

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday 20 September 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

www.local.gov.uk

Guidance notes for visitors

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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Councillors' Forum

20 September 2012

The **Councillors' Forum** meeting will be held on **Thursday 20 September 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	Bevin Hall (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Rathbone Room 1&2 (7 th floor)
11.00am	Independent	Millbank Room (8 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:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent@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

Liam Paul (Tel: 020 7664 3214, Email: liam.paul@local.gov.uk)

Guest WiFi in Local Government House

This is available in Local Government House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling "Wireless Network Connection" on your computer and connecting to LGH-guest, the password is Welcome2010LG.

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 (i.e. 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 2012-2013

Updated 21.08.12

Councillors' Forum – 2012-2013

This Forum comprises a core group of around 100 members appointed by the LGA political groups in proportion to their political strength on the Association. However, all members are invited to attend meetings of the Forum.

Representative	Authority
Conservative (43)	
Sir Merrick Cockell (Chairman)	RB Kensington & Chelsea
Tony Ball	Basildon BC
Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest BC
Louise McKinlay	Brentwood 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
Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Angus Campbell	Dorset CC
Stephen Castle	Essex CC
Peter Martin MBE	Essex CC
Ken Thornber CBE	Hampshire CC
Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Robert Gordon CBE DL	Hertfordshire CC
David Simmonds	Hillingdon LBC
David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Clare Whelan	Lambeth LBC
Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI	Peterborough City Council
Ken Hudson JP MBE	Preston City
Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC
Kate Wild	Solihull MBC
Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Jeff Milburn	South Tyneside MBC
Philip Atkins	Staffordshire CC
Sir William Lawrence Bt	Stratford-upon-Avon DC
Joanna Spicer	Suffolk CC
Mark Bee	Suffolk CC
Kay Hammond	Surrey CC
David Hodge	Surrey CC
Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
Ravi Govindia	Wandsworth LB

Louise Goldsmith	West Sussex CC
Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City
Labour [36]	
Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Eion Watts	Bolsover DC
Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
Simon Henig	Durham
Ann Lucas	Coventry City Council
Colin Lloyd	Crawley BC
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney LBC
Sharon Taylor	Hertfordshire City Council
Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak BC
Ruth Cadbury	Hounslow LBC
Catherine West	Islington LBC
Mehboob Khan	Kirklees MBC
Steve Reed	Lambeth LBC
Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham LBC
Tim Moore	Liverpool City Council
Sian Timoney	Luton BC
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Jim McMahon	Oldham MBC
Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire DC
Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk CC
David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
Paul Watson	Sunderland
Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest LBC
Peter Box CBE	Wakefield MBC
Lord Peter Smith	Wigan MBC
Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
James Alexander	York City Council
<i>Substitutes</i>	
Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council
Catharine Grundy	Birmingham City Council
Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Mike Connolly	Bury MBC
Theo Blackwell	Camden LBC
Joe Hendry	Carlisle City Council
Chris Fegan	Chelmsford BC
Justin Madders	Cheshire West & Chester UA
John Mutton	Coventry City Council
Stewart Young	Cumbria CC
Paul Bayliss	Derby City Council
Anne Western	Derbyshire CC

Julie Young	Essex CC
Aaron Shotton	Flintshire CC
Michael Payne	Gedling BC
Tony McDermott MBE	Halton BC
Jagdish Sharma MBE JP MA	Hounslow LBC
Robert Khan	Islington LBC
Ron Round JP	Knowsley MBC
Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Rory Palmer	Leicester City Council
Robert Parker	Lincolnshire CC
Mr Len Duvall	London Assembly
Hazel Simmons	Luton BC
Sue Murphy	Manchester City Council
Anne Schofield	Newcastle City Council
Sir Robin Wales	Newham LBC
Tudor Evans	Plymouth City Council
Roger Stone OBE	Rotherham MBC
Tony Page	Reading BC
Judith Blakeman	RB Kensington & Chelsea
Mike Roberts	Rushmoor BC
Steve Eling	Sandwell MBC
Richard Williams	Southampton City Council
Roger Hutchinson	South Gloucestershire Council
Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside MBC
Catherine McDonald	Southwark LBC
Marie Rimmer CBE	St Helens MBC
Barrie Grunewald	St Helens MBC
Mohammed Pervez	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Brenda Warrington	Tameside MBC
David Edger	Tower Hamlets LBC
Tony Belton	Wandsworth LBC
Liberal Democrat (14)	
Roger Symonds	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Flick Rea	Camden LBC
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
Substitutes	
Tim Bick	Cambridge City Council

Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Hilary Jones	Derby City Council
David Rogers OBE	East Sussex CC
Chris White	Hertfordshire CC
Terry Stacy MBE JP	Islington Council
Stephen Knight	Richmond upon Thames LBC
Alan Connett	Teignbridge DC
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford BC
Liz Tucker	Worcester CC
Independent [8]	
Peter Jones	Babergh DC
Julian German	Cornwall Council
Chris Townsend	Mole Valley/Surrey CC
Paul Cullen	Richmondshire DC
Pauline Dee	Shropshire Council
Christopher Newbury	Wilshire CC
Norman Bradbury	Wigan MBC
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>TBC</i>

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

20 September 2012

12.30 – 1.30pm

The Westminster Suite

	Item	Page	Time
1.	<p>The future of public health in England</p> <p>Members will hear from Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England on the new role for local government in the leadership of public health, and its relationship with Public Health England.</p> <p>Stephen Jones, LGA Director of Finance and Resources, will update members on public health funding to local government.</p>	3	12.30pm
2.	Chairman's Update	13	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 Mike Jones 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: Audit Committee - Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE k: Bonds Task & Finish Group – Cllr Edward Lord OBE JP l: 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Task & Finish Group – Cllr Stephen Castle</p>	15	1.25pm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 18 October 2012

The future of public health in England

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

Members will hear from Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England, on the new role for local government in the leadership of public health, and its relationship with Public Health England. Stephen Jones, LGA Director of Finance and Resources, will update members on public health funding to local government.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the presentations and discuss the LGA's role in representing the interests and concerns of local government in relation to their new role in public health and on funding for public health.

Action

As directed by the Councillors' Forum.

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Alyson Morley

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The future of public health in England

Background

1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 significantly extends the powers and duties of local government in the leadership of public health. The transfer of local public health services from primary care trusts to local government, coupled with the creation of health and wellbeing boards, is one of the most significant changes to the health and wellbeing landscape in a generation. From April 2013 single-tier and county councils will have responsibility for a wide range of health improvement services.
2. Public Health England (PHE) will be a new executive agency with national responsibility for health protection. The respective responsibilities of local government and PHE from April 2013 are summarised below:

Local authority public health responsibilities	Public Health England
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighing and measuring children • Dental public health • Fluoridation • Medical inspection of school children • Sexual health services • Seasonal mortality • Accident prevention • Physical activity • Drug, alcohol and tobacco misuse • Obesity • NHS health check programme • Health at work • Prenatal reduction and prevention of health defects • Prevention and early intervention • Children's public health (5 – 19) • Public health advice to the NHS • Pharmaceutical needs assessment • Appointment of medical examiners to oversee the death certification process (From April 2014) • Children's public health (0-5) from April 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious diseases • Immunisation • Environmental hazards • Emergency preparedness and resilience • Health intelligence and information • Nutrition <p>NHS Commissioning Board will be commissioned to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening programmes • Children's public health (0-5) until 2015 • Public health of prisoners

3. The LGA's vision is for local government to take a strong leadership role with other partners to lead a fundamental shift away from treating an ever-growing burden of ill-health, towards a preventative approach that tackles the wider determinants of health. Many councils are already taking this approach and we are working with councils and key partners at national, regional and local level to make this vision a reality in all communities.
4. Local councils, through their Health and Wellbeing boards (HWBs), will work internally with planning and environment; housing; education; leisure and culture; and children and adult services departments, and also externally with new commissioners in clinical

commissioning groups, national agencies and providers in the private and voluntary sector to develop services for individuals in the context of the health needs of their communities.

5. It will be crucial for local government to develop effective and robust relationships with the new components of the health architecture at local, regional and national level. A key partner will be Public Health England.

Developing new partnerships and ways of working

6. The new landscape for health improvement will require the development of relationships between local government and local, regional and national bodies that do not yet exist, though many are operating in shadow form. Many health and wellbeing boards, themselves operating as shadow bodies until April 2013, are already developing strong working relationships with their new partners – clinical commissioning groups, Healthwatch (the new consumer champion for health wellbeing and social care services), the local teams for the NHS Commissioning Board and the putative Local Area Centres for PHE.
7. At national level, we are working closely with the Department for Health (DH) Public Health England Transition Team to develop a shared vision for public health. To this end, we have organised a series of two national and nine regional events to develop and agree a shared vision for the new public health system, running from July until January 2013. We also want to gain a shared understanding and commitment to the actions required to achieve system transformation. The first national event was held on 9 July and brought together senior stakeholders across local government (including the Lead Members of the Community Wellbeing Board), the NHS, government departments, academic institutions and community organisations to look at what we need to do collectively and as individual organisations to build a public health system that achieves sustainable improvements in health and reduces health inequalities.
8. Details of the Community Wellbeing Board's vision and priorities for public health are summarised in **Appendix A** to this report.
9. Public Health England is an executive agency that will provide national leadership across the three domains of public health: health improvement, health protection and public health input into the commissioning of health services. In particular, it will be responsible for ensuring arrangements are in place at national level for emergencies and health protection. It will provide a 'line of sight' from the Secretary of State for Health, to the frontline, on health protection matters. PHE will also have a role in providing information, evidence and good practice of what works in public health to strengthen and support local public health systems.
10. Duncan Selbie is Chief Executive of PHE. At a policy session of the LGA's annual conference in July on the future of public health he gave a commitment to working with a truly local public health system, driven by local priorities and local leaders. A short biography of Mr Selbie is available at **Appendix B** to the report.
11. This session will provide Councillors' Forum members with an opportunity to discuss with Mr Selbie the respective responsibilities of local government and PHE and how we can develop relationships at national, regional and local levels to ensure an effective and sustainable public health system.

Public health funding

Background

12. Local authorities will receive a ring-fenced public health grant from April 2013 to meet their new public health responsibilities. The Department of Health (DH) has published two documents setting out their proposals for funding health services, including public health services. The LGA has provided briefings to our member authorities on both documents and has made representations to DH on both, setting out our key messages and local authority concerns, which are summarised below.

Proposals for public health funding to local government

Baseline estimates of public health spending

13. In February 2012, the Department of Health (DH) published a document with provisional estimates of funding for services that will be allocated to different commissioners in the new commissioning architecture for health, including public health, which will come into force in April 2013. The total resource for all health services from 2013-14 is £92 billion. A final decision on the public health allocations has yet to be taken. If allocation was on the basis of 2012-13 forecast spending, then the DH has estimated that a total £5.2 billion would be available, of which local authorities would get £2.2 billion, the NHS Commissioning Board a further £2.2 billion, the DH itself £600 million for centrally managed work and Public Health England £210m.
14. Analysis of the baseline figures for public health spend by PCTs across England shows a wide degree of variation both within and between regions, ranging from £10 million to £55 million per local authority area. On a 'per head of population' basis, there is a broad trend of higher per head spending in the North and lower spend in the South (with the exception of London). Reported spending per head ranges from £15 per head in the South East to £116 per head in some London PCT areas. Much of this variation is due to intensity of public health need but some will be a result of the variable commitment to public health by PCTs. Concerns have also been expressed about whether the exercise that DH undertook to measure baseline spending fully captured all elements of PCT public health spend.

Proposed distribution formula

15. On 14 June the Department of Health published an update on public health funding, which set out the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) interim recommendations on public health funding, initial proposals for the health premium incentive payments and the proposed conditions of the public health grant. The DH sought views on these proposals in a consultation that ran until the end of last month.
16. ACRA's interim recommendation was that the formula would be based on the Standardised Mortality Ratio for people under 75 in a local population (SMR<75). This measures the level of deaths of people under 75 in a local area, compared with the national average and corrected for the age profile of the local population.
17. The Department of Health also confirmed that it intended to protect real terms funding levels for 2013-14, so that no authority would see a large immediate change in its

public health funding. The 'pace of change' towards funding in accordance with any new distribution formula has not yet been determined.

18. Based on the analysis of the ACRA recommendations by LGA, the views expressed to us by member authorities, and discussion at the Executive meeting on 12 July, the LGA has submitted a response to ACRA with our key concerns. They are summarised below:
- 18.1 The adequacy of the funding formula cannot be assessed without reference to the quantum of funding. In the light of concerns that have been expressed about the accuracy of the funding baseline, and the potentially regressive effect of ACRA's suggested formula, councils in some areas have serious and well-founded concerns that the future public health investment in their communities could fall well behind likely need. **The LGA calls for a clear commitment from the department for an increase in resources to a level that will maximise the value for money available from well targeted investment in public health.**
- 18.2 Whilst the Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR) for those aged under 75 years may be a reasonable starting point for the construction of a needs based formula, the weighting suggested by ACRA to help reduce inequalities must be reconsidered. The suggested weighting does not appear to be based on adequate objective evidence and is regressive, potentially shifting future resources away from some areas where health outcomes are currently relatively poor despite relatively high levels of spending. This would clearly be an unacceptable result.
- 18.3 The LGA welcomes the Department's intention to protect real terms funding levels for 2013-14. We would like to see greater certainty of funding for longer periods to enable local authorities to make strategic decisions in commissioning public health services and to encourage greater integration.
- 18.4 The formula requires further adjustment to provide an effective resourcing allocation for sexual health services.
- 18.5 As the department's document suggests, considerably more work is needed to establish the correct baseline level of public health spending. Member authorities have also expressed concerns that inadequate amounts were reported in some other areas, notably in relation to administration and support costs and in specific cases where health budgets faced more general pressures.
- 18.6 As well as the concerns on the proposed distribution formula, the LGA also has identified issues regarding the conditions of grant and the future health premium incentive payment.

Community Wellbeing Board priorities – Public Health

Vision

1. The transfer of local public health services from primary care trusts to local government, coupled with the creation of Health and Wellbeing Boards, is one of the most significant changes to the health and wellbeing landscape in a generation. Our vision is for local government to work together with other partners to lead a fundamental shift away from treating and ever-growing burden of ill-health towards a preventative approach that tackles the wider determinants of health. Local councils through their Health and Wellbeing Boards will work internally with planning and environment, housing, education, leisure and culture, children and adult services as well as externally with providers in the private and voluntary sector to develop services for individuals in the context of the health needs of their communities.

Priorities for the coming year

2. The priorities for the LGA that we believe will help to deliver this vision are outlined below:
 - 2.1. For LGA to lead the development of a new system of public health, in partnership with our key stakeholders, that adopts a place-based approach to public health and addresses the wider determinants of health to improve health outcomes for communities.
 - 2.2. Develop a unified vision of public health, which goes beyond the transfer of staff and resources, and changes our approach from one that treats sickness to a system in which all partners actively promote health and wellbeing, and in so doing reduces the costs of health and social care.
 - 2.3. Public health funding – to represent the interests of local government in partnership with public health stakeholders to ensure that local government make a robust and compelling case for a sufficient total quantum of public health resource and a fair funding formula which enables them to meet their new public health responsibilities.
 - 2.4. Public health workforce – in the short-term, to ensure a smooth transition of the public health workforce to local government and in the long-term to fully embed public health within the local government workforce and commissioning strategies.
 - 2.5. Health Protection – to ensure that reform delivers effective protection for the population from health threats, based on a clear line of sight from the top of government to the frontline; clear accountabilities; collaboration and co-ordination at every level of the system; and robust, locally sensitive arrangements for planning and response.
 - 2.6. Work with partners in public health, Public Health England and the National Institute for Clinical and Health Excellence to provide a solid, accessible and

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robust evidence base that can be used at local level to inform priorities and public health commissioning.

- 2.7. LGA and the Department of Health are working together towards fully-competent local arrangements for public health by 1 April 2013. The assurance arrangements will be as simple and clear as possible with strong ownership and leadership by the local PH system.

The future of Public Health in England - Speakers

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England

Duncan Selbie has worked in the NHS and the Department of Health since 1980. From 2007 to 2012 he was Chief Executive at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals. Prior to this he worked for 4 years as a Director General at the Department of Health.

Previous Chief Executive roles in the NHS include the South East London Strategic Health Authority and the South West London and St. Georges Mental Health NHS Trust. He served on the NHS Future Forum and contributed specifically to the Education and Training Working Group.



Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, LGA

Stephen Jones joined the LGA in 2007. Stephen was a Civil Servant for 30 years, joining the Inland Revenue as a tax inspector after graduating from Oxford. He held a number of director-level roles in the Inland Revenue, culminating in his appointment as the department's finance director, and was appointed a commissioner of HM Revenue & Customs on the formation of the new department in April 2005.

After joining the LGA in 2007, he has led both work for local government on the 2007 and 2010 Spending Reviews and the successful action to recover the bulk of the money councils held in Icelandic banks.



Chairman's update 30 June – 7 September 2012

LGA business

1. It's been an eventful summer! The London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics are over, and I enjoyed every minute of it. I hope you did too. I attended several Ministerial Olympic meetings on the games and also visited the London Operations Centre. The positive energy that has come out of London 2012 will see many innovative and worthwhile projects progress, with councils at the forefront of delivering the legacy for our young people.
2. At the July **Leadership Board** we considered the Compact Agreement between the NHS Commissioning Board and the LGA. The following day at **LGA Executive** we discussed our ongoing work around community budgets and were pleased to be joined by Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP. Discussion focused on the localisation of business rates, housing and the localisation of Council Tax Benefit amongst other issues.
3. At July's Finance Task Group meeting we discussed the future funding of councils further. Following the launch of our **Funding outlook for councils from 2010/11 to 2019/20** document at our annual conference I hope many of you have now requested and received your individual council profile.
4. At the beginning of September we held our 2012 member induction day. This was an opportunity for members, both old and new, to get up to speed on LGA priorities and how we operate. Graham Allen MP attended providing members with an external perspective, commenting on our work around early intervention and the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee's inquiry into codifying the relationship between central and local government.
5. Later that week I provided evidence at the **Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee**. The Committee focused on the case for establishing a Constitutional Convention, asking about how devolution to the nations of the UK might be complemented by devolution to local government in England.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

6. Early in July I held a meeting with the **Prime Minister**; we discussed LGA priorities and in particular I outlined the pressures on councils attributable to rising social care costs.
7. At the start of September the Prime Minister announced the first major reshuffle of this Coalition Government, with significant changes for local government. A number of supportive Ministers have moved into new roles, and we wish them well in their new positions. The LGA is grateful for the valuable contributions many have made to local government.
8. Meetings have also continued with our Vice Presidents in the House of Commons and Lords and before the summer recess I was pleased to meet with Earl Attlee and Baroness Hanham to discuss the LGA's stance on the Finance Bill.
9. I attended a **whole place community budgets meeting** with Leaders from the pilot areas and Ministers to discuss future working and I followed this discussion further

through a meeting with Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP at the start of August. It was very helpful to establish common ground on community budget objectives.

10. Alongside Cllr Catherine West I provided oral evidence to the **Department of Work and Pensions select committee** on progress towards implementation of Universal Credit, arguing that councils were vital to ensuring our residents are supported through welfare reform, and raising the sector's concerns about the 10% cut to council tax support.
11. I also attended the **Global Business Summit on Education** at Lancaster House and emphasised the importance of the LGA local growth campaign's aim to achieve a closer match between education and skills provision and the needs of local businesses and to promote greater collaboration between councils and local higher education institutions to promote local growth.

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

12. I attended and spoke at the "Kommek" conference Malmö Sweden. The Kommek conference is organised by the Swedish Association of Local Government Economists, and Local Authorities and Regions. It was helpful to explain the LGA efficiency agenda and LGA work in establishing a local government bonds agency. I was also pleased to meet with the Chief Executive of Kommunkredit Denmark, Søren Høgenhaven, and discuss the proposed LGA/WLGA collective agency.
13. As a result of the discussions with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) about a joint offer to PCCs at a national level I have held a number of meetings with the Chairman of APCC, accompanied by Cllr Mehboob Khan.
14. I met with Trudi Elliot, Chief Executive and Colin Haylock, President of the **Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)**, we discussed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local plan preparation, planning guidance and the role of planning and planners in stimulating growth. The LGA and the RTPI agreed to work together to promote the role the planning system plays in enabling growth and to work closely through the LGAs Planning Advisory Service to support local authorities to respond to neighbourhood planning.
15. Alongside Group Leaders I held a useful meeting with the **National Audit Office (NAO)**. We discussed our views on the proposed new responsibilities for NAO arising as a result of the draft Local Audit Bill and explored how the LGA and sector can best engage with NAO in the future.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

16. I was pleased to visit **Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council** where we discussed their strategic priorities and how the LGA can provide support on these. I attended the **East of England Local Government Association** annual meeting and outlined the LGA's key priorities over the next year.
17. I also visited the **London Borough of Barnet** and held a useful meeting with the Leader, Cllr Richard Cornelius. In early September I visited Salford and met with the new City Mayor, Ian Stewart. He showed me round Media CityUK, new home of the BBC and shortly, ITV.

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

Children and Young People Board Meeting

1. The new political year is upon us and the Children and Young People Board has held its first meeting on 5 September, welcoming several new members and discussing our priorities for the year ahead.
2. One of the key topics of discussion was the council role in education and the recent events surrounding the GCSE results. The Board agreed that it was crucial for the examinations system to be both fair and consistent, and that by changing the grade boundaries in-year the system had been neither. The option of re-sits for affected students did not provide adequate redress on the issue, with young people potentially being denied places in apprenticeships or post-16 courses as a result of the situation. The Board agreed that the likelihood is that these results will increase the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training, a trend that we are all working to reverse, therefore this unfairness needed to be addressed.
3. Board members also identified several key activities for the coming months including; promoting growth and prosperity, with a focus on child poverty, ensuring children's health is seen as an important part of the transfer of public health to local government, the importance of children's social care, ensuring that councils are fully supported to address any issues that come out of public sector reform and supporting councils' role in education. The Board papers are available on the LGA's website:
www.local.gov.uk/children-and-young-people-board

House of Lords Select Committee on adoption legislation

4. In July, I gave oral evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on adoption legislation. There has been a lot of focus on this issue in the last six months with the Government introducing measures aimed at speeding up the process. The upcoming Children and Families Bill is also expected to contain measures relevant to adoption and the family courts. At the session, I outlined some of the challenges faced by councils in finding adoptive homes for children and reiterated the LGA's position on reform, including our opposition to local authority scorecards and the need to widen the debate from only adoption to include other forms of permanence.

Residential Children's Homes

5. During the summer I have been involved in the Government's review of residential children's homes, including taking part in working groups looking into the issues of out-of-area placements and quality. This work follows the concerns raised about the use of children's homes by reports into children missing from care and child sexual exploitation. The groups are seeking a much better understanding of how the current complex system is operating and will make recommendations for reform later in the year.

Joint Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Board for Children and Young People's Health

6. I chaired a meeting between Lead Members from the Children and Young People Board and Community Wellbeing Board. We met on 24 July to discuss and agree the children health priorities and work programme for 2012-13. Alan Bell from the Department of Health gave an update on safeguarding issues, members raised their concerns about the levels of involvement by local authorities in the authorisation process of Clinical Commissioning Groups.
7. The Joint Board agreed the support offer for local authorities which includes a series of conferences focusing on local authorities' public health responsibilities for children, young people and adults and a set of toolkits to help Health and Wellbeing Boards identify key success factors. Key priorities were agreed these included continuing to engage with Government and stakeholders to ensure the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Strategy optimises the impact that local government can make. Continuing to press Government for clarity on safeguarding arrangements, working with Government to ensure a robust transitional plan is in place for the safe transfer of commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds from NHS Commissioning Boards to local authorities in 2015.

LGA response to the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum Report

8. Following the publication of the report by the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum on 26 July the Children and Young People Board and Community Wellbeing Board responded to the report. We welcome the Forum's report and are committed to working with Government and stakeholders to explore the impact of the recommendations for member authorities. In particular we share the Forum's concerns about safeguarding arrangements in the new health system. We were pleased to see member's concerns fed into the proposed recommendations and that there was a stronger focus on integration, a life course approach, addressing health inequalities and listening to the views of children, young people and their families.

Visits to councils

9. Over the Summer I also enjoyed visits to a number of councils including the Isle of Wight and Lancashire County Council

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

Leadership of the new health system

1. On 24 July, the Chief Executive of the LGA, Carolyn Downs, Cllr Gareth Barnard and I all spoke at a high-level seminar to develop a shared vision of leadership of the new health system, in which councils have a central role to play. We will be working with the NHS Commissioning Board, Public Health England, the Department for Health and many other key stakeholders to support the development of a new approach to system-wide leadership for health improvement.

LGA and NHS Commissioning Board Concordat

2. Following approval by the LGA Executive, the concordat between the LGA and the NHS Commissioning board has now been signed off by both organisations, and will be launched on 29 October at a dedicated one-day event. The Concordat defines how both organisations will work together in the forthcoming year and beyond. The document was drafted jointly with input from the Chairman and Chief Executive of both organisations and the Community Wellbeing Board. Furthermore Local Government Chief Executives from the Health Transition Task Group have contributed comments throughout the process.
3. The overall joint priorities for year one will be:
 - 3.1 shared system leadership;
 - 3.2 joint planning; and
 - 3.3 sector led improvement and innovation.
4. Delivering integrated commissioning and integration of services around patients and communities are the key themes running through the Compact.

Adult Social Care Campaign

5. As part of our 'Show Us You Care' campaign we have sent out a survey to all Lead Members for Health / Adult Social Care and other key stakeholders in the third and private sector, asking for reaction to the care and support white paper. Results will be available shortly. You can take the survey as an individual at:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/show-us-you-care>

Public health funding

6. The LGA has submitted its response to the Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) regarding the proposed distribution formula for public health funding to local government, following the LGA Executive discussion on finance. We will continue to lobby hard for a greater quantum of resource to enable local government to invest in public health and preventative strategies and for a more equitable distribution formula.

Health and Wellbeing Board simulation events

7. The first of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) Simulation events took place in the East of England Region on the 04 September. These events, commissioned by the LGA, are delivered by the Institute of Local Government Studies and the Health Service Management Centre at the University of Birmingham.
8. The Simulations provide an opportunity for HWB Members to explore challenges and understand the inherent complexities and conflicts of interest within their roles. Board members will gain insight into how well they are working together in dealing with realistic dilemmas and challenges. A further five are scheduled in other regions during September and October.

Looking forward

9. There have been a number of changes to the membership of the Community Wellbeing Board this year, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning members to the Board. I would also like to put on record my thanks for those councillors no longer on the Board, who contributed hugely to the work undertaken last year.
10. The coming year will see councils continue to face the reality of continued cuts to budgets across service areas and efficiency challenges, together with the demographic pressures which make the case for reform of Adult Social Care so compelling. The assumption of responsibility for Public Health in 2013 will be a key moment, which I am confident the sector can seize with success. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities the year ahead will bring.

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

Superfast Broadband

1. On 7 September, the Government announced a package of temporary relaxations of planning requirements, which it believes will make it easier for communications providers to deploy broadband infrastructure. In response, the LGA's press release and on the day briefing for councils highlighted that the real barrier to broadband roll out is the fact the Government does not have the EU's permission to spend the £530 million it wants to allocate to broadband. In the absence of state aid clearance there is no superfast broadband programme and resolving this blockage must be the main focus for Government. The Government's proposals are also a significant erosion of people's ability to influence their local environment. The current planning requirements are a vital part of the democratic process that seeks to weigh up the economic benefits of new infrastructure with the impact on quality of life, the local environment and businesses as a result of disruption due to road works.

Libraries

2. I have written to all library portfolio holders to update them on how the LGA and Arts Council England (ACE) are continuing to work in partnership to provide councils with valuable support in the re-design of their library services. As part of this we have invited expressions of interest in bespoke two-day peer support, as well as offering several upcoming free library political leadership seminars to be run throughout the country. The letter also included a copy of the LGA's recent publication "Local solutions for future local library services" which contains a plethora of good practice case studies.
3. Ahead of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's report into library closures, I have also written to the Chair of the Committee to highlight why modernising the 1964 statutory duty to provide public libraries will help councils to ensure libraries continue to thrive in tough financial times. The LGA is calling for a twenty-first century Libraries Act: one that puts local accountability to the citizen and service user first, recognises that the library service is valuable for its outcomes and awards national government its true role as strategic leader, not superintendent.

2012 Games and Sport

4. As sporting fervour gripped the nation on the back of Team GB's gold medal haul, councils reported to us that leisure facilities were bursting with people wanting to get involved with sport. In response to the Prime Minister's comments about legacy, the LGA Chairman wrote to highlight that councils are ready to seize the opportunity to use the Games to make a long term difference to participation in physical activity and would welcome contributing towards the Government's plans on legacy. Councils are the biggest public sector funder of community sport, spending £1.8 billion a year. They

are also uniquely placed to encourage greater connectivity locally between National Governing Bodies, County Sport Partnerships, voluntary sports clubs and schools.

5. On July 18, I spoke at the third LGA / Sport England Leadership Academy. 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. Once again we received very positive feedback from delegates and we look forward to building upon our partnership with Sport England this year through a programme of leadership events and peer support.

Street Play

6. Following on from my interview on BBC Breakfast about the Street Play scheme in Bristol, I met with the scheme's founder and Play England's Director on 17 August. Street Play is a community-led project which works with the council to temporarily close roads to traffic in order to allow children to play safely in the street. This is an inexpensive and simple way for councils to support outdoor play and the LGA will share case studies to illustrate how it could work in other suitable places.

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Environment and Housing Board – report from Cllr Mike Jones (Chairman)

Government Initiatives on Housing and Planning

1. Over recent weeks the Environment and Housing Board members, LGA officers, and the political groups have worked hard to influence the debate in advance of government's decisions on housing and planning and have achieved significant media profile for local government's perspective on the announcement.
2. We have responded in the media to the government's proposals which would allow developers to ask councils to renegotiate previously agreed Section 106 obligations, and reiterated the point that much-needed development is being held up because buyers can't buy, and developers can't sell, as a result of the lack of liquidity in the finance market and the limited availability of mortgages. These are the real obstacles standing in the way of a recovery in new house building.
3. I and other members of the Environment and Housing board will continue to argue that planning is not the key barrier to growth and councils have a strong track record in using the planning system to bring forward much needed homes and development. We also will re-iterate that removing affordable housing requirements will not address the underlying wider economic issues that are stalling development featured strongly in media coverage.

Energy efficiency and fuel costs

4. I am delighted to be able to announce that successful lobbying by the LGA has secured funding for councils and social housing providers to improve energy efficiency and lower fuel bills of homes in the most deprived areas of the country, with a specific focus on rural areas. £190 million will be available over 2 years from January 2013 from the UK's largest energy suppliers under the 'Carbon Saving Communities' Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

Launch of the LGA Climate Local initiative

5. Over the summer the LGA successfully launched the 'Climate Local' initiative to support and help councils drive local action and reduce risks from the changing climate. I am pleased to be able to say that over 50 councils have now signed up and over 160 people are taking part in a new online network to support councils to share ideas and progress.

Flooding damage to infrastructure

6. Lobbying for exceptional funding for councils to repair substantial structural damage to local roads caused by intense summer rainfall and to help local economies to recover. This included high profile press coverage and representations to government. Though the Department for Transport have responded that they do not have funds available for

capital expenditure for exceptional flood damage, we are continuing to pursue the issue with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Car Litter Loophole

7. Earlier in the summer, Councillor Clyde Loakes, Vice-Chairman of the board responded on the LGA's behalf to the publication of Lord Marlesford's Bill in the House of Lords to close the loophole that allows people who litter from vehicles to dodge fines. The LGA emphasised the high cost of hundreds of millions of pounds' of taxpayers' money spent cleaning up after people who don't dispose of their litter responsibly, and highlighted the need for local authorities across the country to be given enforcement powers to tackle the problem.

Rural Commission and Conference

8. The LGA's Rural Commission held its Annual Commission on 11 September and its Conference the following day. This year the event was hosted by South Lakeland District Council at Low Wood Bay, Windermere. The conference featured a ministerial address from Owen Paterson MP, new Secretary of State for the Environment at the department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). We are delighted that the event was chosen as the launch for the Government's Rural Statement, which sets out how the Government intends to improve local economies and make better places to live and work.

Looking forward

9. As the new Chair of the Environment and Housing Board I look forward to getting to grips with the many challenges and opportunities that local government faces across the board's remit. I would also like to welcome the new faces from around the country who have joined the board this year, and express my thanks to those members who are no longer on the board for their contribution to our work last year. We have already begun discussions on our priorities for the forthcoming year, and this will be the main focus of our first board meeting.

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Improvement Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

2012-13 Board

1. The new 18 member strong Improvement Board will meet for the first time on 17 September. As Chairman of the Board for the second year running, I am delighted to welcome a number of new Members as well as welcoming back existing members of the board. We have a challenging and exciting 12 months ahead of us. Improvement is at the heart of the Local Government Association's (LGA) key priorities for the year and the Board has a vital role to play in mainstreaming improvement throughout the LGA's activities. I am looking forward to keeping Councillors Forum up-to date through this monthly report on the Board's activities and contribution to the Business Plan.

Improvement

2. *Sector-led improvement* - I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to address the Councillors' Induction Day on 3 September and provide an overview of the LGA's improvement offer as well as share with colleagues the excellent improvement activities going on throughout much of the sector. We have recently launched a new publication which demonstrates that despite the continuing pressure on resources, councils are embracing sector-led improvement with real commitment. The publication - '[Sector-led improvement in practice: case studies](#)' - illustrates how councils are utilising the LGA's support offer to invest in political leadership; find new ways of engaging local people and communities; invite challenge from peers; share good practice and utilise comparative data as a driver for improvement. Please take a few minutes to read these stories and make sure that you and your council are also benefiting from the support on offer.
3. For further details about the support available and how sector led improvement is being taken forward in children's and adult social services please see www.local.gov.uk/sector-led-improvement.

Innovation

4. As I mentioned in my last report, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Monmouthshire, Rotherham, Stoke and Wigan Councils have all been selected to move into the second phase of the 'Creative Councils' programme in recognition of their pioneering work in trialling radical new ways to deliver public services. Over the next couple of months, a number of these Councils will be sharing their innovative proposal with the relevant LGA Board, starting with Cornwall and Monmouthshire at the Improvement Board on 17 September. Keep your eyes peeled for one of these Councils at a Board meeting near you soon!

Productivity

5. *Procurement Pledge* - Following feedback from our consultation during May and June, the LGA's Local Government Procurement Pledge has now been launched. Thank you for all of your helpful contributions to the consultation. Please take a moment to view the final pledge on the LGA website - www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/productivity/-/journal_content/56/10171/3504186/ARTICLE-TEMPLATE. The Pledge sets out an approach that will complement local government's strong track record on procurement, the existing regional procurement arrangements and portals, and be more accessible to local SMEs.

6. *Waste* - As part of our research into reducing the cost of waste disposal, I will soon have the honour of fitting one of the first macerators (Food Waste Disposers) in a new home that will be part of an innovative waste disposal trial. Severn Trent Water has agreed to 'host' this trial for us. It is the largest trial of its kind anywhere in the world. One thousand macerators will be installed in new or refurbished homes. The intention is to monitor the savings from removing a waste stream from collection and disposal and the impact, if any, on the sewers. Although the work is starting in September 2012, the full results from the programme will not be available until autumn 2013. I will keep you up-to-date with progress as the programme develops.

Leadership

7. *National Graduate Development Programme* - The 2012 intake of the National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) have commenced their first of four rotations this month, with 77 participants so far having secured placements with 42 participating councils. I am delighted to welcome two graduates who are working here at the LGA. With placements including the Executive Office and the Members' Services, I look forward to working with them during the two years that they will be here with us.

Transparency

8. *Local Public Data Panel*- After the summer break, activity is picking up again on open data and transparency. I would like to extend my congratulations to fellow Board Member Councillor Tim Cheetham who in July was appointed to the Government's 'Local Public Data Panel'. I know he will do an excellent job at representing the sector's interests and will keep the Board apprised of developments.
9. **Your input required** - To help us to better represent local authorities' views, the LGA is launching a survey to hear from local authorities about how far open data and transparency strengthens local accountability, service improvements and efficiencies and local economic growth. We want to hear from councils about how they make data available, and where the greatest value lies in the use of data. Please keep a look out for this survey which will be sent to every council in early September.
10. Furthermore, we are inviting members and senior officers to a workshop about transparency and open data on 23 October 2012. We want to explore the value of local transparency and gather thoughts about how local authorities can take-up and make better use of open data through advice, tools and good practice, with a view to developing a sector line on transparency. If you are interested in taking part in the workshop, please e-mail transparency@local.gov.uk.
11. *Local Government Information Unit* - Councillor Ruth Cadbury, one of the Board's Deputy-Chairs, attended a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Local Government Group, supported by the Local Government Information Unit on 9 July 2012. The Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude MP, was a guest speaker and spoke about public service reform and its impact on local government.

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

Economic growth

1. The summer holidays, the Olympics and Paralympics are over and the economy is still dominating the headlines. A new Economy and Transport Board meets in late September. We need to double our efforts to promote the work that councils are already doing to promote growth and we need to ensure more devolution so local economic development is not hampered by national bureaucracy.
2. The Board is already committed to a programme with both the Department for Transport and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to test new ways of localising skills and transport delivery. A number of councils (such as Staffordshire, Manchester, Cambridgeshire and my own authority of Wakefield) are working with these ministries to ensure that the practice and potential of localism is understood and implemented by Whitehall.
3. We are also developing work with vice chancellors of universities to ensure that Higher Education (HE) plays a better role in local economic development. Whilst there are numerous examples of good local HE collaboration to drive local growth, our record in commercialising innovation to create new business is not as good as our competitors. We are arranging a summit with the HE sector to explore new ways of working.

Local Growth Campaign Town Hall Summits

4. Our programme of Town Hall Summits will continue this year. Hertfordshire, Essex, York, Manchester, Reading, Staffordshire, Bristol, Cumbria and Newcastle have all volunteered to host events. Each of these summits will focus on one of the main themes which were identified from last year's campaign (e.g. skills; transport; inward investment) and specifically look to draw out the detail of blockages and possible solutions which we will then present back to government. Following the success of last year's town hall debates, these will follow a similar format but will explore in more detail, with councils and other stakeholders, the barriers and issues identified via last year's debates. The full programme of Town Hall Summits will be sent to Members.

City Deals

5. Eight City Deals have now been signed between Government and the Core Cities (Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Bristol). They each have negotiated control of powers and levers, previously held by government, to drive growth in their particular area. Whilst each deal is bespoke to the area there are a number of key factors of a city deal: a transformative idea, the unlocking of private finance and robust governance arrangements which are seen as

necessary for a city deal to work. The core cities are now starting the implementation phase.

6. A number of councils – both cities and other areas - outside of the Core Cities have expressed their desire to broker a local growth deal with central government along the lines of the City Deals. These local growth deals would provide councils and groups of councils with the flexibility to shape national programmes to local economic circumstances. LGA officials have been involved in discussions with the Cities Unit (Cabinet Office) to support extending the City Deal offer to other cities and *non city* areas and to explore how the LGA can support councils in this process.

Environmental Audit Select Committee

7. The Economy and Transport Board submitted evidence to the Environmental Audit Select Committee's inquiry into the impact of transport on access to public services, calling for greater local control over transport decision making as a route to improving access.

Looking forward

8. I must also welcome Cllr Tony Ball, Leader of Basildon DC, as the Board's new Vice Chair and Conservative Lead Member. He is a long-standing member of the Board and has a long history of driving economic development in his district.
9. We have a full year ahead of us and I look forward to the challenges it will bring.

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

Police and Crime Commissioners

1. The LGA was represented at the Home Office's Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Transition Project on checks and balances in mid-July by Cllr Joanna Spicer. The project group received an update from the Home Office on councils' progress in setting up police and crime panels. The Home Office had requested that councils notify them about arrangements by 16 July so the Home Office could then consider whether they needed to set up the panels themselves. All but one area submitted the requested information and although the Home Office had to seek clarification from a small number of areas, the establishment of panels across England is on track, with many having already held the first meetings of the panel.
2. As the LGA's campaign to secure PCCs in membership has progressed the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), the successor body to the Association of Police Authorities (APA), has been keen to discuss with the LGA the possibility of working together to put a joint offer PCCs at the national level. The Board's Chair Cllr Mehboob Khan has been involved in a series of meetings with the APCC and APA to explore a joint arrangement. These discussions have resulted in a proposal for a joint Strategic Partnership Board with the APCC going to the Leadership Board.
3. Following guidance issued by the Senior Presiding Judge, Lord Justice Goldring, that prohibited magistrates serving on police and crime panels, the Board's Chair Cllr Khan publicly questioned the grounds on which the decision was taken. This was followed by a letter to Lord Justice Goldring from the LGA's Chairman, and shortly after Lord Justice Goldring issued revised guidance allowing magistrates to serve on police and crime panels, meaning those councillors who were magistrates would not have to resign from the bench to serve on the panel. Cllr Khan welcomed the revised guidance in a further press notice.

Metal theft

4. Ahead of the second reading in mid-July of the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill introduced by Richard Ottaway MP, members of the Board contacted their MPs to urge them to attend the debate and support the bill. The Board's chair Cllr Khan was also quoted in the media ahead of the second reading debate stressing the importance of the bill, backed up by evidence from an LGA survey showing that nine out of ten councils had been hit by metal theft. The bill has now reached committee stage where the LGA will be raising concerns about conditions on licences and pressing for a flexible fee structure.

Anti-Social Behaviour

5. Publication of the most recent crime statistics in July was used in a press statement by the Board's Chair, Cllr Khan, to highlight the issue of anti-social behaviour and the

important role councils play in addressing it. A guide for councils to the anti-social behaviour case management pilots run last year was published in August with a foreword from the Board's anti-social behaviour champion, Cllr Anita Lower. The guide outlined what the councils involved in the pilots, in particular those in South Wales and Cambridgeshire had learnt from the experience.

Communications Data Bill Committee

6. Cllr Paul Bettison offered reassurance to the Communications Data Bill Committee that councils only access communications data when absolutely necessary to protect their communities. He emphasised that the powers are used to tackle crimes that present misery for residents and protect the most vulnerable against rogue traders, loan sharks and doorstep crime, and also to bring to justice those committing benefit fraud.

Street fundraisers

7. Cllr Nilgun Canver represented the LGA at the launch of Lord Hodgson's review of the Charities Act 2006. The review looked sympathetically on LGA proposals to strengthen the role of councils in tackling problem street fundraisers and Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, has since written to Carolyn Downs asking for the LGA to support the Government Response to the review.

Fire

8. Cllr Maurice Heaster wrote to Bob Neill MP, on behalf of the Fire Services Management Committee expressing concerns at the government's proposals for the allocation of costs arising from the retrospective access for retained firefighters to the pension scheme. Discussions are ongoing. Following the meeting on 18 July, Cllr Heaster wrote to the Minister, drawing on our legal advice and setting out FSMC's strongly held view that the costs should be borne by government.

Council visits

9. Cllr Khan visited London authorities Haringey, Hackney and Lambeth in his role as Chair to look at areas of good practice, the challenges facing these councils and how the LGA can support and assist.

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

Pensions

1. The employer consultation on the design for the new Local Government Pension Scheme has resulted in overwhelming support for the proposals agreed by the LGA and the local government trade unions. Responses were received from over 500 employers (accounting for 50% of the scheme membership), and 93% supported the proposals.
2. The three largest local government unions also voted overwhelmingly to accept the proposals and we have now asked government to proceed directly to a statutory consultation to implement our agreed proposals.
3. Final discussions are now taking place between the LGA, the trade unions and Government to agree proposals in respect of future scheme governance and cost management.
4. The Public Service Pensions Bill due in the middle of September will include legislation to implement the reformed Teachers Pension Scheme despite the two largest teaching unions remaining opposed to the deal set out in the Heads of Agreement.

Soulbury Committee

5. In July the Officers' Side of the Soulbury Committee submitted a claim for *'a significant increase on all Soulbury pay scale points and the London allowances from 1 September 2012...'* and for *'joint discussions leading to joint guidance in respect of a number of conditions of service issues, namely, annual leave and time off in lieu, car user and mileage allowances, job evaluation, workload, and professional registration fees for educational psychologists'*.
6. The National Employers are undertaking a consultation on this claim and will formally respond to the Officers' Side when the Soulbury Committee meets next month.

Local Government Services

7. As part of the LGS Employers' Side's wish to reach agreement on reform of pay and terms and conditions, a number of key meetings have taken place in the past few weeks. The LGA's Chairman and Chief Executive met with UNISON's General Secretary, Dave Prentis, as well as subsequent officer-led discussions.
8. The Trade Union Side has indicated that it is willing to engage in more formal talks with the Employers, but both sides acknowledge the huge amount of work ahead. Colleagues will be kept informed of developments.

Fire

9. The Employees' Side of the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services entered a claim in March for an increase in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) figure available in June. That figure was 3.5%. The Employers' Side considered the claim when the National Joint Council (NJC) met in June. In doing so, Employer

members were mindful of a number of issues including; the financial challenges facing fire authorities; economic pressures on the workforce; the Government's current public sector pay policy; a desire for reform of terms and conditions; and the current position for local authority employees.

10. Taking all factors into account, members indicated to the Employees' Side that they would be minded to make some level of pay award linked to commitments in respect of reform of conditions of service.
11. Since June discussion has continued and it is hoped that a mutually satisfactory conclusion to the negotiations will be reached shortly.

School teachers

12. The Department for Education has stated that the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) will report to the Secretary of State by the end of October 2012, and not 28 September as set out in the original remit. The issues covered in its report will be those set out at the last Councillors' Forum meeting – local pay and making greater links between pay and performance.
13. The next remit is will be later in 2012. This will ask the STRB to consider and make recommendations in respect of a post-pay freeze pay award for teachers (from September 2013). It may also refer other issues for their consideration.

Coroners

14. Agreement has been reached in the Joint Negotiating Committee for Coroners that a pay award will not be applied for 2012.

Public Health Workforce Issues

15. Negotiations at a national level have produced agreement that all staff transfers to local government will be carried out using transfer schemes, which give affected staff TUPE-like protections on transfer. Discussions are on-going about options for pension provision after the transfer, for staff who move jobs/sectors and for new starters.
16. The LGA has been involved in discussions about the final shape of statutory guidance on the appointment of Directors of Public Health, which is due to be issued shortly.
17. The LGA has launched a video podcast discussing good practice in dealing with the public health transition, and are running a national conference in October in partnership with the NHS.

Universal Credit

18. The Workforce Team is working closely with other colleagues to clarify the legal situation around the potential for transfer of displaced benefits administration staff to the new bodies that will administer universal credit.

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

Delivering our Lobbying Priorities

2012 – 13 European and International Board and Priorities

1. The new members of the European and International Board (E&I) will meet for the first time on 17 September. I look forward to working with a number of new Members as well as existing colleagues over the next 12 months in demonstrating the importance of international activity and European engagement across the LGA and local government sector.
2. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express my gratitude to Councillor Linda Gillham, the former Independent Group Deputy Chair of the Board, for her commitment and contribution over the past three years.
3. As we head into a very busy Autumn session in the European Parliament, the LGA is particularly active on the rules surrounding future European Union (EU) funds, public procurement and environmental legislation. We continue to push for EU decision makers to consider the financial implications new EU rules have on councils in addition to the benefits they may bring. Increasingly, the rules agreed in Brussels affect the day-to-day work of councils.

EU funding post-2014

4. With the current round of EU funding ending next year, one of the Board's top priorities is to convince EU funding decision makers in Whitehall and Brussels that councils should play a lead role in the design and implementation of EU funds, adding value and bringing efficiencies. Councillor David Sparks OBE, Vice Chairman of the LGA, recently met with Mark Prisk MP – the responsible Minister on the future of the EU structural funds. Discussion focused on the options for future EU funds in the context of driving growth, and localism. The Minister was particularly interested in the LGA work on future EU funding models and local resolutions to the concern over match-funding. The LGA offered regular meetings to ensure a coordinated UK response on EU Funds.
5. A cross-party delegation of E&I Board Members, including the three lead members and myself, will be meeting Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in the European Parliament on 18 September 2012 to make the case for more locally-responsive EU funding model. We will also take the opportunity to set out our stall on other issues being considered by the Parliament affecting councils' day-to-day work including procurement, energy efficiency and working time. Part of this will include a roundtable discussion bringing together the UK Government, Commission, the European Parliament and UK regional offices. I look forward to feeding back to you in my next report on these key lobbying activities.

International links: Learning and Sharing

Congress of local and regional authorities

6. The LGA is responsible for nominating 13 full members and 13 alternates to Congress, the local government arm of the Council of Europe. With the current mandate expiring on 15 October 2012, the LGA has coordinated the nomination of a UK Delegation that is gender-balanced, respects political balance in each of the constituent countries, has representation from each English region, covers all type and size of authority and has a mix of urban and rural. The UK Delegation will meet for the first time on 15 October when it will elect its political office-holders and agree allocations to committees.
7. I am delighted to announce that Congress' visit to scrutinise the UK's local democracy week will include a visit to the LGA. This will now take place in February 2013.

MEPs' link to local government in England

8. We have recently re-launched 'Local Link' the LGA's e-bulletin on EU issues targeted specifically towards English MEPs. The bulletin keeps our MEPs up-to-date on how the EU rules they agree affect the day-to-day work of councils. The aim is to have at least three editions per year.

Africa Peer Reviews

9. I am pleased to confirm that the second of the five pilot African peer reviews, delivered in partnership with United Cities & Local Government Africa (UCLGA) and funded by the government of Luxembourg has now been successfully delivered and received positive feedback from all participants. The review, held in Accra was of the National Association of Local Authorities Ghana and the participating UK peers were Cllr Marianne Overton, Vice Chairman of the LGA and Jim Dillon, Chief Executive of Scarborough Borough Council.
10. Board colleagues and I are taking a keen interest in the delivery phase of the African Peer Review Project and are committed to maximising the learning gained from the programme, including a thorough evaluation following the completion of the five reviews. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of this ground breaking programme with you in due course.

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Audit Committee – Report from Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE (Chairman)

1. Having reviewed the LGA's first set of audited consolidated accounts in May, the Panel reviewed the audited financial statements for the IDeA, LGE, LACORS and LGIH prior to these being adopted by the relevant company boards. These financial statements have all received an unqualified audit opinion from the external auditors, Littlejohn LLP.
2. The Panel received the final report from the scrutiny review of the LGA's direct offer to members. The central conclusion from the review was that while the offer itself is fundamentally sound, providing a valuable and comprehensive service to member councils and councillors, the way the LGA communicates the offer could be improved.
3. The Panel's recommendations include strengthening our engagement with backbenchers and informing councillors more directly of the LGA's lobbying successes. The recommendations from the review are now being implemented and a member-level reference group has also been set up to provide feedback on communication and marketing plans and ideas as they develop.
4. The Panel carried out a review of its activities during 2011/12 and reflected on changes that are to be introduced from September 2012. The Panel is to be superseded by a newly constituted Audit Committee, which will focus on external and internal audit, with responsibility for scrutiny being transferred to the LGA's Resources Panel.

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Local authority bonds task and finish group – report from Cllr Edward Lord OBE JP (Chairman)

Certainty rate

1. The 2012 Budget proposed a 20 basis points (0.2%) reduction in interest rates for loans from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLb).
2. LGA and Local Partnerships staff have met Treasury and councils to ensure that the certainty rate arrangements were put into place with the minimum of unnecessary bureaucratic oversight.

Discussions with local government finance officers.

3. Having discussed the proposed agency with CIPFA technical group that oversees capital and treasury issues officers established there was strong support for the LGA's work. A key issue is there are benefits for councils from having different sources of borrowing.
4. Two consultation conferences were organised (in Lancashire and London) at which the LGA proposals were set out to an audience of Finance Directors. Both meetings sought feedback from finance practitioners and that information will be built into developing work.

International perspectives

5. Officers have met senior managers from the different Nordic collective local government agencies. There was strong interest in our work and the related discussions were very helpful in setting out the practical issues in setting up and prudently managing a local authority agency.
6. The LGA Chairman has also met with politicians and officials in Sweden and Denmark to share knowledge about our plans, and to see how collective agencies operate in practice.

The summary business case

7. Copies of the summary business base have been sent to all Welsh and English councils and a web page providing further information has been launched on the LGA website.

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

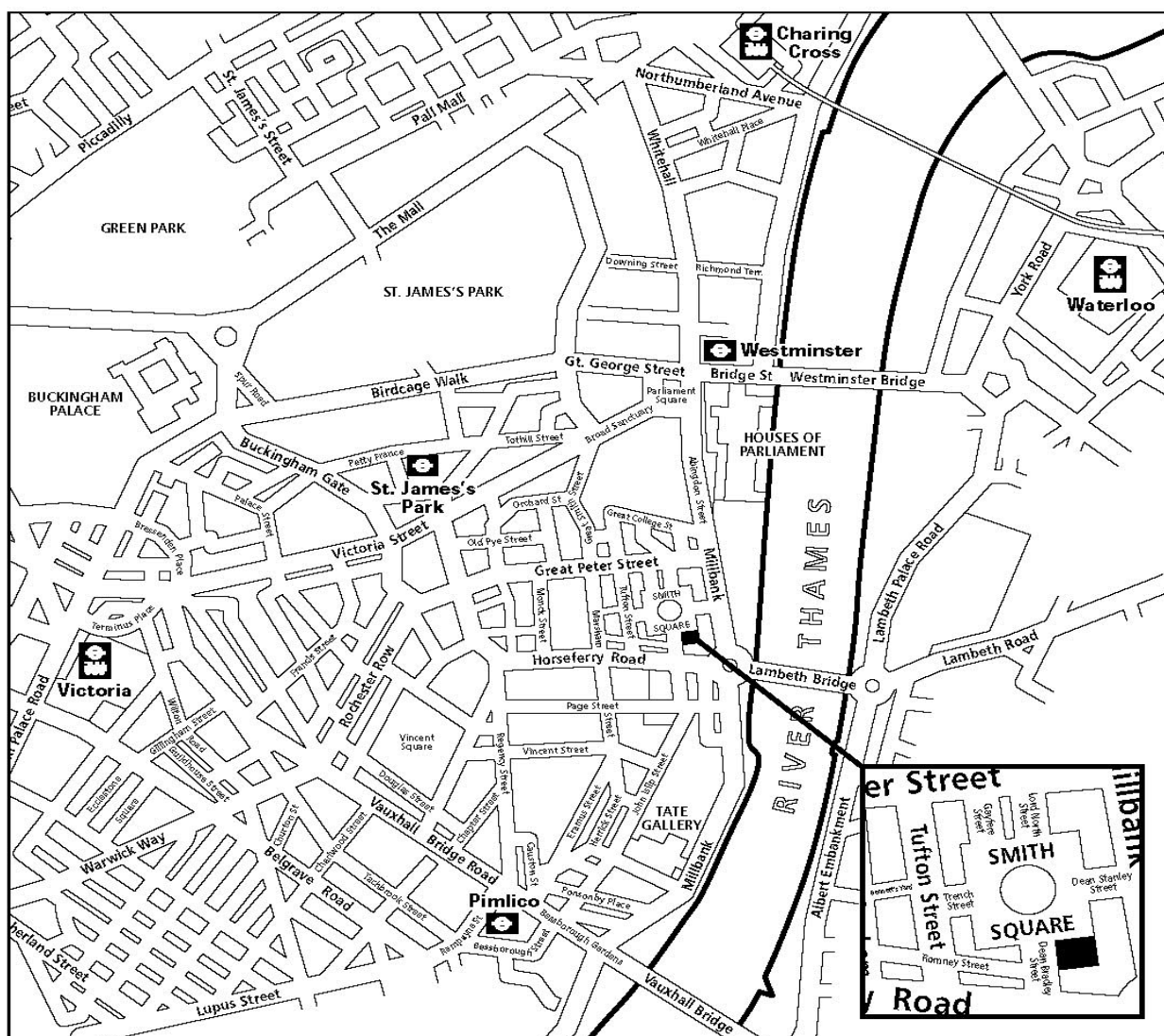
1. After two weeks of unprecedented sporting achievement for Team GB and international recognition that Britain delivered a hugely successful Olympic Games, councils across the country laid on celebrations; naming streets after their sporting heroes and bestowing the rare Freedom of the Borough honour. Councils made sure that local communities were able to welcome home their Olympic medal winners and celebrate their achievement, drive and dedication.
2. The Cabinet Committee for the Olympics, which was established to ensure strategic coordination across the Olympic project, put on record their appreciation to all those involved in the success of the Games and the Torch Relay including councils, transport bodies and countless other organisations up and down the country who helped make it happen. The Committee met in the run up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and meetings were chaired by the Prime Minister or the former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Jeremy Hunt MP. The LGA was represented at the Committee at meetings where the agenda required a local government viewpoint by LGA Chairman Sir Merrick Cockell and by Cllr Stephen Castle. At official level meetings which were chaired by a senior civil servant we were represented by a London Borough Chief Executive. This allowed any issues for host councils to be raised with Government and addressed in a timely way. A staff officer from the National Local Authority Resilience Programme was located in the Olympic Secretariat for all key times during Games and liaised closely with the Government Olympic Executive.
3. The Games passed off without incident for all the venues both in and outside London and all the councils involved can be very proud of the huge amount of work that was undertaken to help ensure the Torch Relay and the Olympic and Paralympic Games were such a triumph. Approximately 14.3 million people lined the streets to see the Olympic Flame on its 70-day relay around the country.
4. Councils approached the Paralympic Games in the same way as the Olympic Games and arrangements were the same but on a smaller scale. Thirty-three communities across the UK hosted a Paralympic flame celebration event over the August Bank Holiday weekend. There were fewer competition venues outside London, with rowing at Eton Dorney, sailing at Weymouth and cycling at Brands Hatch in Sevenoaks in Kent. The Olympic Secretariat was staffed throughout the Paralympics and the LGA Liaison officers performed exactly the same role. There was widespread agreement that the LGA Liaison officer post worked well in practice and the learning from this arrangement will be captured to ensure similar that similar ways of working will be used in future when appropriate.
5. Cllr Stephen Castle is due to attend the final meeting of the Nations and Regions Group on 18 September 2012 which will provide an opportunity for sharing Torch relay and Games-time experiences.

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6. A letter has been sent from the LGA to Lord Sebastian Coe on his appointment by the Prime Minister as legacy ambassador. Lord Coe will advise on how best to secure the long-term benefits of hosting the Games, particularly focusing on the economic and business benefits from putting on such a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games.
7. The LGA Task and Finish Group will have its final meeting on 8 November 2012 to consider recommendations on learning and legacy.

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LGA Location Map



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Public transport

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

Victoria

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

Bus routes - Millbank

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

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

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

Cycling Facilities

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

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

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

Car Parks

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