hampshire County Council and met with Cllr Ken Thornber and some of his team, it was good to discuss a variety of matters including public property assets and Hampshire's relationship with the LGA. Later in the month I was delighted to be invited to Worcester by the Leaders of the Councils, both county and district, to the launch of the Role of the Elected Member Programme.
16. Group Leaders and I also met with a group of "new" leaders from across the country at Local Government House to discuss future work with the LGA. It was interesting to hear how we can best support them and the challenges they are facing.

Children and Young People Board – report from Cllr David Simmonds (Chairman)

Academies top-slice

1. The LGA Chairman and I met with the Department for Education (DfE) Minister Lord Hill on 18 January to discuss the LGA response to the latest academies top-slice consultation. We set out our view that while the latest proposals are an improvement on the July 2011 proposals, they are not yet the basis for a fair settlement of the academies funding issue. We pressed the Minister to agree to an independent exercise to establish the real savings to councils from no longer having to provide central services to academies. We argued that this issue could have been resolved by now if the Department had worked more closely with the LGA in getting a mutually acceptable estimate of the true costs. The Minister agreed that closer working was desirable and agreed to further official-level meetings to discuss a way forward.

Capital and Revenue Task and Finish Group

2. On 11 January I chaired the Capital and Revenue Task and Finish Group of the Ministerial Advisory Group. The key items discussed were:
 - 2.1. Under Fives; how local and national formulae interact; members made the point that it was right to give local Early Years Single Funding Formulae a chance to bed in and that any good practice sharing should be in line with the sector-led approach agreed with the DfE.
 - 2.2. Small Schools; members made the point that this was a sensitive issue locally and councils should continue to have flexibility to respond to local circumstances.
 - 2.3. Capital; the discussions focussed on how new local planning arrangements would be implemented. Members made the point that in most councils, basic need is currently the highest priority; councils are adding their own capital resources to that provided by the DfE.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education

3. I wrote to Sir Michael Wilshaw, the new Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to welcome him in post and to outline the key issues for local government. We have invited him to attend a future meeting of the Children and Young People Board to discuss the key issues around Ofsted's work and how this impacts on local government's services. In

particular the increase in sector-led improvement in children's services and how this relates to inspection.

LGA Admissions Seminar

4. I opened the successful LGA Admissions Seminar on 16 January, which was attended by representatives of 75 local authorities. The Seminar was well supported by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, and Elizabeth Passmore, the new Chief Schools Adjudicator, gave the keynote address. In setting the scene, I reminded colleagues that councils have a strong, strategic role in education and school admissions; this point was echoed throughout the day. This strategic role is set out clearly in both the Schools White Paper and the new Admissions Code. Making sure that every local child has fair access to local schools, including academies and free schools, is a key element of the new council role.
5. An important focus of the day was ensuring that council colleagues know their technical duties and the detail of the new Code. We also spent some time considering how councils can best work in partnership with schools and academies to make the new Code work well. The tone of the discussions throughout the Seminar was very positive, and I am confident that councils will be working hard with their partners to make the new arrangements work at a local level to the benefit of their communities. I have sent a copy of the Seminar Report to the Secretary of State, and it is also available on the LGA website.

Visits to councils

6. I have continued to visit a number of councils around the UK, in particular to discuss the potential of the Children's Improvement Board, and work is underway to improve the engagement of councillors in this important agenda.

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Community Wellbeing Board – report from Cllr David Rogers OBE (Chair)

Community Wellbeing Board

1. The LGA's Community Wellbeing Board met on 18 January where we discussed amongst other issues the future funding of adult social care with theme leads from the Department of Health's 'Caring for the Future' engagement exercise. There was widespread agreement that the LGA should continue to both lobby and seek clarity around future levels of funding and that partnership working / the integration of adult social care were crucial to finding a sustainable solution.

Joint letter to the Editor of the Daily Telegraph

2. A few days later, I signed with Age UK, the Association of Directors of Social Services and Bupa Care Homes a joint letter to challenge the Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley's claim that there is no funding shortfall for social care services in England. It made clear that the additional Department of Health funding for social care was considerably outweighed by the 28 per cent cut in grant. The letter reiterated that urgent action is needed to avoid the risk of a funding crisis, and acknowledged the reconvening of cross-party talks as a first step.

Adult Social Care efficiency programme

3. On 19 January, I launched the Adult Social Care efficiency programme with Improvement Board colleague Cllr Ruth Cadbury. The final number of applications (52) surpassed expectations and key themes emerging across the board included: tackling the high cost of Learning Disability placements; the interface with health care; preventative services; and commissioning.

Public Health Grant allocations

4. Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley recently announced £5.2 billion for total spending on Public Health in 2013, £2.2 billion of which will be allocated to local authorities. We are currently working with our financial advisers to assess the adequacy of this allocation to meet our new public health responsibilities.
5. The Secretary of State also announced the publication of the Public Health Outcomes Framework, which gives details of the 66 indicators and the two headline outcome targets for public health. We have published a briefing

which summarises and comments on the Outcomes Framework and the Secretary of State's announcements on public health.

6. The LGA will continue its work lobbying for the distribution of funding to local government to be based on the level of health need and health inequalities rather than existing historic variations in PCT funding. We will also continue to scrutinise the costs and liabilities associated with the transfer of responsibility for public health to local government.

Commission on improving dignity in care for older people

7. Throughout the winter of 2011, the Commission on improving dignity in care has gathered information through a call for written evidence and three oral evidence sessions. It also drew on site visits, reference groups, high-level meetings and published evidence. The Commission set up jointly by the NHS Confederation, Age UK and the LGA aims to understand how and why older people's care is failing on dignity and what will drive improvement.
8. The Commission will consult publicly on a draft report throughout February and March 2012 with a view to making final recommendations, based on the views expressed, in the late spring. Following publication of the final report, the Partnership on Dignity in Care will oversee a programme of work to encourage and support those working across the health and social care sector to implement the recommendations. I co-chair the Commission, alongside the NHS Confederation Chair Sir Keith Pearson and the Chair of Age UK Dianne Jeffrey.
9. More information about the Commission can be found at:
www.nhsconfed.org/priorities/Quality/Partnership-on-dignity/Pages/Commission-on-dignity.aspx

Health reform and funding roundtables

10. We have this month held the first of three LGA roundtables on Health reform and funding with parliamentarians to share our views ahead of the Spring White Paper.
11. I have also attended a roundtable hosted by The Business Services Association, which represents companies working on outsourced contracts for the public sector. I offered the LGA's perspective on a number of key themes such as local government's current preparations for new public health role; the likely focus of HWBs; and the role of the private sector in the new system.

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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Chris White (Chair)

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

1. Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Andrew Lewer attended the joint London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 Parliamentary reception on 12 January. This was an opportunity to share how the LGA has worked with London 2012 to ensure that councils have been integral to the planning of the 2012 Games.
2. I represented the CTS Board at the LGA's 2012 Games Task and Finish Group on 18 January and shared concerns about the impact of the Games on train services and road transport and consequent overcrowding and difficulties travelling in and out of London.
3. Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Stephen Castle met senior officials from the London Organising Committee and the Government Olympic Executive on 17 January. They raised a number of operational issues and emphasised councils' continued concerns about transport and resilience.
4. Cllr Stephen Castle and I attended the 2012 Games Security and Resilience Programme Member Steering Group on 30 January. I highlighted the need for better communication to members about resilience and security issues, especially on the Torch Relay.

Libraries

5. The LGA has submitted written evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into library closures. We argue innovation, coupled with the energy and expertise of local authorities themselves, is the best way to provide better library services whilst responding to unprecedented budget pressures. We also press for the modernisation of the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act and remove the superintendent role of the Secretary of State.

Arts Council England (ACE)

6. I met Dame Liz Forgan and Alan Davey, Chair and Chief Executive of ACE, on 24 January. We agreed on the opportunities presented by a single conversation between ACE and councils spanning the arts, museums and libraries. I reinforced the importance of ACE supporting councils to develop imaginative solutions that are locally appropriate, and owned and driven by councils themselves. I also raised councils' concerns about the additional bureaucracy implied by ACE's new role in school music.

Superfast Broadband

7. In a letter to Jeremy Hunt MP, I raised councils' concerns about the rigidity of the Government's timetable and the potential impact on value for money. I

emphasised that we are committed to working in partnership with Government and Broadband Delivery UK in order to resolve the issues that remain and to ensure that the vast majority of contracts are signed by the end of this year.

Sport

8. In response to the Government's new youth sport strategy, I wrote to Jeremy Hunt MP to encourage him to reflect the fact local government is the key delivery agent for sport and uniquely placed to bring together the sometimes disparate elements of the local sporting landscape.
9. I met the Chair and Chief Executive of the newly established Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) on 16 January. I emphasised the need for CIMSPA to develop training and support programmes for local government professionals so that they are better equipped to meet the new challenges and opportunities posed by the radically different local sport landscape.
10. I spoke at the LGA / Sport England leadership seminar for Portfolio holders with responsibility for sport on 30 January, which the LGA organised in partnership with Sport England. I highlighted the importance of strong political leadership in making the case for sport. The event also enabled councillors to learn and share ideas about how to make the most of the new opportunities presented by localism, public health reforms and commissioning.

Regulated Entertainment

11. An LGA press release on how councils are supporting communities to host street parties during the Diamond Jubilee received widespread coverage in newspapers, television and radio. I appeared on BBC Breakfast News and various local radio stations and Cllr Shona Johnstone was also interviewed on local radio.
12. The Live Music Bill has progressed successfully through the House of Commons and subject to the formality of returning to the House of Lords, will receive Royal Assent shortly. The LGA had previously raised concerns with the original draft of the Bill, but successfully lobbied for amendments which mean it will cut red tape for the music industry and ensure councils still have sufficient powers to protect residents and people attending live music events.
13. I also addressed the LGA licensing conference on 26 January and updated councils on our response to the Government's consultation on regulated entertainment.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board 18 January

14. The Board discussed the LGA draft submission to the CMS Committee Inquiry into library closures and agreed how the Board will support culture and sport services to get ready for and to maximise the opportunities presented by public health reforms.

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Environment and Housing Board – report from Cllr David Parsons CBE (Chairman)

Environment and Housing Board

1. The Environment and Housing Board met on 11 January and discussed waste issues, DECC's Feed-in-Tariffs (FITs), Green Deal consultations and a number of other issues.

Meeting with Lord Taylor of Holbeach

2. I met with Lord Taylor of Holbeach, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Defra earlier this month. We considered changes to recycling collections as a result of the Judicial Review, and I emphasised the LGA's view that any amendments should continue to allow councils flexibility to choose a collection method that best suits local circumstances and will not present disproportionate costs to councils. I also argued against removal of Waste Transfer Notes (WTNs) and reminded the minister of the importance unblocking Defra's new Waste Control Regulations, which will allow councils to recover their waste disposal costs from non-domestic premises.

Green Deal Consultation

3. The LGA's response to the Green Deal Consultation was submitted in late January, following feedback from member councils and board members. We will continue to urge the Government to reconsider any decision to exclude social tenants from the new Affordable Warmth target fund. We have emphasised how important it is to unlock new sources of funding to help improve the energy efficiency of homes and properties across the country, especially with diminished public funds.

Meeting with Association of British Bookmakers

4. On 19 January, I had a productive meeting with the Association of British Bookmakers to help understand the betting industry's views as the LGA voices its concerns about the limited tools councils have available to tackle the issues of clustering on high streets.
5. I explained that the LGA's was pressing for workable tools through the planning system to be able to respond to local priorities and tackle clustering where this was a community concern.

EFRA Select Committee - inquiry into Defra's Natural Environment White Paper

6. Following consultation with Environment and Housing lead members, officers also submitted the LGA's evidence to the EFRA Select Committee inquiry into

the Water White Paper. It argued for adequate funding to enable councils to discharge their flood risk responsibilities and that any arrangement for the long-term maintenance of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) should work for local authorities.

7. The LGA would like to see a more joined up approach to investment in nationally significant infrastructure networks that is based on the needs of local economies, understands their impacts at local level, and provides certainty for decision making at local level.

Response to the Government's Housing Strategy / Right to Buy Consultation

8. I have also recently written to the Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP outlining the LGA's response to the Housing Strategy and the actions we believe the Government should take, in order to allow councils to contribute to meeting local housing need. Lead members have also been liaising with officers and councils to agree a response to the DCLG's 'Reinvigorating Right to Buy' consultation.

LGA Housing Reform Seminar - Meeting local housing need: what do the housing reforms mean for your area?

9. On 23 January I chaired the LGA's housing reform event for members, which was attended by around 65 elected members and featured contributions from CLG, HCA, Lord Matthew Taylor (National Housing Federation) and Lord Best among others.
10. 'Meeting local housing demand', a joint HCA/LGA publication on housing was launched at the conference. The publication lays out many of the options available to councils. It makes some suggestions as to how they could go about delivering new homes, improving existing ones and making housing central to local areas.

LGA responds to Defra plans to curb bin fines

11. On 16 January the LGA replied to proposals from Defra to curb bin fines, and I was active in the press to communicate local government's views on the plans. We continue to argue that councils only ever issue bin fines as an absolute last resort, and that local government must retain the ability to react as they see fit when a persistent minority cause damage and disruption.

Feed in Tariffs - Solar Panels

12. On 25 January the Court of Appeal ruled that the Government's proposed cuts to Feed-in Tariffs would be illegal. The Environment and Housing Board has recognised that as solar panels become cheaper, it is right that the rate of Feed-in-Tariff should be reduced accordingly, but we have continually highlighted the waste of money and damage to local economies caused by the Government's announcement of the cuts at such short notice.

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Improvement Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

Improvement

Sector led improvement

1. The Leader and Chief Executive of Thurrock Council attended our January meeting to share their improvement journey and experience of the peer challenge with us. Their story provides a powerful case study of the way in which support from the sector was able to help the council's leadership transform the authority and embark on an ambitious programme of regeneration and infrastructure investment that will have a wide range of long term benefits for local residents. We will continue to seek the views of those receiving and providing peer challenges to use their experiences to inform the development of peer challenges and the way the sector manages the risk of underperformance.

The future of local public audit

2. In early January DCLG published its proposals for the future of local public audit in the light of the earlier consultation exercise. We are concerned at the length of time before councils will be able to appoint their own auditors and will be writing to Ministers, setting out our concerns and recommendations in relation to the Government's proposals.

Transparency

LG Inform

3. The next phase of LGInform, known as Prototype Plus, is under procurement. The prototype, which we are aiming to have available by late summer 2012, will be developed according to feedback from the sector.

Transparency work programme

4. We have agreed a programme of work to address the new and expanding area of work around Transparency and Open Data Measures. The work programme will: support local authorities with guidance to help publish open data; promote that decisions on transparency be taken locally to meet local needs and demands; develop a transparency strategy for the sector and lobby Government departments to open up data that supports local service delivery.

Localis Event

5. Cllr Tim Cheetham represented the LGA at a recent Localis event attended by a delegation from the Finnish Innovation Fund (SITRA). The event explored issues around developing Localism in the UK.

Leadership

Leadership Academy BAME Weekender event

6. The Leadership Academy Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Weekender event held on 7 - 8 January 2012 was well received and was attended by 20 councillors. The programme covered personal development, presentation, media and communication skills.

Be a councillor

7. We will be launching a refreshed 'Be a councillor campaign' on 1 February 2012 at a reception in the House of Commons. The new elements of the programme include: a new strap line 'Stand for what you believe in. Be a councillor', a new look which focuses on real councillors and a new online presence which will include a toolkit that councils can download, use and tailor to their local council.

National Graduate Development Programme

8. Following a successful recruitment campaign, 2,239 applications were received for the 2012 National Graduate Recruitment Programme. We have recently made a number of improvements to the programme and are looking to get more councils involved. For further information about the benefits of participating in the programme and how your authority can get involved, contact Pascoe Sawyers on 020 7664 3053 or Pascoe.Sawyers@local.gov.uk.

Productivity

Adult Society Care Efficiency Programme

9. Cllr Ruth Cadbury, Deputy Chairman of the Board, took a leading role in the Adult Society Care Efficiency Programme launch event on 19 January 2012. The successful launch brought together around 100 delegates from more than 40 councils whose applications to the Adult Society Care Efficiency Programme had been successful as well as attracting 15 suppliers interested in supporting councils on the programme.

Innovation

Creative Councils Innovation programme

10. The first of four 'Learning Events' to share the progress of the 17 Creative Councils and to explore innovations from other countries was held on 15 December 2011. The successful event attracted 40 local authority representatives of whom 16 were from 7 of the Creative Councils.

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Economy and Transport Board – report from Cllr Peter Box CBE (Chair)

Local Growth Campaign

1. Our Local Growth Campaign continues. Both the Vice-Chair (Cllr Shona Johnstone) and I have been in town hall meetings across the country to gauge councils' and businesses' views on local investment and to ensure we are lobbying to remove barriers to growth. I had a home meeting in Wakefield on 25 January. Over 45 councillors from across Yorkshire attended. One of our local business leaders, Mark Ridgeway OBE, Chief Executive of Group Rhodes manufacturers, outlined the importance of working in partnership with councils to develop the right environment and infrastructure to promote inward investment and new jobs.
2. Again the issues of skills and transport dominated the debate, especially how we ensure that the ambitious employment aspirations that we find in very young children are sustained into teenage years.

Transport

3. The Board has already been taking forward the councils' concerns about transport. On 1 February, we held a seminar with the transport secretary, Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, and her senior team in the Department for Transport (DfT). The LGA Chairman and I set out the local government agenda. Whilst we welcomed the Government's planned devolution of local major transport funding, there was much more that councils could do to join up the different modes of transport locally and help to attract investors with joined-up local transport offers. The Secretary of State was very receptive to our offers and she has asked for some ideas about local pilots and a real-time localism programme. We will be discussing how we move this forward at the next Board in March.

Development Programme

4. As more economic and transport powers are devolved to councils, it is important that we build the capacity of councils to deliver. Thus the Board has been developing a programme of support for portfolio holders and officers on driving local economic growth. The first member development workshop, held on 9 January, gave councillors space to discuss issues relating to the leadership challenges and opportunities of local growth, sub-regional working and private sector growth. LGA Board member, Cllr Kevin Lynes from Kent, provided a powerful case study of the role that public sector leaders and councils in Kent played in mitigating the impact of Pfizer's decision to withdraw from Sandwich.

Conferences

5. I spoke at two major conferences in January. The Centre for Cities launched its annual Cities Outlook 2012 and I chaired a seminar of councillors, civil servants and think-tanks where I made the case for greater decentralisation to allow better targeting of the micro-economic interventions in the economy, and in particular the case for localising skills.
6. I also provided the key-note speech at a joint LGA/Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion conference, which was chaired by LGA Vice-Chair, Cllr Shona Johnstone. We looked at the role of local government in tackling unemployment. We were joined by both Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Employment Minister, and his opposition counterpart Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP. I provided the LGA perspective on the important role councils could play in helping to make the Work Programme succeed.
7. Board Vice-Chair, Cllr Shona Johnstone was part of a panel that debated the future of buses at the recent Public Transport Consortium meeting. This was a timely debate as the DfT finalises its response to the Competition Commission's report on bus competition and considers options for devolving elements of the Bus Service Operators Grant to local authorities. The Economy and Transport Board have lobbied successfully for devolution and this is a step in the right direction. However, the difficult financial situation will continue to impact on bus services and local authorities in partnership with operators and communities will need to continue to innovate to meet need, particularly of the most vulnerable. Cllr Johnstone also spoke at an Inside Government Transport event in London on 24 January. The LGA has long called for greater powers to implement lane rental schemes. There have been several successes in this broad area and the DfT is now consulting on removing the need for Secretary of State approval for permit schemes. This is a significant victory for the LGA.

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Safer & Stronger Communities Board – report from Cllr Mehboob Khan (Chairman)

Transition to Police and Crime Commissioners

1. Board members continued to be involved in the Home Office's police and crime commissioner transition projects. Cllr Goronwy Edwards, Deputy Chair of the Board, attended the project group meeting looking at elections. The issue of support for candidates in getting their message out to voters has been raised previously but the Government has indicated that there will be no free-post delivery of election material due to cost. Instead, there will be an internet based alternative where details of the candidates will be provided, and a number which people can call to ask for the information to be put in the post to them.

Enhanced CRB checks for taxi drivers

2. As a result of significant pressure from the LGA and key partners, the Government has announced that taxi drivers and mini cab drivers will once again be entitled to enhanced CRB checks and councils can take the additional step of checking whether a driver has been barred from working with children or young people.
3. This decision will mean that anyone getting into a taxi or private hire vehicle can do so safe in the knowledge that they can rely on their council to have fully checked the background of the driver before giving them a licence. It will enable council support and promote a positive image of our taxi industry by ensuring that the licensing process cannot be exploited by those looking to target vulnerable passengers.

LGA Licensing Conference

4. The success of the LGA Licensing Conference harnessed the hard work being done by councils on alcohol and event licensing. It also reflected the concern amongst councils that Government proposals to deregulate events with less than 5000 attendees would create unmanageable nuisance and safety issues. While there was strong support amongst the audience to reduce red tape for event organisers, there was clear concerns that deregulation on the scale proposed would remove the opportunity for communities to influence the nature of events taking place in their area.

Dangerous dogs

5. Cllr Nilgun Canver, as Licensing Champion for the LGA, spoke at a parliamentary reception aimed at highlighting the need for Government to work

with councils, the police and charities to develop policy and practical tools for addressing issues associated with dangerous dogs. Cllr Canver stressed that any approach should link to wider work on community safety and must be sustainable.

Fire National Framework

6. The LGA, working with the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), has successfully lobbied Government for a leaner and more localist National Framework which broadly reflects the views of fire authorities and which builds on their best practice and existing activities.

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Workforce Board – report from Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Chair)

Pensions

New LGPS project has commenced

1. A project based on the principles document agreed with unions and accepted by Government in December has now commenced. The project membership includes representatives from LGA, GMB, UNISON and DCLG. Unite have decided to withdraw from the discussions, despite signing up to the principles document, citing uncertainty caused by a letter from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which was subsequently withdrawn. The project has a number of objectives to meet by April; these cover the design of a new scheme together with its ongoing management and governance.

Heads of agreement for new Teachers' scheme

2. Although the Government's proposed Heads of Agreement document for the Teachers' scheme was published on 20 December, the major teaching unions including the NUT have still not accepted the terms set out within it. The NUT together with other public sector unions, are considering further industrial action in pursuit of an improved offer on pensions for Government.

Mainstream staff in local government

3. Discussions are ongoing at a political level to agree the Employers' position in respect of pay for year 2012/2013.

Developing pay policy statements

4. Section 38.1 of the Localism Act 2011 requires English and Welsh local authorities to produce a pay policy statement from 2012/13 and each subsequent year. The LGA have scheduled a number of regional workshops, hosted by the regional employers organisations, in early February / March to help local authorities to comply with this requirement. These workshops will also cover issues such as 'earn back' and remuneration committees.

Public Health Workforce Matters

5. The Local Government Transition Guidance on Public Health Workforce Matters was published on 13 January aimed at HR specialists in councils that will be receiving public health staff. The Guidance Detailed has been agreed with a group of trade unions, including the Royal College of Nursing and the British Medical Association. It describes the legal basis for transfers and sets out a framework of options and good practice for local decisions. The Guidance has

been published now in order to help councils to get to grips with planning the transition. There are some issues that are still subject to discussion on which further information will be issued as soon as possible. In practice, most key decisions are rightly the responsibility of the new employer. The central plank of the Guidance is that future and current employers should set up local joint consultative groups working with the trade unions as soon as possible, if they have not already done.

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

6. The LGA has issued some workforce guidance for councils to help them think through some of the issues which they will be facing during the Games. The LGA thought that councils outside of the London area would benefit from the checklist of issues in order to pre-empt any adverse effect on council services. Such issues include travel arrangements, annual leave, flexible working, internet use and volunteers.
7. The LGA will also be publishing advice on getting active and fit for the 2012 Games and beyond. The resource will be web-based and will provide tips for a healthy lifestyle which in turn should improve employee well-being and engagement. Those who log on to the site every month will benefit from updated fitness tips and will be able to link into the NHS Active site in order to participate in team events and promote public sector health, which ties in with the transfer of Public Health. The LGA is currently exploring with the NHS various opportunities for local government and other public sector colleagues to collaborate on a broader public sector challenge.

School teachers

8. In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government would be asking the Pay Review Bodies to look at local pay. He has written to the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) to ask them to consider how to make pay more market-facing in local areas for teachers (letter attached).
9. The STRB is expecting to receive a letter from the Secretary of State for Education in early February with a detailed remit in relation to teachers and will formally notify all consultees - including National Employers Of Schoolteachers (NEOST) - of the remit once received. The Chancellor's letter states that the remit "may also raise other pay reform issues".
10. The autumn statement also said that the current public sector pay freeze would end in 2013/14 but that for the following two years the Government would seek public sector pay awards that of up to one per cent per year.

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European and International Board – report from Cllr Dave Wilcox (Chair)

Business Plan

1. The European and International Board had its first meeting of the year on 17 January. The key piece of business was to endorse our contribution to the LGA business plan and to set our priorities for EU work in 2012. The Board welcomed clearer corporate priorities and encouraged more joined-up Board working around cross-cutting themes.

Work Programme Priorities

2. In looking at the Board's own priorities for next year, we have examined the issues in the EU work programme which will have the biggest impact on councils and the opportunities to raise resources to support local government abroad (see below). However, there is an urgent need for our work to fit into a much bigger picture and to be joined up to other Boards' work. Thus the development of clear corporate themes is a welcome direction of travel and it would be worth re-visiting the Board's work once these are established so that we can ensure a clearer "golden thread" through the LGA. For example, the Board could consider the best international examples to support our corporate priorities and campaigns and how we could add an international challenge to peer reviews.
3. The Board agreed its EU priorities: current or new legislative initiatives which we think will have most impact on councils in 2012. These were debated with the assistance of Frédéric Vallier, the General Secretary of the Council of European Municipalities & Regions (CEMR, the European LGA). The major priorities are in the fields of:
 - 3.1. Public services: the EU has recently published proposals for new procurement rules, which include some helpful new measures to make procurement easier for local councils, and easier for small businesses to tender.
 - 3.2. Environment and energy: the EU currently proposes binding renovation rates for public sector buildings and greater energy efficiency in procurement criteria, which will have potentially expensive consequences for our councils; additionally, the EU is preparing new rules on water efficiency and air quality.
 - 3.3. Continuing negotiations on future regional funds for regeneration and skills: currently worth £7 billion to the UK, the LGA is lobbying to retain as

much EU funding for UK councils as possible in the new period from 2014, whilst making their allocation more responsive to local needs.

- 3.4. We will also keep a watching brief on EU initiatives in other areas that might affect our councils (working time and other employment issues; trading standards and environmental health rules; local government finance; waste and environmental laws; child poverty and social services).

Commonwealth Local Government Forum and Department for International Development

4. The Board met with Carl Wright, General Secretary of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF, the Commonwealth LGA). His participation gave us an opportunity to consider our recent and ongoing work with the Commonwealth countries. The CLGF works to promote and strengthen democratic local government across the 40 Commonwealth countries and to encourage exchange of best practice. The Department for International Development (DFID)-funded Good Practice Scheme is a three-year programme bringing together local authorities in the UK and a number of developing countries, and has funded LGA work with LGAs in Pakistan and South Africa.
5. The Board also noted the excellent news that DFID has awarded LGA the status of “preferred supplier”, enabling us to be bid for contracts to provide expertise and peer support, and to help in the local government delivery of aid projects.

Delegation meetings

6. On 9 January, our Delegations to the two large European international bodies both met in London: the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Congress of the Council of Europe. We were joined by Baroness Hanham and Bob Neill MP, both former CoR members and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State. The Congress Delegation focused on the current UK Presidency of the Council of Europe, where the UK is trying to reform the Court of Human Rights. The CoR Delegation met with the EU Ambassador to the UK and discussed likely developments in 2012 that could affect local councils.

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2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group – report from Cllr Stephen Castle (Chair)

1. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group had its second meeting on 18 January 2012. The Group has been set up by the LGA Executive to make sure that the LGA is supporting councils to play their part in hosting a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games and to ensure that councils have the latest information and share experience and knowledge of local operational issues. The Task Group is keen to ensure that links with all relevant services are identified and that the role of councils in delivering the Games is understood by key stakeholders.

Transport and the Games

2. Members had a presentation from London Councils' corporate director, Nick Lester, who set out some of the key transport issues. Transport is an absolute fundamental to making the Olympic Games a success. The biggest impact of the Games will be felt across London and around competition venues, where Games competitions and planned parallel events will affect the surrounding areas. In addition to the London venues, significant Games activity is also taking place in Weymouth and Portland, Dorset; Eton Dorney, Buckinghamshire; Broxbourne, Hertfordshire; and Hadleigh Farm, Essex. The football competition is taking place at stadia in Cardiff, Coventry, Glasgow, Manchester and Newcastle, as well as London.
3. There will be huge numbers of ticket holders - eight million - travelling to events and there will be a wide range of Games-related activity occurring across UK during 2012 that will have an impact on roads and rail services, including Olympic Torch Relay events, Live Sites and other cultural events. It is expected that around 80 per cent of spectators attending events in Greater London will travel by rail (including the London Underground and Docklands Light Railway), placing extra demand on an already very busy network. There will be significant capacity issues for public transport operators, particularly in London and in surrounding areas which will be used as transport hubs. There is likely to be a big impact on the travelling public, and this could also have major implications for councils, for example in addressing any resulting parking issues.

Freight deliveries

4. The Task Group discussed the fact that freight operations in London will be much more difficult during Games time. This could have a potential impact on businesses anywhere in the UK that do business and make deliveries in London. The importance of getting the message across to business is crucial and the Task Group recommended that this issue should be discussed at the next meeting of the LGA Economy and Transport Board. The Task Group was informed that the Board has good relationships with stakeholders including the

Chambers of Commerce and councils would be encouraged to get the message out to local businesses wherever they were located.

LGA workforce guidance

5. The Task Group also discussed LGA workforce guidance for councils for local government employees and a checklist that had been drawn up by London Councils. The guidance and checklist include a range of issues for councils to consider, including planning travel to work, annual leave, volunteering and business continuity plans to sustain priority services during Games time. The guidance and checklist are being published on the LGA website by the LGA Workforce Board to coincide with the 'six-months to go' milestone for the Games: <http://www.local.gov.uk/topic-2012-games>

'Get Fit for the Olympics'

6. At the same time, LGA is also spearheading a 'Get Fit for the Olympics' initiative for local government employees on getting fit and increasing activity as part of the build-up to the 2012 Games and beyond. The resource is web-based and will provide tips for a healthy lifestyle which in turn should improve employee well-being and engagement. Those who log onto the site every month will benefit from updated fitness tips and will be able to link into the NHS Active site in order to participate in team events and promote public sector health. The NHS has set a challenge to increase physical activity amongst its staff.

Joint working

7. On 17 January Cllr Stephen Castle and Cllr Simon Henig (Deputy Chair of the Culture Tourism and Sport Board) met with officials from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, the Nations and Regions Group and the Government Olympic Executive to discuss progress on the joint working between our organisations. This meeting had a much stronger focus on operational issues than previously. Issues raised included emergency planning and work underway to provide advice and guidance for councils through the National Local Authority Resilience Programme, supporting councils who are hosting the Torch Relay, and communications - including a proposal for a media 'toolkit' which would include generic articles for councils to use in their own communications with local people to tell the story of the Games.

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Local Authority Bonds Task and Finish Group – report from Cllr Edward Lord JP OBE (Chairman)

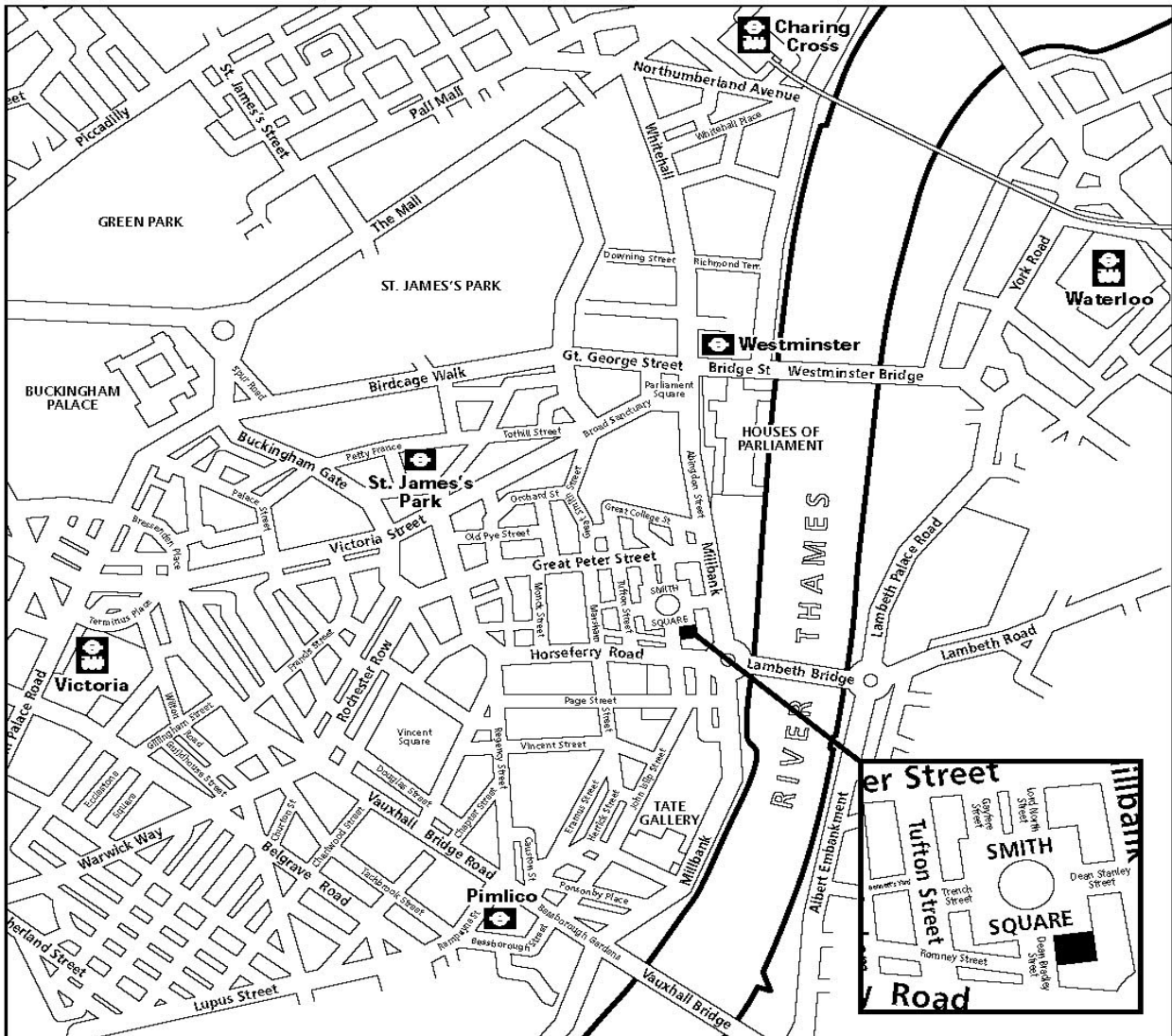
1. The initial remit of the Task and Finish Group was to develop an outline business case. The purpose was to assess whether it is cost effective to establish a collective agency to raise capital funding for councils.
2. The business case was completed in December 2011 and considered by the LGA Executive in January 2012. The key conclusions were:
 - 2.1. A collective agency could deliver borrowing of between 0.7 per cent and 0.8 per cent above the long-term gilt rate - which is less than currently available from agencies such as the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This would mean a council borrowing £100 million over 20 years could save a total of £4.7 million in interest payments.
 - 2.2. The agency, if properly capitalised and with strong governance, should secure a AAA/Aaa rating.
 - 2.3. The agency could take about two years and approximately £2.5 million to establish and would cost between £2 million and £4 million a year to operate, depending on the complexity of its operations.
 - 2.4. The agency would need a minimum 25 per cent market share of council borrowing in order to be competitive.
3. The business case noted that local authorities in several other countries have either established, or are in the process of developing, similar agencies.
4. The collective agency would benefit authorities who were not looking to regularly borrow large sums and for whom the costs of individual bond placements would be prohibitive.
5. The key risks for the project were identified. The most significant are changes in Government policy and lack of interest from the local government sector.
6. The LGA Executive endorsed the conclusions in the report and asked that the Task and Finish Group oversee the next stage of work which is:
 - 6.1. To consult on the findings and refine the business case.
 - 6.2. To establish the level of support within the local government sector.
 - 6.3. To work with Government to ensure support for the arrangement.

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- 6.4. To procure advisors for an implementation stage.
- 6.5. To develop the final suite of detailed documents setting out how the agency would operate.
7. The intention is that this work is completed by Summer 2012, this will allow a final decision to be made about progressing the agency.

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LGA Location Map



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Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are;

Victoria

and **Waterloo**; the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (District and Circle Lines); **Westminster** (District, Circle and Jubilee Lines); and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line), all about 10 minutes walk away. Buses **3** and **87** travel along **Millbank**, and the **507** between Victoria and Waterloo goes close by at the end of **Dean Bradley Street**.

Bus routes - Millbank

87 Wandsworth - Aldwych **N87**
3 Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria
C10 Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - Victoria
88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling Facilities

Cycle racks are available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone. For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car Parks

Abingdon Street Car Park
 Great College Street
Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street