

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday 14 June 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

Welcome!

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

14 June 2012

The **Councillors' Forum** meeting will be held on **Thursday 14 June 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.

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 08.05.12

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
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
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
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 McMahon	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	
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

14 June 2012

12.30 – 1.30pm

The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

	Item	Page	Time
1.	The work of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee	3	12.30pm
	Clive Betts MP, Chair of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee (CLG), will attend to present on the Select Committee investigation into the role of Councillors.		
2.	Chairman's Update.	7	1.20pm
3.	LGA Board and Panel Chairs' Reports	9	1.25pm
	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: Bonds Task & Finish Group – Cllr Edward Lord OBE JP		
	k: 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Task & Finish Group – Cllr Stephen Castle		

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12 July 2012, Local Government House

Item 1

The work of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee

Purpose of meeting

Clive Betts MP is Chair of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee. Clive will be speaking at Councillors' Forum to put the wider work of the Committee in context, as well as making reference to the specific work about the role of local elected representatives. This Councillors' Forum is an opportunity for us to hear about the work of the committee and its engagement with the sector, and for the Chair to hear from Councillors about key issues surrounding their role and the sector.

The Committee has recently announced that it is undertaking an inquiry into the role of councillors. The brief for this is detailed below. The LGA is actively engaging with the Committee in this inquiry. We have submitted formal evidence to the Committee, and later this month will be hosting a joint private meeting with the members of the Committee and a number of Councillors.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the presentation and raise any issues on the implications for local government.

Action

As directed by the Forum.

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The work of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee

Background

Clive Betts MP

1. Clive Betts is Chair of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee and the Labour MP for Sheffield South East. After graduating from Cambridge, Clive worked as an economist in London and South Yorkshire. Elected to Sheffield City Council in 1976, Clive became Chair of its Housing Committee, where he drove major changes in housing management, tenant involvement, maintenance and modernization, private sector renewal, and initiated a variety of partnerships with developers and housing associations. Under his leadership, Sheffield was consistently named in the top five housing authorities in England. He was also Chair of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' Housing Committee. Clive was Leader of Sheffield CC from 1987-1992, when he was elected MP for Sheffield Attercliffe. He was a Government Whip from 1997-2001, and was elected Chair of the CLG Select Committee in 2010.

About the Communities and Local Government Committee

2. The Communities and Local Government Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the administration, expenditure and policy of the Department for Communities and Local Government and its associated public bodies.
3. More information can be found on their website at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/>

About the Inquiry into Councillors and the community

New Inquiry and Call for evidence

4. Councillors and the community
The Communities and Local Government Committee has decided to conduct an inquiry into the role councillors play in their communities and calls for submissions.

5. In the most recent National Census of Local Authority Councillors 2010 councillors were asked about their work as councillors, their views on a range of issues and their personal background. The census revealed that:
 - 5.1 88% of councillors cited a desire to serve the community as their reason for wanting to become a councillor.
 - 5.2 67% of councillors intend to stand for re-election at the end of their term in office and 83% would recommend taking on the role to others.
 - 5.3 68% of councillors were male, 31% were female. The proportion of female councillors has increased from 28% in 1997.
 - 5.4 The average age of councillors has increased from 55 in 1997 to 60 in 2010.
 - 5.5 96% of councillors were white and 4% came from an ethnic minority background.
 - 5.6 On average, councillors spend 23 hours per week on council and political business. 15 per cent of councillors spend more than 35 hours per week on council and political business.
 - 5.7 Of those who are employed or self-employed, 69 % work in the private sector. 37% of employed or self-employed councillors described themselves as having a managerial background and 33% as professional.
6. The Committee invites submissions from interested parties on the work and activities of the councillors elected to principal authorities (county, district, unitary, metropolitan and London borough councils) in England. To assist those submitting memoranda the Committee suggests they may wish to cover the following areas:
 - 6.1 the role of councillors as leaders of communities and neighbourhoods;
 - 6.2 recruitment and diversity of councillors – and the implications for representation and local democracy;
 - 6.3 skills, training and support for councillors;
 - 6.4 the practicalities of being a councillor – including time commitment, time off work, casework and remuneration;
 - 6.5 localising decision making to divisions, wards and neighbourhoods;
 - 6.6 oversight, facilitation and accountability; and
 - 6.7 strategic leadership, governance and responsibilities.
7. Memoranda addressing any or all of these issues were invited by midday on Wednesday, 23 May 2012.

Item 2

Chairman's Update

5 May 2012 – 1 June 2012

LGA business

1. Over the last couple of weeks, tens of thousands of people have enjoyed street parties and taken part in other celebrations to mark the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together with such great community spirit to organise and take part in these events. Councils, as ever, facilitated much of the activity, by smoothing the way for road closures, providing safety advice and guidance, and directly organising many of the festivities. I was delighted to be interviewed by the BBC at Buckingham Palace regarding the events and to take part in the celebrations.
2. During the May **Leadership Board**, we discussed the Governance of Cities and the Growth Agenda and the Independent Local Government Campaign. The following day I chaired **LGA Executive** at which we considered the impact of the Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2012-13, the Local Growth Campaign, Welfare Reform and community budgets. Work is continuing with Leaders and Chief Executives regarding community budgets.
3. I briefly attended a roundtable on **Hidden talents** that brought together leading policy-makers to discuss practical steps to build on findings from the LGA Hidden Talents publication, where the LGA made an offer to pursue a community budgeting approach to support the 260,000 most disengaged young people back into work.
4. I also chaired the second meeting of our **Finance Task Group**; the task group again had a very full agenda, with items including the future funding outlook for councils, social care funding, and schools funding to consider.
5. Finally the end of this month sees our **LGA annual conference** take place in Birmingham. Bringing together over a thousand delegates from across local government, I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

6. The **Queen's Speech** set out the Government's legislative agenda for the coming parliamentary year. After a busy two year first session for the Coalition Government this year's Queen's Speech was thinner than usual, containing significantly fewer Bills than the 23 announced in the 2010 Queen's Speech. We will be continuing our parliamentary lobbying work to ensure that the legislation proposed delivers the best possible outcome for our council members.

7. I took part in a **Climate Summit** organised by the LGA with DEFRA and attended by Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP and Andrew Stunell MP. We discussed and shared national and local perspectives on the opportunities and challenges posed by a changing climate and 'Climate Local' the LGA's council-led initiative to drive action on climate change in the local government sector.
8. In late May, I also met with Rt Hon Greg Clark MP to discuss devolution and localism.

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

9. I attended a meeting with the **British Property Federation** as part of our programme of work to help local authorities develop strategies to drive economic growth. The partnership has been working with Cornwall, Kettering and Barnsley councils to address the barriers to growth in those areas and we are already starting to see how devolution could enable new ways of working and the opening of new opportunities.
10. Alongside Group Leaders, I met with the **Electoral Commission** to discuss a range of issues including performance at this May's elections, Individual Electoral Registration, Police and Crime Commissioner elections and future elections.
11. I was pleased to speak at the **National Association of Pension Funds** Local Authority Conference 2012 about the LGA's vision for the Local Government Pension Scheme. Through our tripartite work with government and the unions, we have now agreed proposals that provide for a fair and affordable scheme, which I'm confident will be endorsed by employers and scheme members through the forthcoming consultation. I stressed the essential role that pension schemes can play in funding investment to drive growth
12. I met with Sir Michael Pitt, Chief Executive of **Planning Inspectorate** and Chair Infrastructure Planning Commission and Peter Burley, Chief Inspector, Planning Inspectorate to discuss collaborative work and information sharing between the planning inspectorate (PINS) and the LGA and Planning Advisory Service (PAS) to support councils to get their local plans in place.
13. I also met the new Chief Executive of **NAVCA**, Joe Irvin and discussed his plans to help NAVCA members respond to the changing environment and updated him on LGA's work with NAVCA and future possibilities for joint working. We must work together with the sector to develop innovative and shared approaches to the 'new ways of working' in the Localism Act and the Open Public Services White Paper, and to support the progress the councils and their partners have already made.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

14. I was pleased to meet with David Tutt, Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council and to hear about their exciting internal and external transformational initiatives. David has kindly invited me to visit the local area to see the progress being made and I look forward to visiting Eastbourne in the future.

Item 3

LGA Board and Panel 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 and European and International Boards. 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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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)

Children and Young People Board

1. The Children and Young People Board met on 21 May and discussed a range of issues including adoption scorecards, schools funding and the Children's Improvement Board (CIB). We had presentations from Sarah Counter, Principal of Canary Wharf College and Tom Philpott, Head of Partnerships for the New Schools Network, who discussed the role of free schools, the benefits and challenges of setting them up and how councils and Free School proposers can work together. Enver Solomon, Policy Director, and David Hounsell, Economic Adviser, from the Children's Society also attended the meeting to discuss the role of local government in promoting positive wellbeing for Children following the release of their report *Promoting positive wellbeing for children*.
2. Members also discussed the proposed Children and Families Bill that was announced during the Queen's Speech on 9 May 2012. It will include a number of provisions to deliver better support for families. The Bill is expected to be introduced in early 2013 and it will include measures to replace Special Educational Needs Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (for 16 to 25-year-olds) with a single, simpler 0-25 assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan from 2014, part of the biggest reforms to SEN provision in 30 years. More detail about the proposals was published by the Department for Education the following week in a long awaited Next Steps document. The LGA provided an 'On the Day' briefing to member councils on the proposals and welcomes the opportunity to work with the Government on the detail ahead of the introduction of the Children and Families Bill, which is available on our website: www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/briefings-and-responses

Children's Improvement Board

3. Cllr Rita Krishna attended the meeting of the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) on 14 May as a representative of the LGA. The meeting was also attended by John Goldup, deputy Chief Inspector and National Director Social Care at Ofsted, for a discussion about the relationship between sector-led improvement and inspection.
4. Concerns were raised by the CIB about the scale of planned Ofsted activity over 2012-13 and the fact that this was likely to make it more difficult for councils to engage in safeguarding peer reviews. A commitment was made to regular follow up meetings between Ofsted and the CIB. Support to councils on adoption was discussed and the CIB confirmed that it would be offering support

to any councils whose performance falls below the thresholds set by the government but will not be involved in any judgements about council performance or decisions about government intervention which will rest with the Department for Education.

‘Tackling child sexual exploitation: Helping local authorities to develop effective responses’

5. On 1 June, I chaired an event to launch the LGA and Barnardo’s joint publication ‘Tackling child sexual exploitation: Helping local authorities to develop effective responses’ to help councils develop effective responses to tackling child sexual exploitation. The event brought together Lead Members for Children’s Services with professionals in both the police and Local Safeguarding Children Boards to share good practice.

APPG for Runaway Children and Missing Children

6. On Thursday 10 May, I gave oral evidence to the joint inquiry into children who go missing from care alongside Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, Tim Loughton MP. The session will examine a range of issues on how to prevent children from going missing from care including looked-after children who are placed outside their home authority, data collection and information sharing, police responses and the role of inspection and assessment.

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

LGA Sexual Health Conference - 09 May

1. On 9 May, as part of the LGA's ongoing programme of support for local government as the sector assumes its responsibilities under the Health and Adult Social Care Act, Local Government House hosted a conference focused on working together with our partners for high quality sexual health services.
2. Cllr Jonathan McShane of the Community Wellbeing Board chaired the event, which was attended by over 100 delegates. Primary Care Trusts, regional NHS organisations, charities and foundation trusts were amongst those represented, along with councils from around the country. The event had a strong focus on partnership working, political leadership and making the new system of commissioning work to its best, to best serve local communities.

Australian Parliamentary Committee - Ageing Well research tour

3. On 10 May, the LGA contributed to a research tour by the Family and Community Development Committee, of the Government of the State of Victoria, Australia, at Australia House, London. The delegation of local politicians sought information on UK local government's approach to the ageing well agenda, and in particular to hear the LGA's perspective on the role of local government in achieving opportunities for participation of older people in society, drawing on the LGA's previous work in this field.

My Home Life Parliamentary Reception - 16.05.12 - House of Commons

4. Cllr Mike Jones, substitute on the Community Wellbeing Board, attended a parliamentary reception on behalf of the LGA to launch the My Home Life engagement exercise with care homes, which is an initiative of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Age UK. The project seeks to help staff optimise the quality of care in their homes, and now spreads across 19 local authorities in England.

National Stakeholder Forum meetings

5. On 21 May I attended the National Stakeholder Forum. The National Stakeholder Forum is a group of senior leaders and experts from all parts of the healthcare, social care and public health systems, convened at the request of

the Secretary of State for Health. The forum aims to provide early feedback and advice on emerging policy.

LGA stakeholder meeting on health protection / emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR)

6. I joined emergency planning and environmental health officers, as well as representatives of the Health Protection Agency, Department of Health, and CIEH to chair a roundtable meeting on 28 May. The meeting considered the health protection system as a whole, preparedness for major crises, regulations and the support in place for new Directors of Public Health. The LGA will follow this meeting with a Health Protection Seminar for elected members on 25 June.

GP & Public Health stakeholder meeting

7. The quarterly GP and Public Health roundtable meetings, attended by lead members of the board and chaired by myself continue to meet following the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill. The May meeting gave representatives the opportunity to share what their organisation is doing to implement the Act and to raise the key issues that need addressing during the transitional and implementation phase. Key issues raised included workforce issues and safeguarding children.
8. This stakeholder roundtable 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.

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Item 3c

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

Regulated Entertainment

1. I have written to John Penrose MP, Licensing Minister, to reinforce councils' concerns about the Government's plans to deregulate entertainment. Councils are fully in favour of making it easier for people to hold concerts, plays and public events and we support the aim of making the process as easy, transparent and free from red tape as possible. However, we believe the proposals go too far and will leave councils without sufficient powers to deal effectively with the potential dangers and nuisance of higher risk events, such as those held outdoors. We have offered to work with the Minister to ensure that proportionate and safe deregulation is achieved.

Culture

2. On 16 May I met Mark Taylor, Director of the Museums Association, to discuss how we can work together to support council run and supported museums to improve. I emphasised the importance of professional leadership working with political leadership to develop new ways of working that allow the museums sector to change and thrive in tough financial times. We also agreed on the importance of positioning museums as part of an area's strategic vision.
3. On 18 May I spoke at the South East Cultural Improvement Forum event on apprenticeships in culture and sport. Over 30 delegates attended this practical learning event to share how their areas are supporting apprenticeships. Organisations including the Royal Opera House and Pinewood Studios shared the employers' perspective. I highlighted councils' strong track record leading economic growth and supporting young people and the changing policy landscape. We will capture and share the learning through the LGA's growth campaign.

2012 Games

4. The LGA Chairman, Leader of the Independent Group and Members of the 2012 Games Task and Finish Group and Culture, Tourism and Sport Board visited the Olympic Park on 29 May. This was an opportunity to learn more about the latest preparations and how the venues will be adapted into community facilities after the Games.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, 23 May

5. David Moorcroft OBE, Director of the Join In Trust, updated the Board on two 2012 Games initiatives highly relevant to local government. The first, Join In Local Sport, is a national campaign to encourage people to connect and get involved with local sports clubs over the weekend 18/19 August. Secondly, the Community Games is providing practical information and advice to communities who want to host their own Games-inspired events between now and the Autumn. Members were very supportive of both initiatives and highlighted the importance of building upon existing local activity and keeping councils informed about events.

6. David was followed by Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England, who presented to the Board about Sport England's new strategy and how they are working with councils to grow and sustain participation in physical activity and sport. The LGA is working with Sport England to deliver a programme of leadership events for sport portfolio holders, building on last year's very successful events. Members also highlighted the importance of strong links between National Governing Bodies for sport and councils.

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Item 3d

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

Caroline Spelman - 'one year on from the waste review'

1. On 9 May, lead members from the Environment and Housing Board met with Caroline Spelman to discuss progress under the DEFRA Waste Review. Key issues discussed included the powers available to councils to manage the presentation of waste, reward and recognition schemes to encourage residents to recycle, the new recycling regulations taking shape as a result of the Judicial Review of DEFRA (the LGA is an interested party in the legal proceedings). The discussion also extended to the new code of practice for materials recovery and recycling facilities, sufficient funding to meet new packaging recycling targets and the impact of the new planning system on waste infrastructure planning.

Montague review of institutional investment in the Private Rental Sector

2. Cllr Ed Turner attended a roundtable with Sir Adrian Montague and his review group on the 10 May; as part of a call for evidence for Sir Adrian's review. He expressed the LGA's message that councils play a central role in encouraging investment in their areas by providing and facilitating an environment which encourages and attracts growth, and that councils can help the private rental sector by new partnership models, using the planning system to encourage investment and growth, by cutting down on red tape and by helping to raise standards across the rented sector.

Flood Insurance

3. As part of ongoing lobbying by the LGA, a number of councillors from the LGA's Inland Flood Risk Management Group met with representatives of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and DEFRA on 14 May to discuss possible solutions to ensure the availability and affordability of flood insurance given the expiry of the current Statement of Principles on 30 June 2013.
4. Officers met with Richard Benyon MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries, on 21 May, and the Minister emphasised that he recognised local government's concern that a long-term solution for flood insurance needed to be found urgently. The minister had added that the government as a whole was interested in finding the best solution, including No.10 and the Treasury.
5. The LGA's Inland Flood Risk Management Group met on 22 May, chaired by Cllr Andrew Cooper, and received updates from colleagues and partners in the Environment Agency, OFWAT and DEFRA. The group and the LGA continue to seek a risk-based model based on a shared understanding of risk. The model should also incentivise householders to reduce their own flood risk and allow homeowners/businesses to use insurance payouts flexibly to reduce their future flood risk.

Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resources Group (APSRG)

6. Cllr Clyde Loakes spoke to the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resources Group (APSRG) about planning policy as it relates to waste management and infrastructure, by invite, on 15 May. He highlighted the importance of waste management as a key public service delivered by local government, and our huge improvements in reducing waste to landfill over the last ten years. Cllr Loakes also pointed the difficulties in delivering waste infrastructure, but made clear it is crucial that local decision making and accountability is retained in line with the principles of localism and set out in the NPPF. We will continue to work for on PPS10 transition and on establishing sector-led guidance where it is needed.

Report Launch - Local Authorities and Climate Change

7. On 17 May, I was delighted to be part of the launch of the Committee on Climate Change's report on how local authorities can reduce local carbon emissions, possible approaches to deliver that ambition, and how this would contribute to national carbon budgets. Despite cuts to council funding, local government continues to effectively tackle climate change and is achieving excellent results. Some of the biggest polluters, such as motorways, airports and industry are beyond the control of local government, but where local government can have an impact, the LGA will lobby for well designed, well funded policies which enable councils to promote and undertake meaningful local action.

Lead members meeting with Greg Barker

8. As part of an ongoing dialogue with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Environment and Housing board lead members met with Greg Barker MP, Minister of State for Climate Change on 21 May, to discuss how to renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the LGA and DECC, the LGA's Climate Local initiative, and new proposals for the Green Deal and new Energy Company Obligation, amongst other issues.

Green Deal Finance event

9. On 24 May, I was part of an event looking at the financial requirements and opportunities presenting themselves as part of the new 'Green Deal', which will be launched by the Government in October this year. A number of finance models are developing, and there is a significant emphasis on the role of councils in enabling low cost finance. Whilst the Green Deal is set to offer opportunities for economic growth and job creation, this needs to be balanced with responsible financing. I envisage the debate around finding a low cost of finance will continue.

LGA Climate Summit

10. Also on 24 May, the LGA hosted a successful summit led by Sir Merrick Cockell and attended by Caroline Spelman MP (DEFRA), Andrew Stunell MP (DCLG) and a number of councillors from across the LGA's boards. The LGA has agreed a joint statement with DEFRA and CLG on the role of local government in managing climate risks and improving resilience.

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Improvement Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

Improvement

Peer Challenge

1. We have recently been evaluating the first phase of the peer challenge programme in the light of feedback received from participating authorities and more broadly with the sector, as well as together with the emerging findings of an evaluation being carried out by Cardiff Business School. The feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive. At our most recent Board meeting, we heard first hand from Sutton Council about how they benefited from being challenged by an external 'critical friend'. These findings, coupled with the fact that over 60 councils are currently signed up or are in discussion to sign up to undertake a corporate peer challenge, provides a positive endorsement of peer challenge programme. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to contact Andy Bates (andy.bates@local.gov.uk) for information about how your council can sign up.

Leadership

Leadership and Localism work programme

2. At our May meeting, Board colleagues and I were pleased to agree the new Leadership and Localism programme of work for 2012/13. The revamped programme provides a coherent offer to support and develop both the political and managerial leadership capacity of local authorities and of local government as a sector, in order to facilitate sector-led improvement. This work has been supported and guided by a sub-group of the Improvement Board which includes Cllrs Richard Stay, Roderick Bluh, Ruth Cadbury, Edward Lord OBE JP, Helen Holland and William Nunn.

Productivity

Procurement Pledge

3. As I mentioned last month, we have recently launched a local government Procurement Pledge for consultation with the sector. Collectively councils spend £62 billion and this can be a great driver for local economic growth. We want the business experience of contracting with councils to be a positive one and at the same time to emphasise the sector's commitment to supporting economic growth, and by extension to UK companies. The consultation closed on 8 June 2012 so I look forward to being able to provide you with a further update once the pledge has been finalised.

Capital Asset Programme – Wave 3 launched

4. We want to help councils encourage economic growth and jobs in local areas across the country so we are inviting qualifying councils to apply for grants of up to £25,000 as part of Wave 3 of the Capital Assets Programme. The programme offers participating councils both cash and expertise to make better use of buildings and land. At our May Board meeting we heard from Sheffield City Council about the considerable benefits the Capital Asset Programme can offer, not just in terms of financial saving but also in facilitating more joined up partnership working.

Transparency

Open Data User Group

5. I would like to take this opportunity to let Members know that the Cabinet Office has asked the LGA for nominations to the Open Data User Group (ODUG). The ODUG will advise the Data Strategy Board on public sector data that should be prioritised for release as open data. We are looking for representatives on the ODUG who can drive forward innovation in the use of open data while at the same time having a good understanding of the opportunities, limitations and culture in local government for proposing open datasets. This is a great opportunity to influence Government thinking on the open data agenda. If an officer from your council is interested in getting involved, please contact gesche.schmid@local.gov.uk.

LG Inform

6. At the LGA Executive meeting on 17 May, I had the opportunity to share with colleagues the progress that has been made in developing the LG Inform programme to date and our plans for further development. As well as providing a live demonstration, I was able to demonstrate how the tool can be used to tailor data to an individual's requirements, by providing every Board member with a personalised handout for their own authority. My Executive colleagues were very supportive and happy to promote this work further. We have recently commissioned a developer to help us deliver the next version of LG Inform, which will build upon requirements specified by the sector. It is anticipated that version will be available in the autumn of 2012; I look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress.

Innovation

Creative Councils

7. On 16 May I took part in the Creative Councils Selection Panel, which met to decide which of the 15 finalist would receive more significant support for their creative and innovative proposals. I was grateful for Board Members' views on the 15 proposals, as the Board was given sight of the final action plans prior to the Selection Panel meeting. I look forward to updating you on the decision of the Selection Panel; however with the public announcement not being made until 31 May, Members will have to wait until next months report to find out!

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

Local Growth Campaign

1. We have reached the end of our series of Town Hall debates which were the centrepiece of the LGA's Local Growth Campaign.
2. We started in London in November and after meetings with councillors across the country, we held the last of our events at Teignbridge District Council in Devon. We concentrated on growth in rural areas and I would like to thank Board Deputy-Chair, Cllr Mike Haines and council staff for a good evening's debate. It is very clear that there are particular economic issues which are unique to the South West - for example, an aging population and the future of EU "Objective 1" funding. Again the evidence is that to drive growth, local councils and their partners need customised economic levers that cannot be created as a one size fits all in Whitehall.
3. From our Town Hall debates, we intended to present our own Green Paper on Local Growth at the LGA conference. However, the work of councils and their partners at the local level has shown that we need more than a policy statement which is the usual content of a Government Green Paper. Our conference paper will now be a call to action for councils, Government and our partners. We will set out how councils have grasped devolution and driven new local strategies, we will identify the continued local barriers to growth and we will set out the renewed civic leadership that is required to stimulate the national economy.

Hidden Talents

4. The Hidden Talents report sets out a persuasive and well supported case for joining-up services around the most disengaged young people, and the need for local partnerships to be empowered to do this – but we need to do more to persuade Government Ministers and officials.
5. On 15 May we launched the next stage of our Hidden Talents work, which aims to build a more thorough evidential case for change with local authorities. The work was kicked off at a roundtable with the Rt Hon David Miliband MP, chair of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) Commission into Youth Unemployment, John Hayes MP Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, and a range of senior local government figures and partners.

6. Up and down the country councils are implementing innovative approaches that impact on the lives of young people, joining-up services to deliver better value for money. We will be working with a range of local authorities to capture this activity, and developing a single programme that builds a deeper evidence case for public-service reform that can better enable it. Government will be engaged in this work throughout.
7. We are looking for more councils to engage in this effort, to get involved please contact the team: hiddentalents@local.gov.uk.

Transport - Streetworks

8. One issue that became a hot topic at the last Board was streetworks. We have received many complaints from councils that badly managed streetworks by utility companies are causing concern amongst businesses and residents alike. As a Board, we have decided to look at this issue in depth and to ensure that there is a robust response from the LGA. If you have any concerns about poorly managed streetworks in your area, I would be pleased if you could send me the details.

Transport – Office of Rail Regulation

9. The Board's Group Leaders and I met officials from the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in May. We raised the fact that there was inadequate consultation with councils and LEPs regarding future rail infrastructure investment. As a result, ORR has asked for a note from us to provide advice on how councils can be consulted more effectively on future rail investment. From this advice, ORR will be advising Network Rail on how it expects consultation with councils to be improved.

LGA Conference – local growth events

10. There are a number of exciting events taking place at the LGA annual conference on local growth, which I would welcome and encourage members to attend. The highlight will be the launch of the Local Growth Campaign paper with John Cridland, Director General, Confederation of British Industry (CBI) on Wednesday 27 June at 15.30 in the Main Hall. I hope members can attend and offer into the debate and Q+As the great work that councils are doing to drive growth.

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Item 3g

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

ACPO Conference

1. The LGA was invited to attend the second day of the Association of Chief Police Officers' summer conference at the end of May. The day was themed around the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and the Board's chair Cllr Khan attended the morning session to speak alongside the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernhard Hogan Howe, the Assistant Chief Constable of West Midlands Police and David Cook the chief executive of Kettering Borough Council in his role as the police area returning officer for Northamptonshire. Cllr Khan was specifically asked to look at the issues around the first 100 days in office of any police and crime commissioner and pointed out that given the need to set the policing precept and agree the commissioner's police and crime plan, establishing a good working relationship with their police and crime panel should be near the top of any commissioner's list.

Just results

2. The Board's Deputy Chair, Cllr Duwayne Brooks, attended an event held by Make Justice Work at the end of May on the Government's introduction of payment by results for providers of probation and rehabilitation services. The event gathered together a range of experts to look at how payment by results contracts might work, the key issues with setting them up, the benefits and risks associated with this model for reducing re-offending, and what a payment by results scheme for community sentencing might look like.

Metal Theft

3. With the Queen's Speech failing to include a bill replacing the existing legislation on scrap metal dealers, members of the Board along with other leading members in the LGA, have been pressing the case for there to be a private members bill in this session that introduces a new licensing regime for scrap metal dealers. This work has included lobbying the Home Office to ensure they had prepared a bill that would provide any member who took this issue on with a comprehensive bill. Richard Ottoway MP, who came second in the ballot for private members' bills in the Commons, has announced he will be introducing a scrap metal dealers bill that creates a new licensing regime for scrap metal dealers which will be administered and enforced by local authorities.

Anti Social Behaviour White Paper

4. With the publication in May of the Home Office's long anticipated White Paper on anti-social behaviour the Board's Anti Social Behaviour Champion was asked to speak at two events in the North East on the White Paper and the LGA's views of the proposed changes.

Helping councils tackle rogue businesses

5. The LGA successfully overturned an amendment to the Freedoms Bill, which would have required environmental health and trading standards officers to seek a warrant through the courts to carry out basic inspections, unless given permission to enter by the business. If passed it would have meant a stop to on the spot inspections and delays before councils could respond to complaints made by residents. As the Government begins a wholesale review of council powers, Cllr Mehboob Khan, as Chair of the Stronger and Safer Communities Board, has written to Lord Henley to stress restrictions on powers could tie both councils and magistrates in red tape when trying to carry out basic delivery of services that are aimed at protecting consumers, targeting high risk activity and creating a level playing field in which responsible businesses can flourish.

Fire and Rescue

6. The LGA has secured two places on the newly established Fire and Rescue Strategic Resilience Board, which met for the first time on 31 May. The Fire Service Management Committee (FSMC) has nominated Cllr Mark Healey and Cllr Jeremy Hilton to represent the LGA on the Board. The Strategic Resilience Board will assess risk, capacity and the appropriate approaches to addressing any identified gaps.
7. At this year's LGA Fire Conference, Fire Minister Bob Neill MP announced the Government's plans to sell the Fire Service College as a going concern to a private sector buyer. An LGA representative will act as an adviser to a panel evaluating bids for the College. Other representatives on the evaluation panel will be from DCLG and CFOA. This is an important recognition that the LGA has been instrumental in reviving the Fire Service College.
8. The LGA, the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA), the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor (CFRA) and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) have agreed a new Service-led model for the production of national operational guidance for the UK Fire and Rescue Service. The LGA supports locally led and locally delivered services, and believes that this is an important step that demonstrates again to Government that 'fire' is a mature and capable Service.

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

Pensions

1. Proposals for a new Local Government Pension Scheme were announced on 31 May. These proposals were developed in agreement with the local government trade unions and will now be the subject to consultation by both the LGA and the unions.
2. Although final proposals for the Teachers Pension Scheme have been published, the NUT and NASUWT will be balloting their members on strike action in the Autumn over pensions, professional practice, working conditions and workload.

Local Government Services

3. The National Employers are continuing to take forward their plans for reform of pay, conditions and the national machinery and have briefed councils at a number of regional meetings. Please contact your regional employers' organisation for details of future events.
4. The National Employers have again declined requests from the Trade Union Side to refer 2012 pay to arbitration and to review the NJC mileage allowance rates. The Employers are clear that pay for 2012 has been concluded and that mileage allowances cannot be reviewed in isolation of discussions about wider reform.

Public Health Workforce Issues

5. As the pre-transfer process gathers momentum, the LGA is working to ensure that councils get clear messages on some complex issues. Considerable progress has been made in several key areas:
 - 5.1 A joint LGA-DH letter has been distributed confirming that staff transferring to local government will retain NHS pension rights. A joint task-and-finish group looking at pension issues for new starters and others has been established and is making progress.
 - 5.2 A guide to the legal issues around pre-transfer working arrangements for co-located staff was issued on 7 June.
 - 5.3 Discussions are continuing on arrangements for the appointment of Directors of Public Health before and after the transfer. The LGA has had constructive dialogue with the faculty of Public Health to influence its guidance note.
6. LGA officers have been attending a variety of workshops and seminars to provide advice on the next steps.

Universal Credit

7. The Workforce Team is working closely with the Programme Team that leads on the development of the Universal Credit system to ensure that the implications for significant numbers of local government employees currently working on housing benefit etc are clearly understood and that forward options are developed.

Managing a Changing Workforce

8. The Workforce team have delivered 9 out of the 11 planned workshops across regions in England and Wales, for councils to challenge them regarding how they are managing a changing workforce and developing the management competencies required to effectively plan and manage generational difference, engagement and performance.

Career Framework for Social Workers

9. The LGA Workforce team is now hosting the Career Framework Advisory Implementation Group alongside the Employer Standards for Social Workers. The profession has now agreed clear career stages to help social workers and employers plan and develop careers within social work. The Group will be running a workshop to look at the issues employers are experiencing and develop a model to help employers plan the development of their social work workforce.

Mutuals / Social enterprise

10. The Workforce team will be developing a series of case studies in partnership with the Office for people management. In addition meetings are progressing with cabinet office to discuss the barriers to successful employee-led spinouts identified by local authorities.

School teachers

11. The School Teachers' Review Body is considering evidence from statutory consultees to inform its report on its latest remit on making pay more market facing and making greater links between pay and performance, which is due for publication on 28 September 2012.
12. Evidence from the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers can be found here: <http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=119393>

Fire

13. The National Employers' will consider a pay claim in respect of uniformed fire service employees when the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services next meets on 7 June 2012. The claim makes reference to the RPI figure available for that meeting. The relevant figure is now known, 3.5%.
14. On 24 May, the Fire Minister laid a Written Ministerial Statement in the House of Commons setting out progress on fire service pension reforms and, in particular, the publication of a proposed Final Agreement for reforms to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

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European & International Board – report from Cllr Dave Wilcox OBE

Delivering our Lobbying Priorities

1. With the business plan having been agreed by Executive in March, my Board colleagues and I were pleased to agree the **European and International Board's 'offer' to councils** at our May meeting. We have identified five key lobbying strategies to help us deliver on the business plan priorities and are eager to start taking these key messages out to parliamentarians in Brussels and the UK. Our five key lobbying areas are: reform of EU public procurement rules; directive on energy efficiency; future EU funding 2014-2020; revision of the Working Time Directive; and review of EU air quality policy and regulations. I am looking forward to working together with colleagues from other Boards on these cross cutting priorities and will keep you up-to-date with progress through these monthly reports.
2. I am pleased to already be able to update you on some progress in our efforts to strengthening local government's role in **shaping the future EU funds** for the next financial period 2014-20. I can now confirm that two experienced local authority EU Structural Funds practitioners have been seconded to the Department for Business, Skills and Innovation (BIS) for up to 2 years to be part of the UK negotiation team on the future of EU funds. The two new appointees will be attending our July Board meeting to discuss with us how best to ensure the views of all local authorities are taken into account.
3. As part of our work to influence any review of the **Working Time Directive (WTD)** Regulations, myself and colleagues from the Workforce Board met with the CEEP (European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public services) Executive on 22 May. We discussed how best we can work together to influence areas of common interest in the European legislative programme, including the WTD and EU fines. Following publication of the European Work Programme in the Autumn, we will meet again to coordinate our lobbying activities to ensure we are working in the most efficient and effective way to influence shared priorities.

Representation on International Bodies

4. The LGA Executive and Leadership Board recently received reports on the impact of the 3 May local elections on the LGA's political balance. It is also worth noting that the **local elections impact on UK delegations to international bodies** as well. UK local government is actively engaged in a range of European and international member organisations, with the LGA nominating English members to several of these bodies as well as providing the secretariats for the UK delegations. As a result of the local elections, a small number of changes to the UK delegations to the Committee of the Regions (CoR), Congress and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR – the European LGA) were required. More significantly, the current Congress term expires in October 2012, therefore we will be launching a renewal procedure imminently. As a Board we will receive regular

updates on these appointments and are keen to ensure that once appointed, UK elected members are supported to ensure they can play an effective role in representing the sector.

5. I am pleased to inform you that I have recently taken on the role of Vice Chair of **CEMR's Committee on Governance and Citizenship**. The working group provides a forum for debate on: the role of local and regional level of governance, the role of citizens as well as possible obstacles, which is particularly relevant given the current economic crisis. With CEMR having recently redefined its priorities and ambitions, it is anticipated that the LGA will in future play a greater role in devising priorities, planning meetings and taking initiatives. With this context in mind, I recently met with the Chair of the Governance and Citizenship Committee, Sonia Dubourg-Lavroff to discuss priorities, objectives and future working arrangements.

International links: learning and sharing

6. We recently hosted a study **visit by 20 senior officials from Kosovo's central and local governments** to learn about social care services in UK as part of a Department for International Development (DFID) funded project. The delegation spent a week in the UK learning about LGA's policy work, meeting various organisations and service providers as well as visiting Norfolk County Council. The visit was well received and raised £12,000 of income for the LGA.
7. This month we also hosted a **delegation of Moldovan elected representatives** and political advisers as part of the 4 year programme to reform local government in the country. The two week long visit was organised NDI (US National Democratic Institute) to show how politicians and officers work in the UK. This included a two hour session in the LGA which introduced them to structure, roles and responsibilities of councils in England and Wales, as well as separate visits to councils, Parliament and different political parties. We will look to explore the possibility of getting involved in the programme on a commercial basis.
8. I am please to announce that as the LGA's contribution to the success of the UK's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, the Best Practice Award Programme "Regeneration of the European Coastal Towns" has been initiated. Based on the **Beacon Scheme**, the Council of Europe was amongst the most successful schemes launched in the last several years. UK councils were particularly successful, making six out of the fifteen shortlisted authorities. The First Prize was awarded to Yevpatoria in the Ukraine with the Joint Second Prize being awarded to Bournemouth and Canterbury. The award ceremony was organised in Blackpool, providing local authorities from across Europe with the opportunity to be recognised for their best practices and to exchange experience and learn from each other.

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Item 3j

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

The budget announcement

1. The 2012 Budget proposed a 0.2% reduction in PWLB lending rates. This, together with the current uncertainties in financial markets has affected some of the assumptions which underpinned the original business case.

Work undertaken

2. Officers have met a number of local authority finance directors. Whilst a potential reduction in interest rates was welcomed – the proposed rates are still significantly higher than those applying before October 2010.
3. There is a degree of caution from the finance professionals about emerging messages from government, and a particular concern that particular proposals could undermine aspects of the prudential code.
4. Officers have also continued to meet individuals in different city institutions, most recently including representatives of the pension investment community. The initial feedback from those discussions has been broadly positive. There is interest in the proposed agency and councils are seen as a reliable counterparty, but it will be important to establish government intentions in this whole area.

Publicising the original business case

5. The original business case has not been published. This was because officers wanted to understand the implication of the budget announcement prior to publishing a document.
6. At its last meeting the task and finish group agreed that an updated executive summary of the business case should be published and sent to member authorities. That work is underway and the intention is this document should be published in the near future.
7. A session at the LGA annual conference has been developed at which councils will be able to find out about the state of this work.

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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 last meeting before Games Time on 30 May 2012. The Group was set up by the LGA Executive to make sure that the LGA supports councils to contribute to the success of the Games and ensure that they have the latest information and share experience of local operational issues. The work of the task group to keep councils informed of any key issues that arise will continue over the summer. The Task and Finish Group will have a final meeting in October.

Torch relay

2. Councils are vital to the success of the Olympic torch relay, which started in Lands End on 19 May 2012 and is travelling around the UK before arriving at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July for the opening ceremony. Andrew Dent, the Head of City and UK Wide Operations at the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), attended the meeting to update members on the key learning so far. He also provided information about the role of the GOE UK Wide Ops Torch Hub which is supporting local authorities by sharing best practice as the torch moves around the country. A weekly 'lessons learnt' report is being sent to local authorities so that they benefit from the experience of places earlier on the route. The torch relay had a very successful and positive first week with good media coverage. The main issue had been larger than anticipated crowds and the need for accurate reporting on crowd numbers. Councils were advised to consider stewarding arrangements around the torch bearer handover points (known as 'kiss' points) and to increase capacity at these pressure points if possible. The Chairman also shared his experience of going to see the torch relay in Gloucestershire and suggested that an informal visit to see the relay in action and talking to people on the ground was a very good way for members to understand the likely challenges ahead in their own areas.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

3. The Task and Finish 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 supported by the LGA, London Councils, London Fire Brigade and funded by the Home Office, is providing advice and assistance to councils. As part of this programme, officers are working to ensure that there are adequate officers briefed and available to represent the LGA at the Olympic Secretariat. A staff officer will be located in the Olympic Secretariat for all key times and will liaise closely with the Government Olympic Executive.

A Green and Sustainable Games

4. The Task and Finish Group was updated on the discussions and actions agreed by the LGA Environment and Housing Board at their May meeting, which focused on the need to ensure that the knowledge gained through the hosting of the Games is transferred to local authorities to assist them in their local ambitions on sustainability and the environment. The Board would be writing to the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 to raise concerns about their lack of engagement with councils on environmental issues, including minimising waste generated by visitors and spectators, which was a missed opportunity. The Task and Finish Group suggested that the Board may also want to consider the sustainability agenda in the new venues outside London, which had received much less attention than the sustainable development of the Olympic Park.

Transport

5. Transport is a standing item on the task group's agenda because it is an absolute fundamental to making the Olympic Games a success. The LGA Economy and Transport Board is working closely with London Councils and the LGA will lend support, as appropriate, about concerns at the pace at which local traffic management and parking plans are being brought forward. Timescales are getting very tight, particularly if there are any objections in the public consultation stage.

Progress report from LGA Boards

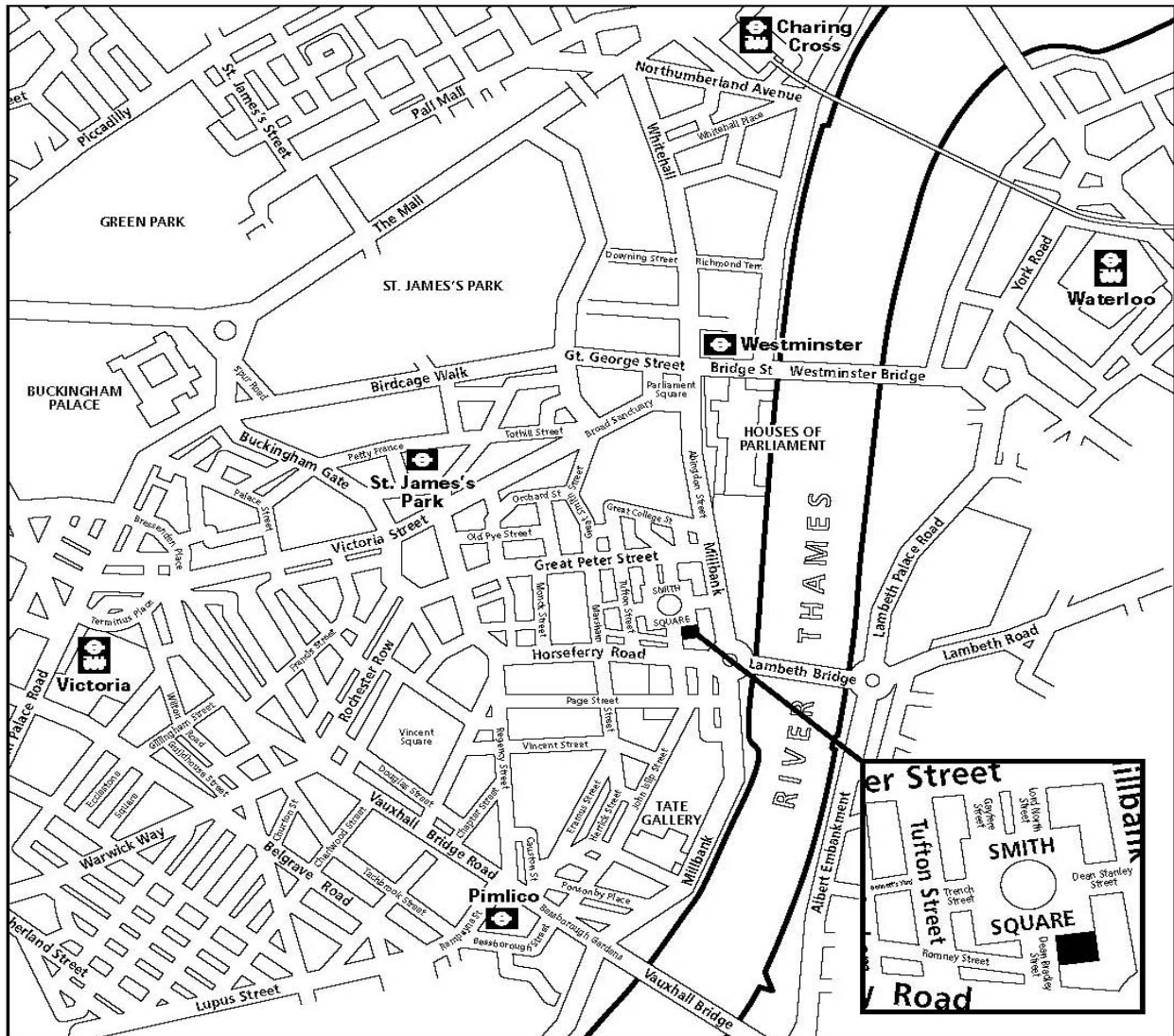
6. The Task and Finish Group has been receiving regular reports on activity underway across the LGA in connection with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The latest update included information from the Culture Tourism and Sport Board about 'Join in Local Sport' a new charitable trust set up with Government support to encourage people to get active and support local sports clubs on 18/19 August, which is the weekend between the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The report also featured the publication of the LGA handbook for councillors on community events, and 'Top tips for holding a public event in your community' which includes a link to the London 2012 'Local Leaders' initiative to encourage people to get involved and celebrate the Games this summer.

Communications

7. The LGA media and communications plan for London 2012 is being put into action and a number of press releases have been issued, including examples of case studies highlighting the work of individual councils. A survey is currently being carried out to make sure that the LGA has all the information we need to promote the work that councils are doing to help people celebrate the Games this summer.

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LGA Location Map



Local Government Association

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 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@lga.gov.uk
 Website: www.lga.gov.uk

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