

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday 16 May 2013
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

Welcome!

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

Security

All visitors (who do not already have an LGA ID badge), are requested to report to the Reception desk where they will be asked to sign in and will be handed a visitor's badge to be worn at all times whilst in the building.

Fire instructions

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the green Fire Exit signs. Go straight to the assembly point in Tufton Street via Dean Trench Street (off Smith Square).

DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.

DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

Members' facilities on the 7th floor

The Terrace Lounge (Members' Room) has refreshments available and also access to the roof terrace, which Members are welcome to use. Work facilities for members, providing workstations, telephone and Internet access, fax and photocopying facilities and staff support are also available.

Open Council

'Open Council', on the 1st floor of LG House, provides informal meeting and business facilities with refreshments, for local authority members/officers who are in London.



Toilets

Toilets for people with disabilities are situated on the Basement, Ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 7th floors. Female toilets are situated on the basement, ground, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th floors. Male toilets are available on the basement, ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th floors.

Accessibility

Every effort has been made to make the building as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. Induction loop systems have been installed in all the larger meeting rooms and at the main reception. There is a parking space for blue badge holders outside the Smith Square entrance and two more blue badge holders' spaces in Dean Stanley Street to the side of the building. There is also a wheelchair lift at the main entrance. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

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

Councillors' Forum 2012-2013

Updated 08.05.13

This Forum comprises a core group of 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
Richard Stay	Central Bedfordshire Council
Paul Findlow	Cheshire East Council
Mike Jones	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Ken Taylor	Coventry City Council
Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Ken Thornber CBE	Hampshire CC
Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Robert Gordon CBE DL	Hertfordshire CC
David Simmonds	Hillingdon LBC
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Clare Whelan	Lambeth LBC
Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
Bill Borrett	Norfolk CC
Marco Cereste	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] (plus sub pool)	
Sharon Taylor	Stevenage/Herts

Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich/Suffolk
Judi Billing	Hitchin
Sian Timoney	Luton
Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak
Dave Wilcox	Derbyshire
Graham Chapman	Nottingham
Eion Watts	Bolsover
Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest
Ruth Cadbury	Hounslow
Steve Bullock	Lewisham
Jules Pipe	Hackney
Catherine West	Islington
Paul Watson	Sunderland
Simon Henig	Durham
Ian Swithenbank	Northumberland
Tim Moore	Liverpool
Jim McMahon	Oldham
John Merry	Salford
Linda Thomas	Bolton
Richard Leese	Manchester
Peter Smith	Wigan
Colin Lloyd	Crawley
Helen Holland	Bristol
David Phillips	Swansea
David Sparks	Dudley
Ann Lucas	Coventry
Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton
James Alexander	York
Keith Wakefield	Leeds
Peter Box	Wakefield
Mehboob Khan	Kirklees
Steve Houghton	Barnsley
Mike Roberts	Rushmoor
<i>Kate Hollern</i>	<i>Blackburn with Darwen BC</i>
<i>Hazel Simmons</i>	<i>Luton</i>
<i>Julie Young</i>	<i>Essex</i>
<i>Chris Fegan</i>	<i>Colchester</i>
<i>Michael Payne</i>	<i>Gedling</i>
<i>Anne Western</i>	<i>Derbyshire</i>
<i>Paul Bayliss</i>	<i>Derby</i>
<i>Rory Palmer</i>	<i>Leicester</i>
<i>Robert Parker</i>	<i>Lincolnshire</i>
<i>Tony Belton</i>	<i>Wandsworth</i>
<i>Robin Wales</i>	<i>Newham</i>
<i>Theo Blackwell</i>	<i>Camden</i>
<i>Jagdish Sharma</i>	<i>Hounslow</i>
<i>Robert Khan</i>	<i>Islington</i>
<i>Judith Blakeman</i>	<i>Kensington & Chelsea</i>
<i>Catherine McDonald</i>	<i>Southwark</i>
<i>David Edger</i>	<i>Tower Hamlets</i>
<i>Len Duvall</i>	<i>London Assembly</i>
<i>Iain Malcolm</i>	<i>South Tyneside</i>
<i>Anne Schofield</i>	<i>Newcastle</i>

<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>Bury</i>
<i>Ronnie Round</i>	<i>Knowsley</i>
<i>Tony McDermott</i>	<i>Halton</i>
<i>Marie Rimmer</i>	<i>St Helens</i>
<i>Sue Murphy</i>	<i>Manchester</i>
<i>Brenda Warrington</i>	<i>Tameside</i>
<i>Stewart Young</i>	<i>Cumbria</i>
<i>Joe Hendry</i>	<i>Carlisle</i>
<i>Simon Blackburn</i>	<i>Blackpool</i>
<i>Justin Madders</i>	<i>Cheshire West & Chester</i>
<i>Tony Page</i>	<i>Reading</i>
<i>Roger Hutchinson</i>	<i>South Gloucestershire</i>
<i>Tudor Evans</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>
<i>Aaron Shotton</i>	<i>Flintshire</i>
<i>John Mutton</i>	<i>Coventry</i>
<i>Steve Eling</i>	<i>Sandwell</i>
<i>Ian Ward</i>	<i>Birmingham</i>
<i>Catharine Grundy</i>	<i>Birmingham</i>
<i>Mohammed Pervez</i>	<i>Stoke</i>
<i>Roger Stone</i>	<i>Rotherham</i>
<i>Judith Blake</i>	<i>Leeds</i>
Liberal Democrat (14)	
Roger Symonds	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Flick Rea	Camden LB
Keith House	Eastleigh BC
Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire CC
David Neighbour	Hart DC
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
Additional Member:	
Paul Tilsley MBE	Birmingham City
<i>Substitutes</i>	
Tim Bick	Cambridge City Council
Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Hilary Jones	Derby City Council
Chris White	Hertfordshire CC
Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
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 [7]	
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
Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire County Council
Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Apu Bagchi	Bedford Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 16 May 2013

12.30pm – 1.30pm

The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

	Item	Page	Time
1.	Voting Past, Present and Future Bobby Duffy, Managing Director Social Research Institute Ipsos MORI, and Professor Colin Rallings, Co Director Local Government Elections Centre University of Plymouth, will discuss their research both about generational change and the meaning of the election results from the local elections on May 2 nd 2013.	3	12.30pm
2.	Chairman's Update	5	1.20pm
3.	LGA Board and Panel Chairs' Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Children & Young People Board – Councillor David Simmonds b. Community Wellbeing Board – Councillor David Rogers OBE c. Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Councillor Flick Rea d. Economy & Transport Board – Councillor Peter Box CBE e. Environment & Housing Board – Councillor Mike Jones f. European & International Board – Councillor Dave Wilcox OBE g. Improvement and Innovation Board – Councillor Peter Fleming h. Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Councillor Mehboob Khan i. Workforce Board – Mayor Sir Steve Bullock j. Finance Panel – Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE k. Bonds Task & Finish Group – Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP 	7	1.25pm
4.	Digest of Last Meeting	39	

Date of Next Meeting: 13 June 2013, 12:30pm, LGH, Westminster Suite

Voting Past, Present and Future

Summary

1. Bobby Duffy, Managing Director of the Social Research Institute at Ipsos MORI, and Professor Colin Rallings, Professor of Politics and Co Director of the Local Government Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth will give a post-election analysis following the local elections on Thursday 2nd May. They will give their expert opinion into the implications of the changes and what we might expect in the future.
2. They will also speak about their research into generational change and an update on individual electoral registration.

Biographies

Professor Colin Rallings, Professor of Politics and Co Director Local Government Elections Centre at University of Plymouth



Colin Rallings' first degree was in Politics and Modern History from the University of Manchester. Subsequently he was awarded a Master's degree in Politics by Strathclyde and, in 1979, a Ph.D. by the University of Essex for a thesis on electoral behaviour. He joined the then Plymouth Polytechnic in 1976, being appointed Professor of Politics in 1997. He has held visiting appointments at the University of Leiden, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Queensland, and the Australian National University, Canberra. He is a member of the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) panel of assessors for Politics and International Relations, and of the Council's Research Resources Board.

He is Co-Director of the Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre. With his co-researcher, Michael Thrasher, he established the Elections Centre in 1985 in order to collect, analyse and publish the results of local elections in Britain. The Centre produces the annual Local Elections Handbook, now in its 19th year of publication, which provides full details of local voting throughout Great Britain. Twentieth century local election results for a range of authorities are the subject of a new series of Centre publications.

Rallings and Thrasher have published extensively in the area of local electoral behaviour. A list of more recent publications can be found below. Since 1984 they have also published a monthly review of by-elections for the Local Government Chronicle. These results are used to develop a model that estimates the monthly national standing of the three main political parties. Rallings and Thrasher are frequent contributors to The Sunday Times and Daily Telegraph while Rallings is an elections analyst for ITN.

The Plymouth team has recently completed two other important projects relevant to electoral reform. The first project, funded by the DETR, has examined the determinants of local electoral turnout in England and is available from the DETR website. The second, a report on sub-national electoral systems in Europe, commissioned by the Rowntree Foundation, was recently published. A third project, sponsored by the Leverhulme Foundation, is examining the process and effects of re-drawing local authority ward boundaries and a research monograph on this topic will be published in 2001.

Item 1

Bobby Duffy, Managing Director of Social Research Institute at Ipsos MORI



Bobby runs Ipsos MORI's Public Affairs specialism in the UK. This is made up of the Social Research Institute (the largest social research agency in the UK) and the Reputation Centre. He joined MORI in 1994 from an economic policy think tank and has worked in social research ever since. He has particularly focused on our work for major evaluations of government programmes, as well as policy development in public service reform. He also set up and ran a number of our key initiatives, including the Research Methods Unit and Participation Unit, and produces many of our main thought leadership reports. He writes and presents widely on public policy and political issues, and has been a User Fellow at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at LSE and spent time working in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit.

Bobby is particularly focused on making sure that the huge wealth of information on social issues that Ipsos MORI collects is as widely used as possible to inform policy and academic thinking.

He lives in the Barbican with his partner and two daughters.

Contact officer:	Joe Simpson
Position:	Principal Strategic Adviser
Phone no:	07773 335 341
E-mail:	joe.simpson@local.gov.uk

Chairman's Update April 2013

LGA Business

1. March and April saw the continuation of our **LGA regional roadshows**. I made a total of ten visits across the country stretching from Durham in our North East region to Taunton in the South West. The events have focused on the five main issues as noted in my update in March.
2. Having brought the roadshow programme to its conclusion, preparations were undertaken for further 'deep dive' discussions. Carolyn and I attended sessions at the **Independent Local Government Deep Dive** at Church House. I particularly enjoyed attending as a participant and contributing to the breakout sessions.
3. Following the Budget Day, I held a **post-budget phone in** with in excess of **50 member authorities** on the call. I opened with my thoughts on the Budget announcements and took questions from our members on community budgets and growth. For those who couldn't make the call, I also answered submitted questions on the implications of changes to the Second State Pension for local authorities and on the contracting out of the National Insurance discount in 2016/17.
4. Economic growth has been a reoccurring theme throughout our Board meetings. The Chancellor's Budget and Spending Review was again the focus of discussion, this time in April's **Leadership Board**. I also welcomed **Lord Smith of Leigh**, Chairman of the Leadership Centre, to present a report updating our members on the work of the Leadership Centre.
5. At our last **LGA Executive** meeting, we discussed the LGA's spending review submission and heard from **Robert Sullivan, Chief Executive of Broadband Delivery UK** who provided insight into superfast broadband as essential infrastructure for many businesses attempting to deliver greater economic growth.

Ministerial / Parliamentary business

6. During March and April I met:
 - 6.1. **Rt Hon David Cameron MP**, Prime Minister, for a general discussion on a range of topics, including Whole-Place Community Budgets. I also pressed for deeper government commitment to the local growth agenda and enquired about the Prime Minister's attendance at this year's Annual Conference.
 - 6.2. **Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury**, Chairman of the Environment Agency, to discuss how to engage with the EA to improve the way it works with councils as a statutory consultee. I also sought clarification on any changes in approach to flood maintenance activities and addressed potential outcomes of the EA triennial review in addition to the Spending Review.
 - 6.3. **Mark Hoban MP**, Minister of State for Work and Pensions, to discuss Community Budgets, Local Growth Deals (formerly City Deals) and our recently published Hidden Talents II Report.

- 6.4. **Rt Hon Justine Greening MP**, Secretary of State for DfID (*Phonecall*), to discuss development in transition and ways to work with DfID to strengthen the strategic relationship between DfID and HM Government.

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

7. Straight after April's Leadership Board, Carolyn and I travelled to Brussels to meet with a number of MEPs including, **Richard Howett MEP**, **Catherine Bearder MEP** and **Richard Ashworth MEP**. Our brief visit included a meeting with the Council of European Municipalities & Regions and a working lunch with **President of the Swedish LGA (SALAR) Anders Knappe**. The final engagement of the day was my participation in the pre-plenary meeting of UK members at the **EU Committee of the Regions**. As the external guest speaker, I undertook a short intervention which was followed by a debate on the UK budget and economic situation.
8. I joined **Peter Craine, Programme Director of the DGroup** for their monthly Director-level working lunch where I delivered a speech on the role of local authorities in nurturing business opportunities.
9. I have also spoken at several other events including the **LGC Awards**, the launch of the **NLGN's Thinking the Unthinkable Report** and our **Future Vision Design Dinner**.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

10. The roadshows have provided an invaluable opportunity for me to meet and work with several of our councillors and member councils, including **Cllr Gordon Keymer**, Liverpool **Mayor Joe Anderson**, Cllr Angus Campbell, Birmingham City Council's **Cllr Sir Albert Bore** and Cllr Mehboob Khan to name only a few.
11. I was invited to visit **Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council** in April, where I met with **Council Leader Ken Meeson**. Whilst there I learned of recent successes of Land Rover and Birmingham Airport and implications such success has on SMBC. I then travelled on to **Warwickshire County Council** to meet with then **Leader Cllr Alan Farnell** and members of the WCC cabinet. I listened to their views on local elections and discussed HS2 and the work of the LGA.

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

Meeting with the British Youth Council

1. I recently held a meeting with the Chief executive and Deputy Chief executive of the British Youth Council (BYC). The BYC is a youth-led charity that helps to get young people influencing decisions that matter to them, through involvement in democracy locally, nationally and internationally as well as helping in their communities and volunteering. We had a good discussion about how together we can improve engagement between councils and youth organisations such as the UK Youth Parliament and make sure young people get their voices heard.

Meeting with the National Careers Council

2. On 2nd April I met with representatives from the National Careers Council (NCC) and officers from the LGA to discuss the role of Local Government in careers support services. The NCC was set up to advise the skills Minister Matthew Hancock on issues related to careers policy and the recently established National Careers Service (NCS). Currently there are a wide range of organisations delivering and/or commissioning careers guidance including schools, colleges, careers professionals, councils, NCS, and national agencies. It is important that the careers guidance does not become disjointed especially with councils taking on the responsibility of Raising the Participation Age (RPA). We discussed the long-established tradition of councils providing support to young people and focused on how local authorities through their economic engagement with the local community are in a good position to act as a counterweight to the interests of individual learning providers and help young people engage with large, medium and small employers. Click [here](#) for the LGA submission to the National Careers Council. The NCC will in May report to the Skills Minister on current careers policy which may also carry with it some recommendations.

LGA/ADCS support to improve councils post-16 tracking and recording

3. Last month, the LGA and ADCS developed two days of sector-led support to councils wishing to improve the way they track and record young people's progress, and reduce their 'not known' rates. Open to all councils, a total of 24 council officers participated over the days, which was based around action learning sets, with councils supporting one another with ideas of what works locally. Tracking and recording is fundamental to establishing where young people are at any given time in the system, and underpins all subsequent support a young person receives. However, the job is complex and time-consuming, requiring timely and accurate data from a range of local learning providers, and councils' ability to fulfill this duty is significantly affected by reductions in resources. Material and learning will be shared widely with all councils to spread learning when the support concludes later in the year.

Conference on School self-evaluation

4. Over the 8th and 9th April I attended a conference in Cyprus on School self-evaluation. The conference considered the conditions for creating an evaluation culture at school level that could promote school development and quality including both evaluation of individual teachers and students, co-responsibility for a positive learning environment,

and evaluation of the whole school. It was interesting to listen to examples from other areas such as Cyprus and take back ideas for schools in the UK.

Debate on modern childhood hosted by the National Children's Bureau (NCB).

5. I recently attended a very interesting debate on modern Childhood hosted by the NCB. The panel made up of BBC's Mark Easton, Claire Fox Director of the Institute of Ideas, and the Children's Commissioner Dr Maggie Atkinson, considered how modern childhood had been transformed in Britain and asked the question: do today's children enjoy better rights and opportunities than ever before? Or for those growing up below the bread-line, is poverty, poor health and inequality as entrenched as it was 50 years ago? The debate gave people a chance to voice their concerns about how the lack of freedom and opportunities for some children were leading to frustrated and disadvantaged teenagers. People also discussed what lay ahead for children and how best to encourage the disadvantaged to engage.

Children's Improvement Board funding removed

6. Following the decision by the Department for Education to end funding for the Children's Improvement Board. I have been involved in discussions within the LGA and with external partners about how we can maintain the most valued parts of the offer to councils. These discussions are still on going and we will continue to update members on the progress.

Cllr David Bellotti speaks at LGA Smith Square Debates on Youth Unemployment

7. Cllr David Bellotti spoke on behalf of the LGA in the first in the spring series of Smith Square Debates. The debate was on youth unemployment entitled 'Together in the national interest? Reaching the most disengaged'. Over 100 people attended the debate, held in partnership with the Work Foundation and chaired by Owen Jones.
8. Speaking to a packed room Cllr David Bellotti said that the LGA's answer to youth unemployment was to work at a local level, with local partnerships and make sure these young people are seen as individuals with individual needs. Others speakers included Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Shadow Employment Minister and Baroness Stedman-Scott, Chief Executive of Tomorrow's people. A number of topics were raised including the need to reach the most disengaged and how to prevent people becoming disengaged as well as the need for one-to-one support. Owen Jones asked the panellists a number of questions submitted in advance about the Educational Maintenance Allowance and local authority control of schools. Attendees also asked questions on a number of topics including the possible 'postcode lottery' when it comes to support for young people, the role of recruiters in tackling unemployment and how careers advice in schools could be more effective.

Teenage Pregnancy Conference

9. On 23rd April the LGA held a very successful Teenage Pregnancy Conference in London, with over 70 people in attendance. The conference focused on local authorities' responsibility in reducing teenage pregnancy, through a series of interactive discussions and workshops which brought together key stakeholders from across health, education, local government and other key partners. Lively discussion

and debate was had with many great ideas and best practice examples being taken back to the attendee's councils.

Children and Families bill Impact on Adoption

10. I was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Women's Hour to discuss the impact the children and families bill will have on adoption. I explained that it is important to recognise speed of adoption is not necessarily the best measure of success, Councils have twice the success rate of adoption agencies, and the we feel that taking the time to make sure the placement is right for the child should be prioritised above speed of the system.

Contact officer: Sally Burlington

Position: Head of Programmes

Phone no: 020 7664 3099

E-mail: sally.burlington@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Board – report from Cllr Zoe Patrick (Chair)

Integrated Care

1. Integration of health and social care has been a key focus for the Community Wellbeing team's work over the last few months. The LGA has established a joint 'Integrated Care and Support Working Group' to align our work on integrated care – made up of LGA, NHSE, Monitor, ADASS, Department of Health, ADCS and Public Health England. This collaborative group has developed a joint workplan focussed on four key themes – Narrative, Case for Change, Barriers and Enablers, Tools and Support.
2. This has so far consisted of a patient/service user Narrative for integrated care, a resource sheet and a 'Shared Commitment' document which outlines a series of local and national commitments and the tools and support that national partners will provide for the integrated care 'Pioneers' and the wider system. The working group, with the LGA as the lead, has also commissioned a toolkit for local areas to support the business case for whole system integrated care models. Work is now moving to the implementation phase.
3. In support of this work, Cllr Rogers and Cllr Gillian Ford have attended meetings with the Minister of State for Social Care, Norman Lamb MP to discuss and agree the joint work programme. Further, on 17 April Cllr Rogers took part in a seminar hosted by the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham MP and the Reform thinktank, to discuss the concept of whole-person care.

Adult social care reform for working age adults

4. Cllr Lynn Travis, Member of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, gave oral evidence on 19 March to an inquiry on adult social care reform for working age adults, held jointly between the APPGs on Local Government and on Disability. Cllr Travis noted that whilst the direction of travel is positive (greater emphasis on personalisation and a holistic approach to wellbeing) the potential positive impact of the reform agenda could be at risk if there is insufficient baseline funding for the system. Cllr Travis also set out the importance of prevention and urged the Government for clarity on how the social care cost cap will work for people aged 40 and above.

Mental health

5. Cllr David Rogers attended a meeting on 19 March to input into Public Health England's plans and work programme to help put mental health at the heart of the new public health system, and to support development of system wide leadership in this important area. Cllr Rogers and colleagues from Kent County Council illustrated to Norman Lamb MP, Minister for Care, how councils can provide democratic leadership for all parts of the wider public health system at a local level, to ensure they contribute to mental health and wellbeing objectives.
6. On 27 April the LGA hosted '**a brighter future: councils' role in improving mental health and wellbeing**', organised jointly with the children and young people board as part of the public health and children's health work programme. Cllr Lynn Travis chaired the morning session and over seventy people attended the conference. Speakers included a young person who shared her views on involving children and

young people in health care decisions and three local authority case studies of public mental health working locally.

Death certification reforms

7. Cllr David Rogers met Minister of State for Public Health, Anna Soubry MP, on 12 March to raise the LGA's concerns regarding the implementation on the new duty on unitary and county councils to appoint independent medical examiners to oversee the death certification process. It has not yet been implemented and, as yet, there is no confirmed date for implementation.

Tuberculosis Oversight Group

8. On 10 April, Councillor Catherine McDonald represented the LGA at the first meeting of Public Health England's 'Tuberculosis Oversight Group'. PHE have identified Tuberculosis as one of their key health protection priorities for 2013/14. The meeting reviewed the current epidemiology, the evidence for what will make the biggest difference, and considered what a comprehensive disease prevention and control programme would look like across the public health system, the NHS, local government, the third sector and others as appropriate.

Measles

9. On 26 April Public Health England published their Measles Immunisation Plan, following outbreaks in Swansea and other areas. The main thrust of the new campaign is to urge young people between 10 and 16 years of age who remain under- or unvaccinated to get vaccinated. The Public Health England Centre and NHS England Area Screening and Immunisation teams will work together and with your Director of Public Health to plan and coordinate the local response to ensure you have up to date information about measles cases in your area. To support councils the LGA has recently co-produced an FAQ document on Measles: <http://tinyurl.com/c8p3ep8>.

Councils' role in tackling teenage pregnancy and improving health outcomes

10. Cllr Jonathan McShane, LB Hackney chaired this LGA conference attended by over seventy delegates. Speakers included Anna Soubry MP, Public Health Minister and Simon Blake, Chief Executive of Brook. Three local authority case studies shared how they are tackling teenage pregnancy and a young parent co-presented a workshop on Canterbury District Young Parent Service.

Transfer of public health to local authorities - resources

11. April marked the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to local authorities. The LGA have published a number of resources to help local authorities understand how they can tackle key public health issues like teenage pregnancy, obesity, mental health, drugs and alcohol. Each briefing focuses on issues affecting children, young people as well as adults and contains case study examples and ideas for success: <http://tinyurl.com/cod86q6>

Contact officer: Sally Burlington
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 020 7664 3099
E-mail: Sally.Burlington@local.gov.uk

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

Spending Review Submission

1. The culture, sport and digital economy element of the LGA's spending review submission made the case for giving councils the necessary levers and flexibilities to maximise the contribution of cultural services to local growth priorities. We argued for a new approach to lottery funding, a funding solution for Universal Credit that recognises public libraries will be a key access point for face-to-face support, a partnership approach to keeping the broadband roll-out on track and investment in physical activity to tackle obesity and improve public health. It was very encouraging that Maria Miller's recent keynote speech on the arts recognised that many councils are already driving local growth through investment in the arts.

Superfast Broadband

2. Robert Sullivan, Chief Executive of Broadband Delivery UK – the unit in DCMS responsible for government broadband funding – updated the LGA's Executive in March on the progress of the superfast broadband roll-out. He was fulsome about councils' commitment to making a success of superfast broadband roll-out. The programme is now moving at pace. 15 contracts with suppliers have been signed and there are more to follow. Members discussed the importance of broadband as an enabler of economic growth and reinforced that councils want to work in partnership with government and telecommunications providers to keep the roll-out on track and achieve value for money.

Visitor Economy

3. I met Viscountess Penny Cobham, Chair of VisitEngland on 19 March. I updated Lady Cobham on the LGA's new arts and growth publication, which highlights the importance of the arts to attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer. VisitEngland is supporting this through a new partnership arrangement with Arts Council England (ACE), which will result in around £3 million funding to local arts organisations and events to help places develop a strong cultural offer and attract more visitors. We are encouraging VisitEngland to involve fully councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships in the allocation of the funding.

Local Government and ACE Area Councils

4. ACE has published its new non-executive governance arrangements, following an independent review which the LGA contributed to. ACE is replacing its 9 regional councils with 5 area councils. I am pleased that one-third of seats will be reserved for local government, in recognition of our vital role supporting and funding the arts locally, and that ACE has agreed with the LGA that local government should nominate its own representatives to the area councils. I have written to Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair of ACE, to offer the LGA's full support with the transition to the new arrangements.

Sport

5. I have written to Nick Bitel to congratulate him on his appointment as the new chair of Sport England. The LGA works in partnership with Sport England to deliver a very successful joint leadership programme for portfolio holders – we are running our fifth leadership academy in June. In my letter to Nick I also emphasised the opportunities councils' new responsibilities for public health present for sport and physical activity.

The future of culture

6. I participated in a lively debate organised by the "What Next?" alliance of cultural organisations on 29 April. My participation was an opportunity to highlight the many different ways local government is supporting culture in tough financial times and the importance of making the links between culture and other community outcomes, especially economic growth.

Contact officer:	Paul Raynes
Position:	Head of Programmes
Phone no:	020 7664 3037
E-mail:	Paul.Raynes@local.gov.uk

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

Spending Review

1. I have been following debates within Government as departments have been submitting their bids to the Treasury for the 2015-16 spending round. Some tough decisions have to be made so that public spending is targeted to ensure growth and jobs. Ministers will need to remember that councils are one of the few parts of the public sector to use their resources to drive growth and jobs. The LGA put in a comprehensive submission to Government and central to our bid was a proposal to boost local growth. One big decision that the Government has to make in this spending review is whether or not to back Lord Heseltine's single pot for regeneration. We are lobbying hard to ensure that the ambition of Lord Heseltine for a substantial devolution of budgets to the local level is met. However, we have also put down markers that this needs to be devolved cash, rather than a recentralisation of cash already devolved to councils and LEPs (such as the transport majors funding). Lord Heseltine will speak at the LGA conference in July and I hope that we are all sharing good news at this plenary session.

Manchester Town Hall Debate

2. Our series of Town Hall debates to highlight what councils are doing to regenerate their towns and cities came to a conclusion in Manchester at a session held jointly with Universities UK (UUK), where we examined the role of universities in local growth. I chaired an excellent panel of speakers including Manchester CC Deputy Leader, Cllr Sue Murphy and Professor Rod Coombs from the University of Manchester. A joint publication with Universities UK promoting collaborative working was launched at the event and is available [here](#) on the LGA website.

Oral evidence to Local Growth APPG

3. On 16 April, I gave evidence on behalf of the LGA to the Local Growth APPG as part of their inquiry into local growth and skills. Speaking during the roundtable session, I highlighted the fragmented nature of the skills system and the resulting mismatch. I also said that skills and growth need to be decentralised as national approaches do not allow for local differences and pointed out that local councils are best placed to bring together local partnerships. Alongside my oral evidence, the LGA has also submitted written evidence to the APPG.

Update on Streetworks

4. Following on from our December publication which highlighted the cost of streetworks by utility companies to business and local growth, I chaired a streetworks summit in March which looked at how we can work with these companies and business to improve streetworks, better inform business of works being carried out and of compensation schemes and to ensure contractors do a much better job. The summit was attended by Norman Baker MP, Transport Minister, Louise Ellman MP, Chair of the Transport Select Committee, the Association of Convenience Stores, the British Retail Consortium, fifteen utility companies and the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG). Local government representatives included Transport for London, the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) and the Joint Authorities Group (JAGUK). Cllr Nick Clarke, Cambridgeshire CC represented other Board members and led discussions at the summit.

Item 3 (d)

5. The most important outcome of the summit was a recognition by local government and the utilities present that streetworks pose a problem for all and that we need to work together to improve performance in terms of coordination, minimising disruption and reinstatement. There was agreement to establishing a task force which will bring together partners to take matters forward and report back to the larger group. The first meeting of the task force is on 20 May.

High Streets development

6. On 17 April, Deputy Chair, Cllr Mike Haines, was a panellist on the Kilburn High Road Forum, which brought the London Boroughs of Camden and Brent together for the first public debate on the future of Kilburn High Road. Alongside councillors from both Boroughs and a local resident, Cllr Haines provided an overview of the national debate on the future of Britain's high streets, as well as the LGA's work in supporting councils to think outside of the box.
7. On 29 April, Cllr Haines attended the launch of the 2013 Love Your Local Market (LYLM) fortnight, hosted by Ann Coffey MP and the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) in the House of Commons. This year's LYLM fortnight will run from 15-29 May and has already improved on last year's campaign, with a significant increase in traders and participating markets across the country.

Cycling All Party Parliamentary Group

8. Since Deputy Chair, Cllr Roger Symonds, gave evidence to the Cycling APPG as part of their inquiry titled "[Get Britain Cycling](#)", the APPG has published its report. The summary and recommendations of the report are available [here](#), and the full report authored by Professor Phil Goodwin, University of West England, is available [here](#).

Parking Evidence Submitted

9. The Commons Transport Select Committee has opened an inquiry into local authority parking policy. The LGA has submitted written evidence to the Inquiry, which can be found [here](#) at PE42, page 163. The key messages are that council revenue from parking (including penalty charges) is dwarfed by council spending on transport; and that the need for parking provision or its restriction, and the appropriate level of charges, will vary from place to place even within a single district; these needs can only be properly assessed at the local level.

Hidden Talents

10. The LGA's Hidden Talents campaign features in an article in The Guardian, which writes of the good work being done by local councils and the LGA to match skills training with the needs of the local economy and to remove barriers for local businesses to employ young people. You can read the article [here](#) on The Guardian website.

Contact officer:	Ian Hughes
Position:	Head of Programmes
Phone no:	020 7664 3101
E-mail:	ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

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

Growth and Infrastructure Act

1. The Growth and Infrastructure Bill received Royal Assent on 25 April, bringing to an end the LGA's six month parliamentary campaign on the legislation. Our lobbying resulted in a number of changes to the legislation. The criteria for measuring performance on processing major planning applications will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny and approval, before it can be used to judge any local authority. The proposal to allow developers to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate to renegotiate the level of affordable housing with their section 106 agreement, will now expire in April 2016 following the insertion of a 'sunset' provision which the LGA campaigned for alongside the National Housing Federation. We also secured a new clause to strip away the bureaucracy surrounding Local Development Orders, removing the centrally set monitoring requirements and the need to seek the Secretary of State's approval for draft Orders.
2. The clauses within the Act which reform the system for registering town and village greens were agreed without amendment, against formidable opposition, reflecting LGA campaigning. These measures align registration with the planning system, simplifying the process for councils, and preventing the system being abused as a tool to prevent development. We also campaigned for removal of the housing borrowing cap, which is currently imposed on stock owning councils. Finally, the Bill proved itself to be another channel for debating government's plans to increase the size of single storey household extensions under permitted development. The LGA and its members worked with members of both the Commons and Lords to campaign strongly against these proposals. In response to the debate, Government brought forward a new process through which neighbours can raise objections. This now is a matter for secondary legislation and while we have continuing concerns with this new system, members of the House of Lords secured a commitment from Government to discuss the detail of the new system with the LGA before regulations were brought forward.

Housing

3. This month the LGA submitted our response to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Housing Commission, and I provided oral evidence to an evidence session on investment. We stressed that councils are supporting growth and are using the planning system to provide certainty to encourage investment. The real barrier to housing growth is access to finance to build and to buy. We know that councils are working in partnership with developers to bring forward sites and unlock those that have stalled. Our statements also reiterated the LGA's opposition to the unnecessary centrally set housing borrowing cap.
4. We have also provided input into the Labour Party's Commission on Infrastructure chaired by Sir John Armitt. Cllr Ed Turner joined attendees from a range of sectors including utility companies and regulators to discuss how Britain can achieve the improvements to infrastructure it needs to remain competitive. New housing development must be sustainable over the long term and infrastructure contributions are an essential part of this. Cllr Turner noted that although in many cases decision-making remains out of local government's control, for any infrastructure scheme governance arrangements which reflect political decision-making at a local level are vital to success.

5. We continue to maintain dialogue with the National Housing Federation (NHF) through meetings with their Chair, Lord Matthew Taylor, and Chief Executive, David Orr. We discussed the potential impact of welfare reforms on local authorities and housing associations and agreed to work closely to share our organisations' evidence on the cumulative impact of the reforms. There will be a board-to-board meeting to consider findings from this research. We also discussed the LGA and NHF's positions ahead of the Spending Review, as well as issues relating to the Green Deal and apprenticeships.

Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Governance Board

6. Cllr Tony Newman and I attended the first meeting of the new PAS Governance Board on 11 April. The Board has been set up to provide sector leadership to the support offered by PAS ensure it is responsive to councils' needs and supports exchange of good practice. The aim is to support on-going improvement in plan making and decision taking including helping councils to avoid designation on performance on major applications. The Board consists of the LGA, DCLG Directors and representatives of SOLACE, ADEPT and the Planning Officers Society.

Waste Update

7. Following our work defending councils' interests during the Judicial Review of Defra on recycling regulations, we have urged Ministers to take account of the principle of local determination explicitly supported by the judgment when drawing up the new MRF Code of Practice and in guidance accompanying the regulations. Our consultation response called for proportionate and appropriate measures which will generate both market confidence in the quality of recyclate and the certainty which councils need. Cllr Clare Whelan reiterated these points when she attended a roundtable with Lord de Mauley and waste management industry, as did I in a recent meeting with the Minister.

Accessing Energy Company Obligation funding for energy efficiency schemes

8. The LGA has been making the case for local authorities that are not registered as Green Deal Providers to place their energy efficiency projects on the ECO brokerage service. In response to DECC's consultation on the ECO brokerage and in our submission to the spending review process, we set out how allowing councils access would contribute to the success of the platform and deliver government objectives by fostering competition, targeting resources to those who need it most and maximising the resource available for projects.
9. In support of this work I met with Angela Knight, Chief Executive of the Energy UK. We discussed the LGA and Energy UK's priorities on energy efficiency, and how both organisations can support councils and energy suppliers to work effectively together. At the meeting we agreed to promote good practice (showcasing a range of examples of effective local partnerships between councils, energy suppliers, and other agencies), explore options to promote action on energy efficiency by Registered Providers, and to organise a joint conference on the theme of local action on energy efficiency in the autumn, in collaboration with the NHF.

Events - Planning for Growth and Private rented and empty homes conferences

10. Cllr Clyde Loakes and Cllr Ed Turner chaired two conferences in April that addressed councils' role in facilitating much-needed housing and growth. Speakers included Shona Dunn, Director of Planning, DCLG and Andrew Stanford, Head of the Private Rented Sector Taskforce, DCLG, as well as experts from local councils around the country. A range of well-attended workshops and panel discussions examined topics such as engaging with landlords, bringing empty homes back in to use, negotiating sustainable growth locally; and how long-term planning can be used to promote growth.

Contact officer:

Caroline Green

Position:

Programme Lead

Phone no:

020 7664 3037

E-mail:paul.raynes@local.gov.uk

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

Delivering Our Lobbying Priorities

1. It is said that a week is a long time in politics, so it is not surprising that a lot has happened since my last report two months ago. In that time, there have been significant developments on the next phase of EU funding for 2014-2020, the LGA has responded to a number of important European Commission and UK Government consultations, and significant progress has been made in taking forward our work stream on councils' role in supporting international trade and investment. This is to mention but a few of the European and International Board's activities.

Future EU funding powers for councils

2. It is great news that for the first time, the EU is set to recognise that local authorities must be closely involved in the preparation of the UK's spending plan for the next round of EU funding. The new rules, which the LGA lobbied hard to secure, will require Government to formally organise and demonstrate a partnership with local authorities for agreeing funding for essential local infrastructure and skills projects.

2014 - 2020 EU funding blow to England

3. However, there is still lobbying work to be done, as last month saw Ministers allocate England a proposed £6.174 billion of EU funding, which represents 65% of the total UK pot. The majority of this will be devolved to local areas to determine spend. We have expressed concern that this is a considerable shift in resource from England to the devolved administrations. The LGA Chairman raised this personally with the European Commission and MEPs, and has sought further clarification on the funding methodology.

EU Structural and investment funds: preliminary guidance for LEPs

4. On 12 April, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) recently released preliminary guidance on how Government envisages the new EU Structural and investment funds programme working. Given that EU funds will support key local responsibilities, it is vitally important that councils strongly articulate their expertise so that LEP plans are grounded in local innovation and supported by council leadership. Once the detailed guidance is published in June, the LGA will be bringing councils together to discuss these issues, so watch this space.

Future European Social Fund delivery

5. On 18 April, BIS published results of a research study on the effectiveness of European Social Fund (ESF) delivery, concluding that current provision is too generic with limited local impact, which is in part due to the large contracts. Many of the report's recommendations reflect the LGA's views, including that future ESF provision should: support economic growth and employment opportunities within a locality based context; governance and management mechanisms should be sufficiently attuned and responsive to local priorities and needs; and that procurement and contracting should be more flexible and that aligning ESF and the ERDF guided by a 'place based' needs

should be a priority. The LGA is working with councils to develop ideas on the future design of ESF.

Future public procurement rules

6. Negotiations on the new EU procurement rules continue between the European Parliament and national governments. With the new rules scheduled to be adopted by the EU in the Autumn 2013 and coming into force in the UK at some point during 2015, we have written to the key players to ensure certain shared services agreements between local authorities can be clearly exempted from the need to conduct a costly and lengthy EU-wide tender process.

European Commission and UK Government Consultations

7. The LGA have responded robustly to two consultations over the past month. On the European Commission's consultation on Regional Aid Guidelines, we made the case that now is not the time to reduce public bodies' ability to support large companies given the need to create and safeguard jobs and tackle the on-going effects of the economic crisis in local areas of all types. Whilst in our response to the Government's consultation on the national applicability of licences under the Services Directive, we expressed deep concern that the approach taken by BIS prevents us from understanding what the impact of proposed changes will be on council services and reminded Government of the need to work in partnership with us on this issue.

International Links: Learning and Sharing

Platforma Forum

8. On the 3 and 4 March 2013 I spoke at the Platforma Forum, hosted at the European Parliament in Brussels. Platforma is a network of European local and regional government associations promoting the role of local government as a partner in EU international development policy. Within the context of rapid political and economic change in European policy making, I was pleased to represent the LGA in calling for a more decentralised approach to European aid spending.

Council's role in supporting International Trade and Investment

9. From the 11 - 15 March 2013, Board colleagues and I (in partnership with the British Embassy in Mexico and UKTI) co-hosted a trade delegation of senior political and executive representatives of three states Republic of Mexico. This formed part of the Board's on-going work to nurture trading links with emerging markets via local government.
10. The delegation were very interested in learning about new methods of local service delivery, in particular how to develop better public private and NGO partnerships. There was also strong interest in establishing trade links with British business and a high regard for British innovation. We are currently exploring how we can support this project through developing an international potential peer review model, around the theme of capacity for public sector working with private and third-sector partners and local economic growth.
11. On 19 March, I chaired a meeting between the LGA and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) regional directors to explore opportunities for better integration of national and

16 May 2013

Item 3 (f)

local inward investment and trade efforts. The LGA's work with Mexican and African local government, alongside other examples from within the sector, provided strong examples of why this was important. It was agreed that both organisations would set out a framework for better co-ordination, engagement and intelligence-sharing between UKTI, local authorities, business and LEPs.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Programme
Phone no: 020 7664 3101
E-mail: ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

Improvement & Innovation Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming

INNOVATION

LGA/Nesta Innovation Zone

1. Over the past few months we have been busy organising the Innovation area at the annual conference. For the first time, Nesta, the UK's innovation foundation, is going to be curating an Innovation Zone at the heart of the Local Government Association's annual conference and exhibition. Running on 2 and 3 July, the LGA/Nesta Innovation Zone will:
 - 1.1. Showcase a range of brilliant social innovations that can help councils to meet their most pressing local challenges.
 - 1.2. Share the latest thinking and insights generated through cutting-edge work on Creative Councils, ageing, health, jobs and others.
 - 1.3. Offer practical group and one-to-one sessions to help delegates to hone their innovation skills and think about how these can be successfully applied in their councils.
2. The Innovation Zone is aiming to provide insights, inspiration and practical support to councils that are ready to think in fundamentally different ways.

Improvement and innovation sessions

3. As part of the annual conference programme, we will be running a number of dedicated improvement and innovation sessions – just a few of the highlights include a parallel plenary session on innovation 'fresh' practice with Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive of Nesta; workshops on peer support and the commissioning council plus a masterclass for chief executives on reshaping the workforce and a session on sharing chief executives.

Creative Councils Camp

4. I attended a Creative Councils Camp on 24/25th April hosted by Stoke with whom, alongside representatives from Wigan, Monmouthshire, Derbyshire and Rotherham, we spent time discussing the issues of risk, governance and finance in local government innovation. We were interested in what each Creative Council has learnt about risk, governance and finance, however formal or informal their work had been, at however an early stage it was and however successful it has been. Arising from these discussions we identified some useful practice on mitigating risk without losing the impetus for innovation and the importance of appropriate governance. We also devoted time on how best to capture learning into eleven themes and used workshops to concentrate upon four of these themes; culture of organisations, leadership, embedding innovation and capability/skills for its delivery. The capturing of learning will be an on-going theme up until the end of the Creative Councils programme and it will form part of the dissemination material which will be included within the Innovation Zone at LGA Conference.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership Development

5. The March board meeting saw a great discussion on how to move forward with leadership development to ensure that programmes are providing what Councils need. The LGA recently held with the District Council's Network a second "Leadership for Improvement" workshop for leaders and chief executives with 28 participants attending. The workshops help develop councillor's relationship building, community engagement and ability to deal with and enact change, enabling strong leaders throughout local authorities.

TRANSPARENCY

Problems with Government Scheme to Prosecute tenants from illegally subletting

6. I recently responded to the media coverage on the problems councils are having enforcing the government scheme to prosecute tenants illegally subletting their homes. As a group Local authorities are getting better and better at tackling fraud every day with many setting up specialist teams. However in order to enforce this scheme councils need to be given access to records from the likes of utility companies and broadband providers, without this data Councils are facing an almost impossible task trying to prosecute illegal subletting.

Making Transparency work for you Seminar and workshop

7. My fellow board member Cllr Tim Cheetham recently spoke at the Making Transparency work for you – seminar and workshop in Leeds. He provided attendees with a seminar on an introduction to transparency in local authorities, there were a number of speakers and topics throughout the workshop including technical requirements for publishing data, the current drivers and policies for open data and transparency and taking a look at examples of good practice in variety of areas.

PRODUCTIVITY

Capital Assets Programme Launch

8. Since the last report we have seen the launch of the One Public Estate programme jointly with the Cabinet Office. I spoke to the media outlining the fantastic opportunities this scheme provides for departments from across government to work with leading local authorities, and help Whitehall utilise public land to its full potential. The public sector has somewhere in the region of £370 billion worth of assets covering everything from office blocks to disused coal fields. Rather than just selling off all the surplus land and buildings we need to be smart and look to continue making savings now through being more efficient and making sensible decisions based on the long-term needs of local residents.
9. The 12 pilot local authorities taking part in the programme are: Bristol, Chester and Cheshire West, Essex, Hampshire, Hull, Leeds, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Surrey, Warrington and Worcestershire. They already have extensive experience in reducing the number of buildings they use to save money, clearing and selling off disused land for redevelopment and leasing land for redevelopment to provide councils with a better long-term return on their assets. It is great that the government is using the expertise of local government to save money and I hope this can lead to more collaborative projects in the future.

Contact officer: Dennis Skinner

Position: Head of Leadership and Productivity

Phone no: 020 7664 3017

E-mail: Dennis.Skinner@local.gov.uk

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

Home Office issues

1. The Board discussed Home Office matters at its March meeting with the Minister for Criminal Information, Lord Taylor, who is also responsible for all Home Office business in the House of Lords, and links with local government and communities. Lord Taylor spoke about metal theft and implementing the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, the ability of councils to access communications data under the draft Communications Data Bill, and alcohol licensing. He also highlighted the important role local authorities have in assisting with the implementation of policies, and the need for on-going conversation between the Home Office and the LGA about issues faced by councils. The Board stressed the importance of councils continuing to access communications data. Lord Taylor emphasised that councils needed to make their case not just to ministers, but also to parliamentarians and more widely.
2. Following the meeting, the Home Office was in contact to seek LGA support for the draft Bill. The Board indicated that its priority was to preserve the ability of councils to access communications data, and not add councils' powers in this area. Without knowing whether the Bill retained councils' access to the communications data, the Board indicated that it could not comment on it at this stage. It now seems that the draft Bill will not be included in the Queen's Speech, meaning that the current position will be maintained and councils will continue to be able to access communications data.

Police and Crime Panels

3. At the end of March the Board's chair Cllr Mehboob Khan chaired a conference specifically for police and crime panels. Delegates from over two-thirds of panels in England and Wales heard from other panels about their experiences since November 2012 and how panels can provide good scrutiny of police and crime commissioners. Delegates discussed learning drawn from conducting confirmation hearings for chief constable and chief executive appointments, handling complaints and scrutinising police and crime plans and commissioners' precepts. Conference attendees identified what future support police and crime panels would need in the year ahead, and how the LGA could continue to assist panels in their first year in operation.

PCC working group

4. A PCC working group made up of members from the LGA's Safer Communities Board and Fire Services Management Committee met on 19 March. The group seeks to draw on emerging good practice from Fire and Rescue Services which members can use in their discussions with PCCs to highlight the important work of the sector in areas such as reducing reoffending and emergency planning. Cllr Rebecca Knox, Chairman of Dorset Fire Authority sent a letter and survey on the group's behalf to all Chief Fire Officers and Chairs in England and Wales, seeking information on learning gained so far in their relationships with PCCs.

Council regulatory services are 'open for business'

5. Both the LGA Executive and the Stronger and Safer Communities Board met in March to discuss the future of local regulation and how regulation can be put at the centre of

Item 3 (h)

work by councils on economic growth. The LGA recognises that while local regulatory services provide advice to businesses on a daily basis to cut through red tape and help them comply with the law, regulation is still perceived as a barrier. Against a backdrop of economic uncertainty and continuing concern about the negative impact of regulation, councils are working to ensure that local regulation becomes intrinsically linked to work on economic growth. As a result of discussions at board meetings and member feedback, the LGA is beginning a piece of work to help businesses recognise how local regulation can contribute to economic success, increase accessibility of regulatory support for businesses, promote collaborative working and identify barriers to our shared objectives on growth. The LGA will engage with members and business representatives as this work area continues to develop.

6. As part of this engagement, Cllr Mehboob Khan attended a meeting of the Better Regulation Delivery Office Representative Steering Group at the end of April. The meeting, chaired by the Minister for Business and Enterprise, Michael Fallon MP, includes representatives from the Welsh government, the Health and Safety Executive, the Food Standards Agency, the British Retail Consortium, the Federation of Small Businesses and the TUC. It discusses a range of regulatory issues and advises government on regulatory matters.

Late-night levy workshop

7. 10 councils actively giving consideration to the introduction of a late-night levy joined Councillor Nilgun Canver, LGA Licensing Champion, to discuss the key issues facing them as they seek to manage their night-time economies. Representatives agreed that this gives an excellent opportunity to take a step back and consider how the tools available to councils and the police can work together, and to reassess what is appropriate for their area. It is not an exercise that is fundamentally about raising income for councils or the police, but a tool that will provide additional services or secure the future of services identified by businesses as important to operating a safe and vibrant night-time economy. Councils present agreed to work together to develop robust proposals that will stand up to challenges from industry.

Annual Fire Conference

8. The LGA Fire Conference on 12-13 March was a significant success drawing nearly 300 delegates despite challenging weather conditions. Nearly all Fire and Rescue Authorities in England and Wales were represented. Cllr Kay Hammond and other members of the Fire Services Management Committee chaired a range of plenary and workshop sessions. Funding was a key theme for the conference. Delegates heard from several authorities, including Cllr Mehboob Khan representing West Yorkshire, on the transformation taking place in the sector. One outcome of the conference, referenced in both the Minister's and Shadow Minister's speeches, was the need for a more in-depth understanding of increased commercialisation in the sector and the importance of the fire sector highlighting its relevance to social care, children and young people and growth agendas.

Contact officer: Helen Murray
Position: Head of Programme
Phone no: 020 7664 3266
E-mail: helen.murray@local.gov.uk

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

Pensions

1. The Public Service Pensions Bill received royal ascent on Friday 26th April and will form the primary legislative framework for the reformed LGPS and Teachers Scheme. The LGA, working with local government trade unions was successful in lobbying for a number of significant amendments to the Bill as it passed through its various stages in the House.
2. Work continues on regulations to implement the new LGPS from 2014 with a consultations on both the benefit and transitional regulations currently underway and a further consultation on governance regulations expected before the end of May.
3. Discussions continue with HM Treasury to finalise arrangements for a dual process cost management system. This will consist of the process agreed by the LGA and trade unions to incrementally manage total costs to 19.5% plus a HMT 'backstop' process which will manage a yet undisclosed employer cost cap on a different basis. This situation is not ideal and may lead to difficulties if the two processes clash.

Local Government Services

4. The National Employers met on the 24.4.2013 and in view of there being no prospects of achieving any reform to terms and conditions the Employers made the following final offer to the unions:
 - 4.1. 1.0% on all pay points with effect from 1 April 2013
 - 4.2. the deletion of pay point 4 with effect from 1 October 2013*
 - 4.2.1. Spinal Column Point 4 (SCP4) is currently £6.30 per hour, which is just 11p above the National Minimum Wage (NMW) of £6.19. The Government announced on 15 April that the NMW is to increase to £6.31 on 1 October 2013. Therefore, applying the 1.0% offer to SCP4 would further reduce the differential to just 5p per hour, which the Employers consider to be an undesirable situation.
5. In deciding to make this final offer, the Employers took into account:
 - 5.1. the financial parameters set by councils
 - 5.2. the strongly-held view that a fourth consecutive year of no pay increase was not acceptable
 - 5.3. and that in order for all employees to receive a pay increase a national settlement is necessary

Public Health Workforce Transition

6. Monitoring of the post-transfer situation continues and early indications are that events happened smoothly and that transferred staff are bedding-in well. There are plenty of detailed queries to handle but they are technical in nature and Directors of Public Health especially seem to have developed good relationships with HR teams in many

Item 3 (i)

places. Many types of council seem to have found the final transfer scheme to be an advantageous document. Work is continuing especially to develop a good national relationship with Public Health England so that advice and information can be provided for councils on on-going issues. An important next step is the publication of the Public Health Workforce Strategy which identifies some key responsibilities for the LGA on behalf of the sector.

Pay progression

7. Members will have noted that in the recent budget, the Chancellor outlined a move away from remaining automatic pay increment structures in the civil service. The announcement has prompted renewed thinking about pay progression systems in local government. The strategy team is beginning a programme including research to refresh and renew the LGA guidance on pay progression.

Fire

8. The NJC for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services is currently working on two joint reviews. The first relates to reform of pay and terms and conditions and the National Employers' approach has been informed by detailed preparatory work with its professional advisers (through the Advisory Forum) and the view of the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA). Joint discussion has commenced with the intention of concluding the review by June. The second review relates to identification of an appropriate mileage rate for Grey Book staff. The Employers' aspiration is to move to HMRC rates and negotiations are continuing.
In addition, we continue to support fire authorities seeking to secure change at local level to terms and conditions and/or putting in place new shift systems. This is through the provision of technical advice and guidance, a confidential conciliation service (provided jointly through the NJC on request from both parties) and the provision of joint industrial relations training at local level.

School Teachers

9. The 2013 School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) has been published and will come into force on 1 September 2013. It contains a number of new provisions, most significantly those relating to differential performance-related pay progression.
10. The School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) will publish its recommendations on the teacher pay award for 2013/14 at the end of May. The STPCD will be amended prior to September 2013 to reflect any pay award.
11. The Secretary of State has issued the STRB with a new remit covering (a) the pay framework for school leaders, (b) the provisions for allowances, other pay flexibilities and safeguarding and (c) the framework for non-pay conditions of service. NEOST has been invited to submit written evidence to the STRB by 18 June.

Youth and Community

12. The JNC Youth and Community Trade Union Side submitted its pay and conditions claim for 2013 in March. The main elements of the claim were for '*A substantial rise on all grades and allowances from September 2013*' and for the '*removal of the bottom pay*'

points, so that the starting salary point for a Youth Support Worker would be Pay Point 5'. A process of consultation with local authorities is still taking place and the outcome of LGS NJC negotiations is awaited. The National Employers were therefore unable to formally respond to the Trade Union Side at the meeting of the JNC on 22 April. A formal response to the claim will be sent shortly and this will reaffirm the Employers' objective of reform of the national machinery.

New ways of working including social enterprises

13. We are preparing to run an event, in partnership with the Cabinet office, to provide further information for Councils who wish to support their employees through the process of setting up a social enterprise. The event will be held at Local Government House on the 25.6.2013 and is provisionally titled 'How to empower your workforce to deliver services through mutuals'.

Layers and spans of Control

14. The Workforce Strategy team are currently rolling out this Organisational tool in Hillingdon Council. The Layers and Spans offer is proving popular amongst councils and we are also rolling out the LGA offer to Wales and Northern Ireland.

Contact officer:	Sarah Messenger
Position:	Head of Workforce
Phone number:	020 71877342
E-mail:	sarah.messenger@local.gov.uk

Finance Panel – report from Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (Chair)

The Spending Review

1. The LGA's Spending Round submission was sent to the Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 29 April. This was following a request in a recent letter from Brandon Lewis MP to the LGA Chairman to submit evidence on this date (which was also the deadline for departmental submissions to HMT). The Finance Panel commented on:
 - 1.1 an overview of the LGA Spending Round submission;
 - 1.2 a paper on local government finance; and
 - 1.3 a paper showing how a typical council has been affected by the funding reductions in SR10, its contribution to growth, the impact of further reductions in 2015-16 and how our proposed measures would help.
2. There were also 9 other themed papers which were cleared through the relevant LGA Boards. These were: adult services; children's services; culture, sport and the digital economy; energy; fire; growth; housing; transport; and waste. Community Budgets was a theme running through all of the papers. The main themes, and the approach, were agreed by Leadership Board on 10 April.
3. Individual themed papers were sent only to Ministers in the relevant department/s (not to all departments). CLG and HMT received all of the papers, plus the overview and the impact on a typical council. Follow up meetings with Cabinet Ministers are now beginning to take place. The results of the review will be announced on 26 June with government ministers signalling that non-protected budgets will be reduced by up to 10 per cent.

Social Investment

4. Ben Jupp (Social Finance) recently attended the Finance Panel to talk about developments in the social investment market. We discussed joint work to promote the opportunities to councils. Officers are now working with Social Finance on a short programme of seminars on social investment, a research report exploring its potential and a workshop at the LGA annual conference.

New Model and Deep Dive

5. Financial sustainability is one of the five themes that the LGA are looking at as part of the work to develop a new model of local government – the others are growth, social care, welfare reform and independent local government.
6. During February and March, the LGA held a number of regional road shows to discuss the new model which reached a consensus that the current funding arrangements are not fit for purpose. Panel colleagues and I also had the opportunity to input into this work at our March Panel meeting.

7. The discussions have been wide-ranging, looking in particular at the scope for greater independence on taxation and equalisation, the differential impact of the funding reductions, relaxing the controls on borrowing, the need for medium term certainty in grant funding, efficiency in the public sector on a place-based basis and strengthening places ability to benefit from growth in tax revenues.
8. On 16 April, Members and officers from more than 20 local authorities, LGA officials and civil servants from HMT, CLG and the Department of Health came together to discuss the 2013 Spending Round and the medium term implications for local government finance. This meeting helped to inform the spending review submission but also feeds into the development of the thinking on the new model.

Universal Credit - Local Support services Framework

9. The LGA has set out a position on the future role of councils in Universal Credit (UC) in response to the Local Support Services Framework, which was developed by a joint DWP/LGA task group, and describes the sort of support services councils might need to provide or commission for UC claimants, and how those services might be paid for and managed. Our response was informed by an LGA Conference and discussions at the LGA Executive and the Finance Panel. In a covering letter to Lord Freud, Sir Merrick and I emphasised that supporting UC clients is inevitably a core part of local government's mission, but we need to get the deal right and it needs to recognise local government's role in managing the face-to-face elements of UC. Sir Merrick and I are due to meet Lord Freud, the Welfare Reform Minister, to discuss this further. We are also continuing to press for clarification on the timetable for UC roll out, and associated new burdens funding.

Local Authority Led Universal Credit Face to Face Pilots

10. The Local Authority pilots continue to progress well and they met on 10 April to share the latest learning on digital inclusion, personal budgeting and local partnerships. The pilots are due to finish at the end of September, and we have received strong feedback that the majority want to continue for another three months. The LGA has urged DWP to fund and support all pilots who wish to extend because we see maximising the learning from the pilots as crucial to achieving our shared objective of implementing the changes in a way that minimises delivery risk.
11. I visited the North Dorset pilot recently and was struck by the importance of making sure UC works in rural areas, where there can be significant transport barriers to claimants accessing face-to-face support, such as completing on-line forms. This is a key point I will be reinforcing to Ministers. I will also be visiting the Birmingham pilot where innovations include a personalised digital log book for all new social housing tenants, which enables them to manage every aspect of their tenancy on-line.

Contact officer:	Nicola Morton
Position:	Head of Finance
Phone no:	020 7664 3197
E-mail:	nicola.morton@local.gov.uk

Local Authority Bonds Task and Finish Group Report from Councillor Edward Lord OBE JP (Chairman)

Context

1. Currently an increasing percentage of British pension funds are flowing overseas because of a lack of available places to invest in the UK, and as France moves closer towards opening its agency we must be encouraged to develop our agency to both ally ourselves with the best international financial practice and to remain competitive.
2. The idea of the UK's own collective agency was welcomed at the LGA's Regional Roadshows which toured the country in the late spring. It is recognised that there is a market for a municipal financial mechanism, such as the Collective Bonds Agency, which would offer an alternative source of finance to the Public Works Loan Board.

Pre-budget submission

3. The LGA asked the Government for a commitment to jointly develop this agency as part of the LGA's pre-budget submission. Here it was highlighted how the scheme would help develop a mature relationship between central and local government, give the public sector greater financial transparency and would be part of the modernisation of the working environment for local government.

Meetings

4. Sir Merrick Cockell, Sir David Wootton and I met with Lars Andersson, the first President of Kommuninvest – the Swedish Local Government Funding Agency, to discuss our arrangements for the collective agency.

LGA Annual Conference

5. The Task and Finish Group has secured a slot at the LGA's Annual Conference in Manchester where the next steps for this work will be set out more clearly.

Contact officer:

Position:

Phone no:

E-mail:

Mark Luntley
Project Director Local Partnerships
020 7664 3336
07909 962193
mark.luntley@local.gov.uk

Digest of Meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum

Date and time: Thursday 14 March 2013, 12.30pm

Venue: The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

Item

Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman of the LGA, welcomed members to the Forum meeting and introduced Daniel Goodwin, LGA Executive Director for Local Government Finance and Policy, to update members on the LGA's work on a new model for local government.

1 New model for local government

Daniel introduced the meeting as an opportunity for members to be updated on the progress of the New Model Roadshows which the LGA is taking around the country in to gauge a steer from members on work in this area. Moreover, the Forum members were invited to feed in their immediate thoughts. Daniel explained that the LGA is keen to gather any examples of radical ideas, suggestions and approaches.

Daniel spoke on how the vision is that the new model should help inform the longer term spending review; not only the government's arrangement for the country but also the economics around the five key themes we have identified.

He highlighted the themes emerging so far during the roadshows.

The first of these was **trust** and members have expressed their concerns that there should be national recognition of how local government enjoys high levels of public trust (79 per cent). However, it is also important that trust extends to the relationship between local and central government.

The second theme is in relation to the need to develop a more mature **relationship** with central government which would give us greater flexibility and this is needed because local authorities should be trusted to take risks in the interests of their localities and communities.

On **partnership** working, local authorities have an important role to play in steering discussions to ensure that what is important to their communities, which will differ throughout the country, is at the core of all developments.

With regard to **risk-taking**, views so far have suggested that local authorities want to be empowered to take risks and action decisions in the specific interests of local government and local communities. Daniel encouraged members to think beyond economic risk and Sir Merrick mentioned that there could be a range of areas where risk taking should be a matter for councils and councillors for their area where they will

be held to account by the ballot box.

Finally, focussing on **growth** Daniel updated members on how much of the conversation has centred around how a coherent voice is needed about the crucial role councils play in boosting local growth.

Daniel explained that the LGA hopes to use its position as the national voice of local government effectively to speak out clearly on all these issues and represent the sector strongly in these challenging times.

The Chairman then opened up the floor for discussion and the following issues were raised and addressed in turn:

- Centralisation and the relationship between local and central government;
- Closer pro-active LGA working with MPs;
- District councils' involvement in health and wellbeing;
- Better alignment of good health and social care;
- Recognition that risk levels need to vary;
- Necessity of government support for councils taking risks;
- Benefits of advocating devolution in principle;
- The input of fire authorities and engagement with fire and rescue services;
- Alignment of welfare reform with employment issues;
- Links between sustainability and equalisation within local government;
- Fragmentation of services and managing residents' expectations; and
- Democratic deficit and the need for constitutional devolution in England.

The Chairman encouraged members to further participate in the debate wherever possible, either at future roadshows or in the Knowledge Hub group where more detailed notes on the discussion can be found at <http://bit.ly/11fjkn>.

2 Chairman's Update

Members noted and accepted the Chairman's report.

3 LGA Board and Panel Chairs' Reports

Members noted the written and oral updates from each of the LGA's Board Chairs.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16 May 2013, 12:30pm, The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

LGA location map

Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Bus routes – Millbank

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

Public transport

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

42 Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District 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 stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria

C10 Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also 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 (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

