

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday 15 March 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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Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

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Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your badge when you depart.

Councillors' Forum

15 March 2012

The **Councillors' Forum** meeting will be held on **Thursday 15 March 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

Fatima de Abreu (Tel: 020 7664 3136, Email: fatima.deabreu@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.

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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 AM	LFEP / Greater London Authority
Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
Keith Mitchell CBE	Oxfordshire CC
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI	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] (plus sub pool)	
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 (17)	
Roger Symonds	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Flick Rea	Camden 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
Substitute	
Norman Murphy	Scarborough DC

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

15 March 2012

12.30 – 1.30pm

The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

	Item	Page	Time
1.	<p>The future of adult social care and support</p> <p>Members will hear from Richard Humphries, Senior Fellow at the King's Fund, Dame Jo Williams, Chair of the Care Quality Commission and former Commissioner on the Commission on Funding of Care and Support (the Dilnot Commission) and Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee.</p>	3	12.30pm
2.	Chairman's Update	9	1.20pm
3.	<p>LGA Board and Panel Chairs' Reports</p> <p>a: Children & Young People Board – Cllr David Simmonds b: Community Wellbeing Board – Cllr David Rogers OBE c: Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Cllr Flick Rea 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: Resources Panel – Cllr Stephen Castle k: Bonds Task & Finish Group – Cllr Edward Lord OBE JP l: 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Task & Finish Group – Cllr Stephen Castle</p>	11	

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO COUNCILLORS' FORUM MEETING IN APRIL

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 17 May 2012, Local Government House

The future of adult social care and support

Purpose of report

For noting and discussion.

Summary

Members will hear from Richard Humphries, Senior Fellow at the King's Fund, Dame Jo Williams, Chair of the Care Quality Commission and former Commissioner on the Commission on Funding of Care and Support (the Dilnot Commission) and Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the different perspectives provided by the presentations on the future of adult social care and support, and raise any issues on the implications for local government.

Action

As directed by the Forum.

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The future of adult social care and support

Background

1. Following a number of key developments over the last eighteen months a White Paper on the future of adult social care looks set to be published in the Spring. Chief among these developments is the work of the Law Commission, the Dilnot Commission on Funding of Care and Support and the Caring for our Future engagement exercise.
2. Respectively, the two Commissions explored how to make the adult social care system simpler in terms of its legal framework, and fairer and more sustainable in terms of its funding arrangements. The engagement exercise, which concluded in December 2011, sought to bring the recommendations from both Commissions together, alongside the Government's 'Vision for adult social care', to help shape the priorities for care and support reform ahead of the White Paper.
3. The engagement exercise was based around six themes which the Government believes have the greatest potential for improving the care system. These are set out below and it is likely that they will form the basis, at least in part, of the White Paper.
 - 3.1 Quality and workforce
 - 3.2 Personalisation
 - 3.3 Shaping local care services
 - 3.4 Prevention
 - 3.5 Integration
 - 3.6 Role of financial services

Recent activity and the LGA position

4. The LGA has been heavily involved in the debates about reform of care and support during the last eighteen months, working closely with both the Dilnot and Law Commissions to share the sector's views and influence the final recommendations. We have also been heavily engaged with Parliamentarians and other stakeholders, giving a range of evidence and briefings. In recent months the LGA has:
 - 4.1 Hosted a major roundtable event for council Leaders, Chief Executives, and other senior council Members and officers, to consider the questions set out in the Government's engagement exercise. This event was also attended by senior officers from the Department of Health to ensure that central Government heard direct from local government on the issues that mattered most to the sector. Attendees heard from a high profile range of speakers, including: Lord Norman Warner (Dilnot Commission); Frances

Patterson QC (Law Commission); Paul Burstow MP (Care Services Minister); Baroness Hanham (Communities and Local Government).

- 4.2 Given written and oral evidence to the Health Select Committee’s inquiry on social care.
 - 4.3 Provided a detailed briefing for a Westminster Hall debate on adult social care funding.
 - 4.4 Provided a detailed briefing for a Lord’s debate on the future of care and support.
 - 4.5 Met with Department of Health officials to discuss specific elements of the reform debate and arranged further similar meetings.
 - 4.6 Organised a series of briefing sessions in collaboration with Age UK for Parliamentarians to discuss care and support reform.
5. Ahead of the White Paper we are also taking forward a number of activities to raise both the profile of the reform debate and the visibility of the LGA as an influencer of it and commentator on it. Work includes public polling, making the economic case for reform, financial analysis of the current and predicted future funding picture for the service, and a guide to the White Paper.
 6. We have been consistently clear that the current climate presents the best opportunity for meaningful reform, with workable proposals from both the Dilnot and Law Commissions allied to cross-party commitment to seek a solution that has consensus across the political spectrum.
 7. We want to see a future system achieve four, high-level aims. These are set out below, along with some further information on what a system based on these aims would look like.

High level aim	What this would mean in practice
Providing stability, predictability and transparency and encouraging the long-term view	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals are clear about the expectations of them and the state in meeting their care costs ▪ Comprehensive information and advice helps people plan for the future ▪ People are encouraged to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing throughout their life ▪ Assessments of needs and means are portable ▪ A provider market that is responsive to local demand and can meet the needs of both self- and state-funded individuals
Improving the individual’s experience of care and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The care and support system is clear and people are confident navigating through it ▪ The system extends choice and control with outcomes focused on the user ▪ Services are of high quality and exceed individuals’ expectations

Recognising and supporting the use of the totality of an area's resource base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An 'asset approach' to care and support that values and incorporates the entirety of an area's financial, physical and social resources ▪ In particular, the system considers how best to align care and support with health, housing, and benefits
Sufficient funding, appropriately directed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A system that supports and encourages funding for prevention ▪ Funding for the system and funding for reform go hand in hand ▪ Sufficient resource to fund the impact of demography

The speakers

8. Stephen Dorrell MP was first elected as Member of Parliament for Loughborough in 1979, which he represented until 1997. In 1997 he was elected MP for Charnwood constituency, which he continues to represent in Parliament today, having been re-elected in May 2010. He was formerly PPS to Peter Walker as Secretary of State for Energy from 1983 to 1987, Assistant Government Whip from 1987 to 1988, Government Whip from 1988 to 1990. He then served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, in the Department of Health from 1990 to 1992, Financial Secretary, HM Treasury from 1992 to 1994, before being promoted to Secretary of State for National Heritage from 1994 to 1995, and then Secretary of State for Health from 1995 to 1997. He was a member of the Shadow Cabinet from 1997 to 1998 as Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment. In 2007 Stephen Dorrell was appointed by Rt Hon David Cameron MP as Co-Chair of the Public Service Improvement Group, to look at ways to improve the services provided by Health, Social Care, Education and Social Housing. He was elected Chair of the Health Committee in 2010.

9. Dame Jo Williams is Chair of the Care Quality Commission. Previously, Dame Jo was Chief Executive of the Royal Mencap Society. She is also the former President of the Association of Directors of Social Services and champion for social care services throughout a career in local government. Dame Jo is also a trustee of a number of other voluntary organisations. She was a Commissioner on the Commission on Funding of Care and Support that was chaired by Andrew Dilnot.

10. Richard Humphries joined the King's Fund in March 2009 to lead on social care and is a recognised commentator and writer on care and support issues. A graduate of the LSE, his professional background is social work, having worked in a variety of roles including Director of Social Services and Health Authority Chief Executive (the first combined post in England) and in the Department of Health. Richard is a Non-Executive Director of Housing 21 and co-chairs the Associates Network of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

Item 2

Chairman's update

28 January – 5 March 2012

LGA business

1. During the February **Leadership Board** we discussed Adult Social Care, welfare reform – the impact on local government and the communities they serve, a new conduct regime for councils and our work on becoming the national representative body for Police & Crime Commissioners.
2. The following day I chaired the **LGA Executive** where we discussed a range of subjects including Local Government Finance and Welfare reform as well as the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, academies funding and adult social care. I also attended the launch of the **Independent Local Government campaign** - intended to stimulate debate about the relationship between central and local government and along with the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee's inquiry into prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government.
3. In late January, the LGA hosted a cohort of local government peers from thirteen African countries as part of peer review training programme that we have been commissioned to deliver for our pan-African counterpart, United Cities & Local Government Africa with external funding. The cohort included representatives of local government from countries as diverse as Madagascar, Senegal and Burundi. I was delighted to meet with the group and be part of this ambitious initiative to adapt the UK's peer review approach to local government improvement across the African continent.
4. On 1 February I attended our annual Parliamentary reception in House of Commons, kindly hosted by Margot James MP. This year's reception focused on the re-launch of the **Be a Councillor campaign**. It was great to see so many local and central Government faces in one place and I was delighted to hear from Cllr Rowenna Davis. Later in the month I also spoke at the Be a Councillor workshop at the Conservative Local Government Conference.
5. On 7 February I attended the **South East England Councils (SEEC)** meeting. SEEC was established in 2009 to represent the interests of local authorities in the South East. It was useful to discuss the LGA Business Plan, sector-led improvement and health reforms.
6. On 21 February I attended a meeting with Leaders from whole place **community budget pilot areas** where we discussed support to places and member development.
7. This month you will also be aware that we confirmed a pay freeze for 1.6 million local government employees for 2012/13. This was a very difficult decision to make but it is the right one for council taxpayers and the workforce as a whole.

8. Finally we also held our annual **Public Health conference** at the end of February, it was a valuable opportunity to analyse the implications of the transfer of public health to local government in 2013 and to highlight the innovative work already being undertaken by councils. I was also pleased to meet with Dame Jo Williams, Chair of the Care Quality Commission to discuss the changing landscape in regulation and inspection.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

9. Alongside leading members from our Economy and Transport Board, I met with **Rt Hon Justine Greening MP** to discuss the devolution of transport and how integrated local programmes could contribute to economic growth.
10. I attended the launch of Baroness Newlove's concluding report as the Government's Champion for Active, Safer Communities. I was keen to emphasise council's key role in co-ordinating local partnerships.
11. I was also pleased to meet with Matthew Hancock MP to discuss the LGAs work and to discuss **Police and Crime Commissioners** with Nick Herbert MP, Minister at the Home Office.

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

12. I attended a meeting with Councillor Brian Coleman AM, Chairman of London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) and the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee and Fire Commission, it was very useful to discuss the main elements of the Fire agenda and the work of the FSMC and the Fire Commission.
13. I met with Baroness Sally Morgan, Chair of OFSTED and outlined how the LGA has developed an approach to sector-led improvement that will help councils strengthen their accountability and revolutionise the way they evaluate and improve services.
14. I also met with Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Cornerstone to discuss capital and assets work.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

15. I visited to Buckinghamshire to meet with Leader, Cllr Martin Tett and some of his cabinet and discussed the work of the LGA on behalf of member authorities and local challenges.
16. I was delighted to be able to accept Cllr Peter Box CBE, Chair of Local Government Yorkshire and the Humber's, invitation to speak to local authority Leaders from across Yorkshire and the Humber in Wakefield.
17. I took part in a very interesting visit to South Tyneside, including meetings with Paul Watson, Leader of Sunderland City Council; Dave Smith, Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council; Iain Malcolm, Leader of South Tyneside and Mayor Linda Arkley of North Tyneside. I was also pleased to address the Association of North East Councils, where we discussed the LGA role and priorities, what sector-led improvement means for councils and the impact of cuts and savings.

Item 3

LGA Board Chairs' Reports

Purpose of report

For information.

Attached are reports from the Chairs of the LGA Children and Young People; Community Wellbeing; Culture, Tourism and Sport; Environment and Housing; Improvement; Economy and Transport; Safer and Stronger Communities; Workforce; European and International Boards; and the Resources Panel. Also included are reports from the Chairs of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Bonds Task and Finish Group.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the attached reports.

Action

Further report to the next meeting of the Councillors' Forum.

Contact officers: Heads of Programmes –

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Sandie Dunne, E & H and CWB Boards email: sandie.dunne@local.gov.uk	020 7664 3070
Dennis Skinner, Improvement Board email: dennis.skinner@local.gov.uk	020 7296 6531
Helen Murray, SSC Board email: helen.murray@local.gov.uk	020 7664 3266
Sarah Messenger, Workforce Board email: sarah.messenger@local.gov.uk	020 7187 7342
Stephen Jones, Audit & Scrutiny and Resources Panels email: stephen.jones@local.gov.uk	020 7664 3171
Liz Hobson, 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Task & Finish Group email: liz.hobson@local.gov.uk	020 7664 3229
Mark Luntley, LA Bonds Task & Finish Group email: mark.luntley@local.gov.uk	020 7664 3000

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

Ministerial Advisory Group and Action Learning Research

1. I attended the meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the council role in education on 23 February and presented the interim report of the LGA/Department for Education (DfE) *Action Learning Research into the Evolving Council Role in Education*. It identifies the key issues facing councils and schools in nine council areas as increasing numbers of schools become academies. The headline finding of the report is that without exception, all the councils taking part in this research have recognised and sought to respond to the vision for a more autonomous and self-improving school system. The next stage of the research will look in more detail at how to tackle the specific challenges that schools and councils are facing and give participants an opportunity to trial new approaches. The LGA is organising an event for Lead Members for Children's Services to discuss the interim report on 21 March and the final report will be launched at the LGA Annual Conference in June.

Raising the Participation Age

2. On 21 February I met Tim Loughton MP, DfE Minister for Children and Families, to discuss a range of issues which could impact on councils' upcoming duty to support Raising the Participation Age (RPA), which is now one year off. It will require schools, councils, colleges and employers to come together to find local solutions to keep young 16 and 17 year olds in education or work based learning. The Minister acknowledge the key role of councils, but I wanted to make clear that recent policy changes to national careers policy and new funding announcements such as the £126 million Youth Contract for 16 and 17 year olds have a significant impact on how councils rise to the RPA challenge.
3. I made the case for local authorities to be much more involved in planning the 16-17 year old Youth Contract provision, going beyond their designated role to refer young people on to providers. I wanted to see a role for them in co-commissioning this provision, which would be more reflective of their statutory duties to track and support this age group and their RPA duties. The LGA and Association of Directors of Children's Services are taking forward discussions with DfE to discuss how councils can be more involved in the development of this provision over the next couple of months.

Early Intervention

4. On 20 February, I co-hosted a meeting with Graham Allen MP, Chair of the Government's Independent Review of Early Intervention. This meeting was a

unique opportunity and brought together elected Members and officers to discuss how an Early Intervention Foundation could best support local government to unlock the financial savings and better outcomes for communities that can be achieved through early intervention programmes. Councils at the meeting were positive about a Foundation playing a role in providing a strong evidence base to inform their decision making. Issues covered included the need for a Foundation to add value beyond existing organisations; the development of new funding models to lever investment; and engagement of other local services.

Children's Improvement Board (CIB)

5. Ministers have agreed funding for the CIB of up to £8 million for 2012-13. In confirming the funding to the Chair of the CIB on 22 February, Tim Loughton said "I am confident that, under your collective leadership, the system will make a real difference to the lives of children and young people throughout the country...I will look to the Local Government Association to continue to engage with elected members – both Leaders and Lead Members – and Chief Executives to ensure that everything possible is being done to support that implementation process".

National Foundation for Educational Research and the National Youth Agency

6. The Children and Young People Office Holders, held a meeting with both the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) and the National Youth Agency (NYA) on 29 February to discuss their work programmes and agree their RSG topslice funding for the coming year. It was agreed that Members of the Board would have greater oversight of the work of the NFER and NYA to ensure that councils and young people demonstrably benefit from their work. Funding of £900,000 for NYA and up to £500,000 for NFER was agreed for the next financial year.

Youth Summit

7. Cllr Peter Box CBE, Chair of the Economy and Transport Board, and I co-hosted a summit for young people in Local Government House on 14 February. Further details are given in Cllr Box's report.

Visits to councils

8. I am continuing to visit different councils around the country and have most recently visited both the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and North Yorkshire County Council.

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

Securing the Future of Adult Social Care campaign

1. At the LGA's Leadership board on 8 February, colleagues decided to make 'Securing the Future of Adult Social Care' the LGA's number one campaigning priority over the next year or so. The first phase of the campaign will take us up to the White Paper and aims to maintain the profile of the debate nationally and the visibility of the LGA as a leading influencer of discussions. Specific work includes:
 - 1.1 A guide to the White Paper
 - 1.2 Understanding the current and predicted future funding picture for care and support
 - 1.3 The cost of reform
 - 1.4 The economic case for reform
 - 1.5 Polling to understand the public's aspirations for care and support
2. We will continue to press for recognition of the true funding crisis which councils face, and the necessity of reforms.

Letter to Paul Burstow

3. This month I have also written to the Minister of State for Care Services, setting out our ongoing concerns with certain elements of the Health and Social Care bill, and the LGA's willingness to continue to work with the Department of Health to address areas where the bill needs improvement.
4. I emphasised the democratic legitimacy of Health and Wellbeing boards in ensuring services are integrated and people do not 'fall through the cracks'. The letter also strongly expressed our disappointment that the Government has not acted on the concerns expressed by the LGA and many local authorities regarding the split responsibility for children and young people's public health in the bill which could cause a risky and unnecessary fragmentation of children's services.
5. Finally the LGA reminded the Minister that the management and reporting lines for Directors of Public Health within local authorities is a matter for local decision and also that we believe that it is neither necessary nor appropriate for the Secretary of State to issue guidance regarding public health staff.

Joint GP and Public Health stakeholders' roundtables

6. The GP and Public Health round table meetings, attended by members of the board continue to help develop a robust and constructive relationship with national representatives from public health and general practice. These and a number of other regular stakeholder meetings are one of the key ways the LGA continues to put the case for local government on issues included in the health reform agenda, including the transfer of public health to local government. We

also continue to campaign for public health funding to be based on levels of health need rather than historical spending patterns.

Public Health Conference, 28 February

7. The first LGA Public Health Annual conference was a sellout success with over 150 delegates attending the summit. Chaired by Sir Merrick Cockell the audience was urged to hold an open and honest discussion about the opportunities local government faces in an age where Clinical Commissioning Groups and democratically accountable Health and Wellbeing Boards will be the key actors in improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.
8. The theme for the conference was reducing health inequalities, and speakers included the Department for Health's Director General for Social care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, as well as experts from Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), Public Health England, CIEH (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) and a range of other organizations.

Commission on Dignity in Care Launch, 29 February

9. As co-chair of the Dignity in Care Commission, I was interviewed by a number of the trade media and both national and local radio stations across the country on 27, 28 and 29 February. This was part of a high-profile media launch for the report we are publishing for consultation, drawing on the body of evidence that we, the LGA, Age UK and the NHS Confederation, have gathered over the past eight months. The report is available at http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=d47b1070-0984-4c5a-9ff0-f5e626c153a6&groupId=10727
10. Widespread coverage in national newspapers, on TV and in the trade press is just the beginning of what we hope to be a wide-ranging public conversation about the fundamental changes required in hospitals and care homes to ensure older people are treated with dignity and respect. But we want the campaign to generate practical action – and we are also working on a joint action plan – to persuade those involved in the provision, commissioning and monitoring of care to take up our final proposals.

Meeting with Earl Howe, 3 March

11. On 3 March I met with Earl Howe, Minister for Quality at the Department of Health, at his request, to discuss the development of Healthwatch. We discussed the urgent need to prioritise preparations for Healthwatch at national and local levels. This work should include awareness raising, branding and setting national standards of operation so that robust and credible Local Healthwatch organisations can be established and supported.
12. Local authorities have already begun to work with their local stakeholders, including LINKs and other community and voluntary organisations to shape Local Healthwatch. The LGA, with the Department of Health, will provide support through an implementation programme. We agree with the Government that local authorities are best placed to commission Health Watch as leaders of their community and with their extensive track record of supporting community engagement.

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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Flick Rea (Chair)

Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 7 and 8 March 2012

1. Over 120 delegates attended the LGA's annual CTS Conference in Cardiff, supported by the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association. This continues to be the definitive event for the local government CTS sector. Plenary speakers included Hugh Robertson MP, Sports Minister, David Moorcroft, former athlete and Chair of the 2012 Games partnership in the West Midlands, and Dame Jenny Abramsky, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund. In workshops delegates debated key issues facing the sector and highlighted the importance of the LGA sharing good practice case studies.

Libraries

2. Cllr Elizabeth Campbell (Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) gave evidence on behalf of the LGA to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's inquiry on libraries on 21 February. Cllr Campbell emphasised how the LGA is supporting councils to modernise library services through peer mentoring, sharing good practice and supporting library portfolio holders. The LGA is also calling for the updating of the 1964 Libraries & Museums Act and the removal Secretary of State's superintendent role to better allow councils to modernise their library services.
3. On 29 February Cllr Florence Nosegbe chaired a seminar for libraries portfolio holders in Leeds. The event supported 25 councillors to share and learn from each other about different approaches to re-designing library services. This builds on a similarly successful seminar we held in London in November and we intend to extend the programme further so that even more councillors can participate.

2012 Games and Sport

4. Cllr Chris White, my predecessor, chaired the LGA's Olympic and Paralympic emergency planning conference on 7 February. Over 100 delegates from 70 councils attended the event, which briefed councils on latest resilience preparations for the 2012 Games and gave them the opportunity to raise concerns with government and the Organising Committee.
5. Cllr Simon Henig spoke at the LGA / Sport England leadership academy on 14 March. The event supported 15 portfolio holders for sport to develop further their understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by local government funded and supported sport. This is the second leadership academy we have hosted with Sport England and again we received very positive feedback from delegates.

The role of local government in the arts

6. I was interviewed by Cllr Magazine about local government and the arts. I highlighted the LGA's role disseminating good practice case studies to councils and emphasised the opportunity for a single conversation between Arts Council England and local government, spanning the arts, libraries and museums.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board 6 March 2012

7. I chaired the CTS Board on 6 March in Cardiff. The Board received a presentation from Councillor Stephen Castle, Chair of the LGA's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group, on latest preparations for the Games. The Board also heard from Cllr Nigel Howells, Executive Member for Sport, Leisure and Culture, Cardiff Council about how Cardiff is supporting culture, tourism and sport.

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

Waste, Recycling and Localism conference, 2 February 2012

1. In early February Cllr Clyde Loakes chaired the LGA's waste, recycling and localism event. The conference was a great success, was well attended and scored one of the highest satisfaction ratings of any LGA event. Delegates heard a series of distinctive visions of **the future for waste services**, with speakers from public, private and third sectors contributing to a lively debate. Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Defra provided the government's perspective with his keynote address. Documentation is available at <http://www.local.gov.uk/past-events-presentations>

The LGA and DECC – Meeting with Greg Barker MP

2. Lead members of the Environment and Housing Board met Gregory Barker, the Minister of State with responsibility for the Green Deal and Feed In Tariffs (FITs): two issues where the Environment and Housing Board has a keen interest. The meeting was a beneficial **step to establishing a better and closer** working relationship with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Lead members set out local government's support for the Green Deal, and our opinions on its future development; communicated members' concern about the conduct of the FITs consultation; and updated the minister on the LGA's progress on the Memorandum of Understanding.

Metal Theft - Meeting with Lord Henley

3. On 9 February I joined Cllr Mehboob Khan and Cllr Richard Stay from the Safer and Stronger Communities Board in meeting with the Lord Henley, Minister of State for Crime Prevention and Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction. We welcomed the measures the Government is introducing **to tackle metal theft**, but took the opportunity to press the case for further change: stressing the need for **a comprehensive package of changes** around the regulation of scrap metal dealers, as well as discussing how councils could introduce tougher local measures in the interim. The LGA has also produced **a toolkit for councils** working with scrap metal dealers based on good practice from the Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire Police.

LGA Planning for Growth Conference – 27 February 2012

4. Cllr Simon Galton and I chaired this event which featured contributions from researchers, developers, DCLG, the HCA, local authorities and LEPs. I also launched the LGA's 'Delivering Housing Growth: A series of essays' publication which features contributions from Grant Shapps MP, Royal Institute of British Architects, Lord Taylor, British Property Federation and local authorities.

Open letter to Defra and the insurance industry regarding flood insurance

5. On 27 February, Cllr Andrew Cooper (Chair of the LGA's Inland Flood Risk Management Group) and Cllr Clare Whelan (Environment and Housing Board), jointly sent two letters to Defra and the Association of British insurers (ABI), which urged both parties to support risk-based policies based on a shared understanding of risk for flooding from all sources.
6. The letters also urged both parties to ensure that any new model of flood insurance takes into account and provides incentives for householders to implement flood resistance or resilience measures, with the aim of property specific cover, and that in future insurance payouts be able to fund refurbishment of homes/businesses to reduce future flood risk, rather than restoration to "pre-flood" conditions. We also highlighted the need for clear transition arrangements between the end of the Statement of Principles on 30 June 2013 and any new model for flood insurance cover.

Association of North East Councils – Planning Event

7. Attending a session entitled "The Government's Planning Reforms and their Implications" on 07 February, Cllr Eddy Poll gave a well received presentation to the Association of North East Councils. Cllr Poll set out the LGA's perspectives on changes to the planning system and the role for local members in engagement, mediation, leading and managing expectations, as local plans develop in response to the NPPF and as community planning becomes widespread.

Meeting with Greg Clark MP – National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

8. I met with Greg Clark, Minister of State for Decentralisation and Cities on 27 February to put forward the LGA's views on the draft NPPF. In particular I stressed the need for appropriate transition arrangements and highlighted the work the LGA (through the Planning Advisory Service) had been undertaking with authorities to support plan preparation.

Responding to proposed changes to local authority enforcement powers for household waste collection

9. Cllr Clyde Loakes, on behalf of the Board, has written to Lord Taylor of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in response to the consultation letter that went to council Chief Executives proposing interim changes to the powers and penalties available to councils covering how householders present their waste for collection. His letter seeks to highlight the public expectation that councils will, and have sufficient powers to, act where bins are put on the street without regard for the collection timetable, causing a local nuisance and affecting the local environment.

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Improvement Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

Improvement

A Brighter Future: National Graduate Development Programme

1. You will recall that last month, I mentioned that we had made a number of improvements to the National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp). A report, published in February, has confirmed the significant advantages of local authorities participating in the scheme. The study, undertaken by the LGA with Solace Enterprises and iMPOWER, indicates that the ngdp has the potential to drive standards in town halls up even further as a result of greater development and innovation. For further information about the benefits of participating in the programme and how your authority can get involved, contact Ami Beeton on 0207 665 3851 or ami.beeton@local.gov.uk.

Transparency

Annual National Audit Office Performance Management Conference

2. Councillor Jill Shortland OBE, Vice-Chair of the Board, represented the LGA at the eighth Annual National Audit Office Performance Management Conference. The conference drew together experts from the National Audit Office, central and local government, academia and industry to consider the impact of transparency and localism on performance measurement. Cllr Shortland spoke on 'Sector Led Performance measurement in local government'.

LG Inform

3. February saw significant developments in the next phase of LG Inform. A preferred supplier has been appointed, with work expected to commence at the end of the month, and the LG Inform Knowledge Hub group has been launched. I would recommend you visit the group - <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/group/jwusoizshu>, as it provides an effective forum for the sector to discuss issues and shape future requirements.

Leadership

'Be a councillor' campaign launched

4. On 1 February, I attended the successful launch of the 'Be a councillor' campaign held at the House of Commons. Over a hundred MPs and councillors attended the reception, including the LGA Chairman and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to support the LGA's campaign to celebrate the important work councillors do and encourage new candidates to come forward.

Productivity

Shared Services

5. To help Councils understand, explore and engage with the shared services agenda, the Leadership and Localism team are piloting Leadership Academy master classes. There is a national master class on 7 and 8 March for members as well as a regional master class for council leaders in the East of England on 12 and 13 March. For more information on these events please contact Grace Collins on 0207 664 3054 or grace.collins@local.gov.uk.

Category Management Pilots

6. We recently launched a Category Management Pilot programme to help kick-start development of real and practical projects that will result in replicable procurement efficiencies in the areas of social care, property, highways, waste and corporate services. There was a strong field, with 18 applications covering the full range of target spending areas. Eight councils (or groups of councils) have now been selected to develop category management pilots; we will be supporting them with £160,000 of grants and expertise over the coming months.

Procurement

7. As you will be aware, the Government is seeking to improve economic growth through procurement activity. We are working with the Cabinet Office to identify how councils can support this initiative through the use of procurement hubs, category management and engaging earlier with suppliers. I am keen to hear from councils who are using procurement effectively to promote economic growth. If you have experience or ideas in the area then please email productivity@local.gov.uk.

Innovation

Social media in local government

8. As part of international Social Media Week, Councillor Tim Cheetham took part in a two hour online discussion on the role of social media in local government. The discussion, called 'localgov gets social', took place on the [Knowledge Hub](#) and focused specifically on how social media is used for reputation management, engaging communities and disseminating information.

Creative Councils: Inspired Learning Event

9. The second of four Creative Councils: Inspired learning events was held on 14 February. The successful conference was attended by over 40 local government delegates that included representatives from seven Creative Councils. For further information on future events visit the [Knowledge Hub](#).

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

Local Growth Campaign

1. Our Local Growth Campaign has now reached the half-way point of the series of town hall debates taking place across the country. Last month, the campaign published its interim findings and reported the main themes that have emerged from the debates held so far in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Wakefield and Cambridge.
2. One consistent message that I am hearing from civic leaders is that councils are 'just doing it' in driving economic development and have been for over a century. We continue to claim our space in this area. One key objective for the local growth campaign will be to highlight councils proud tradition, and ongoing work in economic development. At the Birmingham and Cambridge debates the link between skills, education and innovation were discussed in depth. In Leeds the discussion focused on how transport can be used as an instrument of growth. Evidence was heard from colleagues in Scotland and the Netherlands about how transport programmes were being driven by economic and employment objectives, enabling transport systems to be a lever for growth.
3. On 9 March the LGA partnered the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) to explore the economic growth and recovery situation in the North East, and on 13 March a London debate focused on what the council role is in attracting inward investment and export. Future debates are also planned in Devon and Lincolnshire. The local growth campaign will culminate in the publication of a Green Paper in the summer. The paper will include the evidence we have gathered as part of our campaign and will form the basis of our discussion with government.
4. To find out more about the Local Growth Campaign and to get involved please see: <http://www.local.gov.uk/localgrowth> .

Transport Select Committee

5. On 28 February, Cllr Shona Johnstone (Cambridgeshire CC), Vice Chair of the LGA Economy and Transport Board gave evidence on behalf of the LGA to the Transport Select Committee as part of its inquiry into competition in local bus markets. Cllr Johnstone stated that the Commission had asked focussed too narrowly on how on-road competition could be encouraged, and that competition by operators for franchises could do more to deliver on the issues that matter to passengers, adding that the various forms of subsidy for bus

services should be unified and devolved to councils. The Committee heard that the risks and complexity involved have deterred councils from using Quality Contracts, although some councils are examining this option, and that support was required from the DfT for those authorities who wanted to implement a franchising/Quality Contracts approach.

Youth Summit

6. When I started the Local Growth Campaign, I was very clear that any proposals we developed had to be tested by young people themselves. On 14 February Cllr David Simmonds (Chair, Children and Young People Board) Cllr Shona Johnstone (Deputy Chair, Children and Young People Board), and I met 40 young people assembled from all over the country by the British Youth Council at a Youth Summit. Youth unemployment is an issue of critical concern to councils. After listening to the concerns and ideas of young people themselves - which included earlier provision of careers advice and greater involvement of employers in schools - we presented some of the LGA's emerging ideas for tackling youth participation in a 'Dragon's den' format. Of the various ideas pitched, the one for giving young people a greater say over all funding and services in their area got the most support. Feedback from young people will be built into the heart of the LGA's work moving forward. An interim report on the findings is expected in the upcoming weeks. This is a joint initiative between the Economy and Transport Board and the Children and Young People Board.

Winter Weather

7. My Board has taken a keen interest in councils' response to the winter weather. Now that winter seems to have passed without the levels of snow and ice seen in previous years, there have been some attempts in the press to run stories suggesting councils have over-invested in preparing for harsh conditions. These can be rebutted by emphasising that properly-stored salt keeps for several years. For the most part however we have been credited for our preparedness and high salt stocks. The LGA is in discussions with DfT over future arrangements for the national strategic salt stockpile, acquired by the government during the winter of 2010-11 and made available to councils to purchase in times of short supply.

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

Transition to Police and Crime Commissioners

1. Board members have been speaking to both local and central government about the transition to police and crime commissioners. The Board's Deputy Chair Cllr Duwayne Brooks attended a stakeholder event held by Hampshire Police Authority in mid-February to talk about what is involved in setting up a police and crime panel. Later in the month Cllr Henri Murison represented the Board at the Home Office's Transition Sponsorship Board, which is chaired by the Policing Minister, the Rt. Hon. Nick Herbert MP, and oversees all the work being undertaken to make the transition to Police and Crime Commissioners. Cllr Murison raised the lack of progress in providing councils with a definitive list of the funding to be transferred to commissioners, and urged the government to rethink their decision not to use a free-post delivery of election material.

Metal Theft

2. The Board's chair Cllr Mehboob Khan, along with Cllr David Parsons CBE, Chair of the Environment and Housing Board, and Cllrs Richard Stay and Budge Wells from Central Bedfordshire met Lord Henley, the Minister responsible for addressing metal theft at the Home Office. There was a discussion with the Minister about providing councils with the power to make their own bye-laws regulating scrap metal dealers. The Minister was supportive of this in principle although he wanted to take further advice. Since then LGA officers have been in discussion with Home Office officials about finding a possible legislative vehicle.

Burial and Bereavement Conference

3. The Board's Vice-Chair, Cllr Les Lawrence, chaired a successful Deaths, Funerals and Coroners Conference in early March which looked at ways of improving burial and bereavement services, maintaining cemeteries, the impact of the Government's decision not to abolish the post of chief coroner, and need for councils to appoint medical examiners as part of the reforms introduced to death certification after the Harold Shipman case. As well as a range of local government speakers delegates heard from the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Health, and the Coroners' Society.

CCTV

4. Cllr Mehboob Khan as the Board's Chair appeared on Sky News in February opposite the TaxPayer's Alliance to defend council expenditure on CCTV, following a press release from Big Brother Watch on how much councils had

spent on cameras over a four year period. Cllr Khan was able to point out that compared to Big Brother Watch's own figures, the number of cameras operated by councils has declined by 13 per cent from 2009. He also highlighted the important role CCTV plays in tracking down offenders and securing convictions while making the point that councils consult with residents and partners on whether it is the most effective tool for tackling crime in an area.

Tackling 'legal highs'

5. During 2010 there were a number of high profile incidents where individuals, usually young adults, died or were injured as a result of taking 'legal highs'. The LGA have now responded to a request from the All Party Parliamentary Policy Group for Drug Policy Reform to recognise the devastating impact that 'legal highs' can have on individuals and their families. We have also highlighted the limitations on action that can currently be taken by Trading Standards services. The LGA response goes on to acknowledge the potential role that councils could have in the regulation of 'legal highs', but only where specific tools are provided along with resource and training to implement these. Regulation of 'legal highs' is complicated by the large number of emerging products, high levels of internet sales, the potential for sellers to be located abroad and the ability of those developing new products to exploit loopholes in the law.

Protecting council's powers to respond to concerns about businesses

6. The LGA is urging Government to overturn an amendment to the Freedoms Bill which would mean environmental health and trading standards officers have to seek a warrant through the courts to carry out basic inspections, unless given permission to enter by the business owner. If passed it would mean an end to on-the-spot-inspections and delays of hours or even days before council officers can respond to complaints made by residents in relation to food hygiene, product safety, animal welfare, licensing and environmental protection.

Fire

7. Cllr Kay Hammond spoke at the Retained Duty System conference on 1 March. Cllr Hammond reiterated the LGA's support for the retained duty system and the work that we have done with the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP to address the practical issues that affect recruitment and retention. Cllr Hammond also spoke about the extensive work that the LGA has and will be doing to lobby in Europe for the retention the Working time Directive 48hr opt out, which is essential for the retained duty system.

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

Pensions

New LGPS project has commenced

1. The LGPS 2014 project continues to progress with discussions now taking place with government over a scheme design proposal put forward by LGA and the Unions. Should these discussions be successfully concluded then consultation on the outcome would take place with both employers and union members. Work is also underway on proposals for future scheme cost management and governance.

Heads of agreement for new Teachers' scheme

2. Talks continue over the Government's proposed Heads of Agreement (HoA) document for the Teachers' scheme although two deadlines for finalising those talks have now passed. The NUT is still opposed to the scheme set out in the HoA document and is considering mounting a judicial review based on the need to perform another valuation of the scheme before any changes can be made.

Local Government Services

3. The National Employers formally responded to the unions' pay claim on 23 February by saying that they were unable to make a pay offer for 2012. However, the Employers are keen to avoid a similar situation in 2013 and have therefore invited the unions to begin discussions immediately on a range of related issues covering pay, terms & conditions and reform of the national negotiating machinery with a view to reaching agreement for implementation on 1 April 2013.
4. The National Employers have also stated that they are not prepared to refer the matter to arbitration (as requested by the unions) as it would be irresponsible to leave councils exposed to potential expenditure that they have told us they could not afford. It would be equally unfair to raise the expectations of the workforce that there might be a pay award for 2012 when that is not the case.

Developing pay policy statements

5. 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 has developed joint guidance with Association of Local Authority Chief Executives (ALACE) and delivered a number of regional workshops to help local authorities to meet these new statutory obligations.

School teachers

6. The School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) received the remit for its 21st Report on 21 February. The remit covers:
 - 6.1 how the pay framework for teachers should best be made more market-facing in local areas;

- 6.2 how the pay scales, including the main and upper pay scales, should be reformed to more effectively link pay and performance, including arrangements for progression; and
 - 6.3 what other reforms should be made to teachers' pay and conditions in order to raise the status of the profession and best support the recruitment and retention of high quality teachers in all schools.
7. The STRB's report must be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education by 28 September 2012. Statutory consultees have until 20 April to submit evidence on these issues. The National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST) will submit evidence, informed by a consultation with local authority representatives. A subsequent remit to the STRB will be given after the Government has considered the 21st Report and will include the matter of the pay award for 2013.

Fire

8. CLG recently issued a Heads of Agreement document setting out its proposals for reform of the fire service pension schemes for uniformed employees. The largest fire service union, the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), has rejected its content and is consulting its members on 'a rapid move to prepare for a strike ballot'. However in the interim, talks which include the LGA, are continuing. Those talks are being held in a constructive manner and it is hoped that a ballot for strike action will be avoided. But should it proceed, it is most likely that strike action would commence in April. The LGA will continue to press the FBU to talk with the LGA and fire authorities locally on how an appropriate level of cover could be maintained in such circumstances.

An Institute for Youth Work

9. The LGA continues to be represented on a National Youth Agency forum which is exploring the possibility of an 'Institute for Youth Work'. The Agency co-ordinated a consultation on the establishment of such a professional body at the end of 2011 and found notable support for it, such a body would promote youth work, develop and maintain professional standards and could oversee a voluntary registration scheme for youth workers

Layers and Spans of Control

10. The LGA held a workshop to share the learning from the four pilot councils who have rolled out the Decision Making Accountability approach in their organisations. The approach enables organisations to determine more effectively the right organisational structure and number and levels of posts. It was extremely well attended, with over 70 delegates and the LGA is working on finalising a toolkit for councils to implement the approach.

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European & International Board – report from Cllr Dave Wilcox OBE

Pan-Africa peer review training programme

1. I was delighted recently to welcome to the UK a group of African Mayors, CEOs and local government experts who were here as part of the externally-funded peer review project with United Cities & Local Government Africa (UCLGA).
2. They were here to receive training from the LGA on the principles and methodology of peer review before five pilot peer reviews are delivered across Africa later this year. The programme also included input from member and officer peers from across the UK, as well as visits to two local authorities.

Election observation training

3. Members of the Congress of the Council of Europe and the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) recently participated in a training session on election observation organised by the LGA in London. Several LGA members participated at this event.
4. This is important. The recent history of our continent shows that we must never take democracy for granted. We must remain vigilant, in all countries and at all levels of governance: the fair, transparent and efficient conduct of local elections is a vital element of that. This training session was the third of its kind organised by the LGA (previous ones were in Belfast and Manchester).

EU funds

5. 2012 is the key year in finalising the arrangements for future EU funding. The EU published proposals in October 2011 concerning how the funds for regional development, training, rural development, fisheries and environment could work together in a more integrated way in the next financial period 2014-20.
6. At member and officer level the LGA has increased its activity towards the EU and has collaborated closely with other associations across Europe and this is beginning to show results. In particular: there are welcome new possibilities for local councils to be more closely involved in the design and delivery of the funds; there are much stronger rules on working in partnership with local councils; there is greater opportunity for local strategies to help steer the delivery of the funds; there are new opportunities for the involvement of local community groups. Our CoR members have contributed towards this.

7. We have agreed with civil servants to create a local government secondee position within BIS. This person will form part of the UK negotiating team for the EU structural funds reforms, and will seek to represent the interests of local councils and LEPs in the negotiations and provide a link for councils within BIS.

Cutting EU red tape

8. Many of our councils complain about EU red tape, whether it is the complexity of bidding for EU funding or the burden of applying EU rules. As LGA, and as members of the CoR, we continue to press the EU to keep new laws to a minimum and to apply a light touch, by keeping rules simple, minimise reporting requirements etc. Our colleague Lord Tope represents the CoR on the Group that advises Commission President Barroso on steps that the EU can take.
9. However almost a third of the administrative burdens deriving from EU laws stem from inefficient national implementation. With this in mind, Lord Tope and his colleagues have just published a report "Europe can do better" listing 74 best practice initiatives from across Europe: on e-government, on intelligent solutions in particular for small businesses, direct stakeholder involvement, good guidance and cross-border initiatives. It shows that there is scope for improving implementation of EU law on the home front, as well as in Brussels!

Committee of the Regions

10. UK members again contributed well to the February plenary session of the CoR. The highlight of the session was an open dialogue with the European Commission President Barroso about the role of local government in addressing the challenges of the current economic downturn: he is in no doubt that local responses to the crises are of fundamental importance.
11. Our colleague Cllr Doreen Huddart contributed an insightful report on child poverty in Europe. The financial crisis of the past four years has placed pressure on the provision of social services across EU member states. A major challenge will be to find smarter, more effective ways to help. Finding workable solutions will clearly involve all the statutory and voluntary agencies working together as an exemplar of multi-level governance in action.

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Resources Panel – report from Cllr Stephen Castle (Chairman)

1. At its last meeting on 16 February, the Panel reviewed the LGA's medium term financial strategy and proposals for the 2012/13 budget, prior to this being recommended by them to the LGA Executive in March. In particular, the Resources Panel agreed to review the allocation of programme budgets in the course of the year, and monitor progress to ensure that programmes are delivered in line with the priorities set out in the 2012-13 Business Plan.
2. The Panel received a further update on work that is underway to reduce the LGA's overheads, following the significant reduction in its funding base in the current financial year.
3. The Panel reviewed the financial performance of the LGA and its associated organisations for the first nine months of 2011-12. The LGA is managing within its resources in spite of a significant reduction of 40 per cent in its core funding from the start of the financial year.
4. The Panel confirmed that from 2011/12 the LGA should prepare consolidated accounts for LGA and the bodies under its direct control. They emphasised the importance of ensuring that the financial accounts are presented in a comprehensible, user friendly manner in communicating the LGA's financial position to the wider LGA membership.
5. The Panel reviewed the LGA's approach to Treasury Management and endorsed the LGA's current approach to investment which is that the LGA should continue to be cautious, particularly in view of the current economic climate.

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Item 3k

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

1. The Bonds Task and Finish group have met and reviewed the next stages of work, agreeing that by August 2012 the LGA need to have:
 - 1.1 A clear and shared understanding with member councils of what the proposed agency will look and feel like, with a shadow management team ready to start work.
 - 1.2 Signed up around 50 councils (and potentially also pension funds) and received, or at least had firm pledges of, the risk capital to allow us to build the agency.
 - 1.3 Reasonable certainty that Government will at best support and at worst not actively undermine the agency.
 - 1.4 Completed the procurement processes to appoint specialist advisors (financial and legal principally) via an OJEU process.
2. Part of this involves working with staff across the LGA to ensure the very best case is made. Local Partnerships, who are leading this work, have drawn on associates with specialist banking and financial expertise to take this forward.
3. The outline business case will shortly be circulated only going to LGA member councils. Distribution to Welsh councils will be coordinated and managed by WLGA.

Wider discussions

4. Two local government think tanks have recently developed reports on local authority bonds; officers have met them to ensure they understand the LGA proposals.

Securing buy-in from member councils

5. One of the key activities is to get sufficient councils signed up to be potential members. The advice from the Scandinavian collective agencies is that this can only really be successfully done by 1:1 visits to every council - large or small.

6. Early priority councils are likely to include:
 - 6.1 Councils that have expressed an interest in finding out about the agency either through their LGA membership or in response to our written approaches.
 - 6.2 Councils with significant capital programmes and who are likely to need to borrow.
7. It will be important that a balance of councils are approached; urban and rural, large and small, from different parts of England and Wales. Approaches to Welsh councils will be coordinated through the WLGA.

Consultation

8. We consulted with the local government sector in September 2011, and had a cautiously positive response to our ideas. Our Outline Business Case set out what an agency might look like at a very high level.
9. Ideas are not yet set in stone, and it is likely that the councils will have thoughts about how the agency should look and feel. The benefit of a sector-led approach is we work with member councils to design an organisation that really meets member council needs.
10. The intention is to use the Outline Business Case as a basis to consult with local government.
11. A final early priority for work is to discuss the proposals with pension fund managers. This is because they will be potential key purchasers of local authority bonds.

Conclusion

12. This is an exciting project, and one that has the potential to make a real difference to councils. The evidence from several other countries is that whilst the business case is necessary, a carefully managed plan of political engagement is crucial.
13. The LGA has those political talents in its network of councillors - one of our tasks is to ensure we use those talents to best effect.

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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 third meeting in Cardiff on 6 March 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.

Games Policing and Security

2. Games Policing and Security was the main focus of discussion at the meeting. Members had a presentation from Chief Inspector Colin Green from the Association of Chief Police Officers and Metropolitan Police Olympic and Paralympic Policing Coordination Team.
3. A major factor in the decision to grant the Olympic and Paralympic Games to London was the commitment from the Government to take all necessary measures to secure the safety and peaceful celebration of the Games. Delivering a safe and secure Games will be one of the biggest security challenges the UK has faced.
4. In order to ensure there is a safe and secure Games, an Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy, covering the work of the Government, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, the Olympic Delivery Authority and the police as well as other key agencies was published in July 2009. Following a review and audit of the Strategy in 2010 a revised Strategy was published in March 2011.
5. The Strategy itself covers the competition venues, areas around the competition venues or areas that are used for non-competition purposes, training venues and camps, transport infrastructure, critical supporting infrastructure for the Games and the Torch Relay. No single force could meet the Olympic policing requirement, which it has been estimated will require an additional 10,000 officers on peak days. This is particularly true when considering the specialist officers (such as firearms officers and mounted officers) that will be needed during the Games.
6. Individual forces have therefore been expected to put in place their own and regional plans to ensure that they can support the Games while also ensuring the communities they serve continue to be protected as normal.
7. Chief Inspector Green told the Task Group that plans are progressing well and although resourcing the demands on the police service during 2012 would be

challenging, core policing across the country would not suffer and disruption would be minimised.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

8. The Task Group also discussed activity underway to make sure that councils have emergency planning and resilience arrangements in place for competition venues, the torch relay and other events. The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme which is funded by the Home Office, supported by the LGA and London Councils and hosted by the London Fire Brigade is providing advice and assistance to councils. As part of this programme, the LGA hosted a successful one day conference on Olympic Emergency Planning that was chaired by Cllr Chris White. The conference was attended by over 100 delegates representing more than 70 local authorities. Although reporting of the proceedings was restricted, there was a strong media presence including journalists from BBC News, Channel 4 News Sunday Times, Sunday Express and the, Daily Mail.

Transport

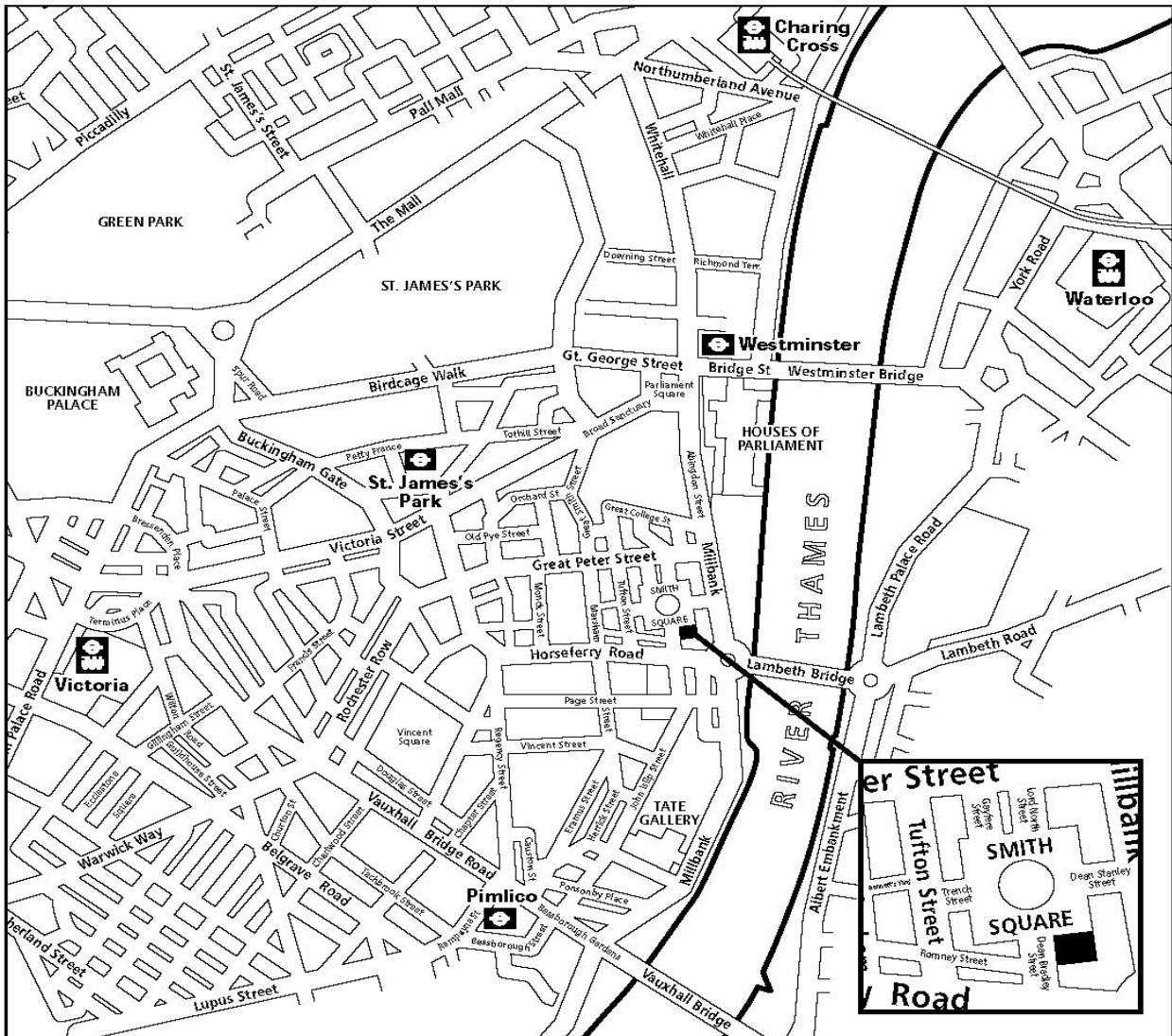
9. Transport is a standing item on the Task Group's agenda because it is an absolute fundamental to making the 2012 Games a success. Regular dialogue is being maintained with the LGA Economy and Transport Board, which is now working with the British Chamber of Commerce and London Councils to ensure that information and guidance relating to access to the capital and other venue areas during the Games is being communicated to councils and to business across the country.

Economic Growth

10. A workshop on the potential for the Olympic and Paralympic Games to promote economic growth was held at the LGA Urban Commission on 22 February. Cllr Steve Wilson from Sheffield City Council gave a presentation on the significant economic benefits to the City from its investment in sport and support for the 2012 Games. Members discussed the ways in which councils, business and local communities are engaging with the opportunities of the 2012 Games and what further actions councils can take.
11. Some economists predict that an Olympic Games "ripple effect" will extend far beyond the venues for official events and suggest that towns and cities across the UK that join the celebrations with promotions and live screenings of the Games will see a significant increase in consumer spending. Over 80 percent of companies now expect to see an increased demand for their goods and services from the Games. Delivering long term growth is seen as a key part of the UK's Games legacy. Tourism is a key part of the Government's 'GREAT' campaign, which will be closely linked to the Olympic Torch Relay. It will build on the publicity generated by the Torch Relay to drive an increase in domestic tourism in the nations and regions of the UK.

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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

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