

# Councillors' Forum

## Agenda

Thursday 13 June 2013  
12.30pm

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

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

## **Guidance notes for visitors**

### **Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

#### **Welcome!**

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

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

**Councillors' Forum**  
13 June 2013

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The **Councillors' Forum** meeting will be held on **Thursday 13 June 2013 at 12.30pm in the Westminster Suite, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> floor)
11.00am	Labour	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Meeting Room 6 (6 <sup>th</sup> floor)

Lunch will be served in The Terrace Lounge (7<sup>th</sup> Floor) 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.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: <a href="mailto:luke.taylor@local.gov.uk">luke.taylor@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk">aicha.less@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent@local.gov.uk">independent@local.gov.uk</a>

### 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

Jonathan Yeates (Tel: 020 7664 3236, Email: [jonathan.yeates@local.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.yeates@local.gov.uk))

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## Councillors' Forum 2012-2013

Updated 04.06.13

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.	
<b>Representative</b>	<b>Authority</b>
<b>Conservative (43)</b>	
Sir Merrick Cockell ( <b>Chairman</b> )	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
<b>Labour [36] (plus sub pool)</b>	
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 &amp; 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>Simon Blackburn</i>	<i>Blackpool</i>
<i>Justin Madders</i>	<i>Cheshire West &amp; 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>
<b>Liberal Democrat (14)</b>	
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
<b>Independent [7]</b>	
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

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### Councillors' Forum

Thursday 13 June 2013

12.30pm – 1.30pm

The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

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	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Troubled Families</b>  Louise Casey CB, Director-General for the Troubled Families Team, Department for Communities and Local Government, will update Councillors' Forum on the Troubled Families Programme, which is now in its second year. It is an opportunity for Casey to outline progress and for members to raise any issues.	<b>3</b>	12.30pm
<b>2.</b>	<b>Chairman's Update</b>	<b>9</b>	1.20pm
<b>3.</b>	<b>LGA Board and Panel Chairs' Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Children &amp; Young People Board – Councillor David Simmonds</li> <li>b. Community Wellbeing Board – Councillor David Rogers OBE</li> <li>c. Culture, Tourism &amp; Sport Board – Councillor Flick Rea</li> <li>d. Economy &amp; Transport Board – Councillor Peter Box CBE</li> <li>e. Environment &amp; Housing Board – Councillor Mike Jones</li> <li>f. European &amp; International Board – Councillor Dave Wilcox OBE</li> <li>g. Improvement and Innovation Board – Councillor Peter Fleming</li> <li>h. Safer &amp; Stronger Communities Board – Councillor Mehboob Khan</li> <li>i. Workforce Board – Mayor Sir Steve Bullock</li> <li>j. Finance Panel – Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE</li> <li>k. Bonds Task &amp; Finish Group – Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP</li> </ul>	<b>13</b>	1.25pm
<b>4.</b>	<b>Digest of Last Meeting</b>	<b>39</b>	

**Date of Next Meeting:** 18 July 2013, 12:30pm, LGH, Westminster Suite



## **Troubled Families**

**Louise Casey CB, Director-General, Troubled Families Team,  
Department for Communities and Local Government**

### **Purpose of report**

For noting.

### **Summary**

Louise Casey is providing the Councillors' Forum with an update on the Troubled Families Programme, which is now in its second year. It is an opportunity for Casey to outline progress and for members to raise any issues.

### **Recommendation**

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

### **Action**

As directed by the Forum.

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**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7665 3878  
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**Item 1**

**Troubled Families**

**Louise Casey, Director-General, Troubled Families Team, Department for Communities and Local Government**

1. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Troubled Families Programme is in its second year, though councils and their partners had been reforming services for families with complex needs through community budgets or family intervention projects for some time before its introduction.
2. DCLG published progress information on 13 May showing that:
  - 2.1. At 31 March councils had identified 66,470 families who meet the DCLG eligibility criteria for the programme.
  - 2.2. At 31 March councils had worked with 35,618 families: around 85% of the figure collectively agreed by councils to be worked with in year one of the programme.
  - 2.3. 54 councils claimed results based payments in January 2013 for a total of 1,675 families. The average length of a family intervention is 12 months and the next opportunity to claim these payments is July 2013.
3. The Payment by Results scheme provides a significant proportion of funding up-front in the form of "attachment fees". Councils have submitted requests for year two attachment fees based on the number of families they expect to work with. The Secretary of State has previously stated that this upfront funding would be dependent on progress made in year one and DCLG has now set out the basis for this:
  - 3.1. Areas working with 75% or more of year one families as of 31 March to be paid all of requested year two attachment fees, in one payment in the first quarter of 2013/14. Over two thirds of councils fall into this category.
  - 3.2. Areas working with between 33% and 75% of their year one families as of 31 March to be paid half of requested year two attachment fees in the first quarter of 2013/14 with the remaining half to be paid in the second quarter providing they have started working with remainder of year one families by then. Around one third of councils fall into this category.
  - 3.3. Areas working with less than 33% of their year one families as of 31 March will not be paid year two attachment fees until they have caught up, at which time DCLG will agree with them numbers for the remainder of year two. No councils fall into this category.
4. The Payment by Results scheme provides a limited measure of success, as it does not reflect progress on local criteria used by councils to identify families including for example mental health, domestic violence or substance misuse.

**Item 1**

**Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme**

5. In January this year a consortium of academic, research and expert consultancies, won a competitive tender process to undertake an evaluation of the national Troubled Families Programme. Funding of just over £1 million was set aside to undertake the evaluation, £100,000 of which was contributed by the LGA. An Advisory Group, including representation from the LGA, and a Sounding Board Group of seven local authorities has been set up to help develop the evaluation approach.
6. Consultation is underway with councils to agree the level of engagement of each. While some areas will have a basic level of input to the evaluation others will have a more intense involvement, for example in-depth interviews with families. In September early findings from the evaluation will be available to disseminate to the sector. These will include a profile of family characteristics, early findings from the family interviews and details of delivery models. Interviews have been undertaken with key national stakeholders, including the LGA, to ensure the evaluation builds on existing knowledge and appropriate links are made to other national programmes.

**Sustainability through community budgets**

7. The final year of the three year programme will be 2014/2015; however, local services for families with complex needs will not simply cease. The economic and social case for investing in preventive action to reduce the cost to the taxpayer in the longer-term is strong and commands support in local government. Some councils are already working with families who have multiple problems but do not fall within the DCLG programme criteria, recognising the importance of intervening earlier to prevent problems and associated costs from escalating.
8. The Troubled Families Programme evolved from community budgets for families with complex needs and working with troubled families was a central plank of the whole place community budget pilots. A community budget approach is well suited to such a complex area of service delivery by multiple agencies. By looking at funding across the public sector in an area, the approach offers solutions to the barrier of investing in early intervention, where one part of the public sector pays and another benefits. It achieves this through the development of an in depth and shared understanding of the costs and benefits of a programme and a related investment agreement. Community budgets are therefore a route to sustaining this work beyond the end of the DCLG programme.
9. The whole place community budget areas have shown the potential for a widespread adoption of the approach to transforming public services. The huge potential for delivering savings rests in the medium term, but wider adoption of the approach needs to begin now if the potential is to be realised. It requires no permission from government or support from the new Public Services Transformation Network. There is however a need for mechanisms to incentivise government departments to encourage local integration and investment in prevention from the centre, in line with the LGA's submission to the spending review.

**Item 1**

**Annex: Background to the Troubled Families Programme**

11. Following the summer disorder in 2011, the Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to turn around the lives of 120,000 'troubled families' by 2015. A new unit was established and tasked with implementing it, based in DCLG and headed by Louise Casey. The families cost the public purse an estimated £9bn per year, around £8bn of which is reactive, spent by up to 20 local agencies addressing the symptoms of problems rather than tackling root causes.
12. Local government had already recognised the need for more effective and efficient ways of working with complex families and was developing and implementing solutions: 16 areas (28 councils) were piloting community budgets for families with complex needs, with a further 70 committed to implementing them and four fifths of councils were operating intensive family intervention projects. In line with the LGA's position, the DCLG troubled families programme has reflected this, giving councils the lead role in coordinating services locally and enabling this existing work to be built on and scaled up.
13. All 152 upper-tier authorities signed up to the programme. The three core criteria for identifying eligible families are related to truancy or exclusion from school; young people involved in crime and families involved in anti-social behaviour; and, adults on out of work benefits. If families meet all three criteria, they are automatically on the programme. This number is expected to be less than 120,000 and families can also be eligible if they meet two of the three criteria, plus a 'local discretion filter' which is for councils to determine, based on local priorities.
14. The unit has a £448 million budget over the three years, put together with contributions from six Whitehall departments<sup>1</sup>. This money is being spent on paying for councils to employ 'coordinators' in each area to lead the work and a £4,000 contribution per family towards the cost of intervention (40% of the estimated average £10,000 cost), with a proportion of this as results payments in return for outcomes delivered.
15. There is a significant proportion of the payment by results funding available up-front as an 'attachment fee': 80% in year 1, 60% in year 2 and 40% in year 3, with the remaining proportion payable on delivery of results.
16. The results payments are primarily attracted per family on the basis of meeting all measures related to education, youth crime and anti-social behaviour OR at least one family adult in the family has moved off out of work benefits into continuous employment. Councils self-verify results, approved within their own internal audit arrangements, with some spot checks carried out by DCLG.

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**E-mail:** [cassandra.harrison@local.gov.uk](mailto:cassandra.harrison@local.gov.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> Communities and Local Government, Home Office, Department for Education, Ministry of Justice, Department for Work and Pensions and Department of Health.





## **Chairman's Update May 2013**

### **LGA Business**

1. The month of May has been particularly dominated by **ministerial meetings** as we continue to discuss and negotiate with Ministers and Shadow Cabinet across Whitehall ahead of the **Spending Review** announcement in June.
2. May's **Leadership Board** focused on Neighbourhood Community Budgets and our New Model for Local Government proposals. As expected at the **LGA Executive** we opened the meeting with the LGA Submission to the Spending Round. The addition of the **Queen's Speech** to our agenda also presented the opportunity to prioritise the Bills for the LGA to focus on.
3. The **Congress of the Council of Europe** made their second visit to the UK and we received their delegation at Local Government House. Carolyn and I met with the Council's representatives before being joined by representatives from each of the Political Group Offices.
4. I also enjoyed participating in our **Smith Square Debate** alongside Lord Adonis, Baroness Kramer and Martin McTague. The motion, "On the edge, how can we really **deliver jobs and growth?**" stimulated a worthwhile debate and on occasion we even reached agreement.

### **Ministerial / Parliamentary business**

5. During May I met:
  - 5.1. **Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP**, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to discuss the LGA's Spending Review submission to HMT. Joined by Carolyn, we progressed with discussions on growth, local government finance and encouraged HMT to deliver Heseltine's single pot.
  - 5.2. **Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP**, Secretary of State for Health, to discuss the LGA's Spending Review submission and to encourage DH to work with Treasury on community budgets. Our asks also included the extension of NHS investment in social care and the acceleration of progress on integration. We had a second meeting with the Health Secretary to follow up SR discussions. DH and LGA officials have since met on a weekly basis to continue progress ahead of the SR announcement in June.
  - 5.3. **Hon. Adolf Mwesige**, Ugandan Local Government Minister. Hon. Mwesige is on the board of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). In June, Uganda will host the CLGF biennial conference, at which the LGA will be represented. The meeting gave me the opportunity to touch base on wider Commonwealth and local government matters. **Carl Wright**, Secretary General of CLGF also joined the meeting.
  - 5.4. **Lord Freud**, Minister for Welfare Reform, to discuss the Universal Credit Local Support Services Framework (LSSF). Discussions progressed and our officials are in dialogue about the LSSF and the role of local authorities.

**Item 2**

- 5.5. **John Cruddas MP**, Shadow Cabinet Minister and Policy Review Coordinator, to discuss the LGA's Final Spending Review submission.
6. Throughout May, I held a succession of meetings with **Brandon Lewis MP**, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DCLG. Firstly, I was asked to give a summary of the LGA's Spending Round submission to a number of our member authorities in attendance at the **Managing Service Demand Roundtable** at Eland House. I then chaired a discussion on the structural reform of the **Local Government Pension Scheme** in England and Wales at DCLG's Pensions Roundtable. That same day, the Minister was hosted at the LGA's Conservative Group Meeting before **Baroness Hanham** joined us for a separate meeting to discuss the **Local Audit Bill**.
7. Finally, I was called as a witness to give oral evidence to **the Communities and Local Government Select Committee**. I was questioned on how best to implement **community budgets**, the development of **pilot schemes for local authorities** and the concept of **shared savings** between government departments. LGA's Head of Programmes Paul Raynes and Laura Wilkes, Policy Manager at the Local Government Information Unit also took questions from the committee.

**Meetings with other organisations and individuals**

8. As part of the LGA's biannual meetings with **Local Partnerships (LP)**, Carolyn and I met with LP Chairman, **Sir David Wooton** and Chief Executive, **Judith Armitt**. The meeting served as a welcome opportunity to meet with the new ChEx and Chairman.
9. Michael Coughlin and I met with **Simon Blagden MBE** and Nick Sawbridge of **Fujitsu Telecomms** as part of a listening exercise to learn about prospective opportunities for local authorities.
10. Alongside Head of Programmes, Paul Raynes, I met with **BT Group Chairman Sir Michael Rake** and **Chief Executive Officer Liv Garfield of BT Openreach** to discuss broadband, particularly regarding a best practise approach to maximise **broadband delivery** within local authorities.
11. **Dr Andrew Larner** of the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (**iESE**) was joined by **Cllr Paul Bettison** during his visit to the LGA to discuss latest developments at the iESE with myself and our Head of Leadership and Productivity Dennis Skinner.
12. I've also carried out a number of **speaking engagements**. Carolyn and I attended **Reform's** seminar where I gave the keynote speech on the **Future of Local Government** with a particular focus on finance. At the beginning of Whitsun Recess, I joined David Holdstock in Cardiff at the **LG Communications Academy**, delivering a speech on the current challenges for local government.

**Meetings with councillors and member councils**

13. During the first week of May, Carolyn and I visited Bristol City Council to meet with their elected **Mayor, George Ferguson**. We discussed a range of topics including legislation affecting local authorities, future funding for local government and our response to the Heseltine review.

**Item 2**

14. Ahead of **Darlington's Peer Challenge** in June, I took a tour of the Borough and met with a number of colleagues representing **Salford, Suffolk, Gateshead and Plymouth**. I also stopped off in Newcastle to meet with **Cllr Nick Forbes**. We discussed a number of items, particularly Newcastle's recent **Declaration on Smoking**.
15. I visited Cheshire West and Chester Council where **Leader Cllr Mike Jones** and **Chief Executive Steve Robinson** gave presentations on the key priorities facing their region. Both growth and sector led improvement featured on the agenda. I also welcomed the opportunity to have more informal discussions with councillors.
16. With Principal Advisor Rachel Litherland, I visited the **London Borough of Croydon** to meet with **Cllr Mike Fisher**. Mike and **interim Chief Executive Nathan Elvery** highlighted the key priorities, challenges and successes of the council during their *An Enterprising City* presentation.
17. I accepted **Cllr Mehboob Khan's** invitation to return to Wakefield for the **Local Government Yorkshire and Humber Council Meeting** where I was asked to continue the dialogue about the future of local government and its financial stability. I updated colleagues on our new model proposals having built on the views of attendees at the York road show in March. We also discussed the implications of the attack on Drummer Lee Rigby in **Woolwich** the day before. I then travelled to **Penrith** where I met with **Cllr Gordon Nicolson**, Leader of **Eden District Council** where we discussed regeneration and growth in the region. The following day, I met with **Cumbria District Leaders and Chief Executives** at the Rural Enterprise Agency.



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

### **Meeting with the British Youth Council**

1. On 29<sup>th</sup> May I attended a joint meeting between the lead members of the Children and Young People Board and the Economy and Transport Board. The meeting discussed the Hidden Talents campaign calling for a more devolved approach to tackling youth disengagement from work and learning. Reducing youth disengagement is a priority issue for local authorities, and for the Local Government Association. The Hidden talents campaign has received a lot of media coverage and has influenced a number of high profile areas including the Hestletine Growth review and Liam Byrne MP's Youth Employment Taskforce.
2. At the meeting we discussed how we can build on this work through a number of means. Firstly by making sure we engage with government and shadow Ministers to keep national skills and employment provision on the agenda. Secondly we need to make the financial and policy case for reforms that work with the grain of Government thinking; and continue to maintain a high profile for local government's asks over skills and employment services in helping tackle youth unemployment, undertaking policy and research to inform campaign and press activity.

### **Children's Improvement Board Regional Meeting**

3. On 8<sup>th</sup> May I attended and spoke at the Children's Improvement Board regional meeting in Leeds, where we laid plans for the transition of sector led improvement from a Department for Education funded platform, back into the full ownership of local government. Feedback from around the country was that support for members, chief executives, and directors was the most valued and should be the priority for the new support arrangements.

### **Report on the New Ofsted Arrangements**

4. At the last LGA Executive meeting I presented a report about the new Ofsted arrangements for supporting improvement. Councillors in education and children's services shared their views about the value of Ofsted and agreed that these new arrangements could be taken in our stride but required a robust understanding of the council role in education.

### **Early Intervention Foundation Away Day**

5. I recently attended the away day of the Early Intervention Foundation, chaired by Graham Allen MP. The LGA is hosting this organisation for its start-up phase. The role and purpose of the foundation in supporting councils was discussed in detail and further work building on recent pilot projects was commissioned.

### **European conference on the role of self-evaluation in school improvement**

6. Over 21 and 22 of May I chaired the European conference on the role of self-evaluation in school improvement. This featured presentations from Professors John Macbeath of Cambridge University, Peter Dahler-Lahsen of Copenhagen University, and Patros Pashiardis of the University of Cyprus as well as perspectives from ministers including

Zoltan Balog, Minister of Human Resources for Hungary. Many ideas from around Europe were shared including a number of excellent best practice examples. The conference demonstrated the UK to have one of the most developed, but also bureaucratic, systems for monitoring school performance.

#### **Childcare over half term**

7. Cllr John Merry Vice- Chair of the CYP board went on Radio 5 Live to discuss the issue of childcare over half term. With many parents finding activities and childcare over the holidays rather expensive it is important parents are aware of the offers in their local area. Cllr Merry spoke about a number of activities that councils are providing up and down the country including cheap swimming and access to leisure centres. He emphasised that in the face of large cuts, councils were having to be imaginative in their plans and encouraged parents to go on their local council's website for details of the offers being provided.

#### **Radical reform for looked-after children**

8. Following the publication of the Care Leavers Coalition's report 'Still our children' I issued a press release explaining the LGA's position. The principle of ensuring all possible action is taken to provide the same opportunities and chances to children in care as their peers is one Local Government take very seriously. While no-one would disagree with doing our best for looked after children, it is important to recognise that extra support for young adult's costs money and introducing a one-size-fits-all approach to keeping young people in foster care for longer could exacerbate this pressure. Councils already provide a package of support including money and help in kind alongside employment and housing support, this is all done in the face of increasing financial pressure. While it is great that there is an additional focus on the needs of children in foster care, what the care system needs is increased foster carers, not further pressure from government, it is important we focus on finding a way to make the welfare of society's vulnerable young people everyone's business.

#### **Visits to councils**

9. I have continued to visit councils to discuss their work, including recent visits to Wiltshire, Herefordshire, and Cheshire East Councils.

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

### **Adult Social Care reform and funding**

1. On 15 May I attended a meeting with the Care Minister, Norman Lamb MP to discuss the Care and Support Bill. I raised the issue of the costs of reform and potential new burdens on local government. In reply the Minister said that there was new money for carers and the costs of Dilnot would be met by central government. He was clear that the focus must be on wellbeing, prevention, integration and portability and that the Bill is a first step in moving from paternalistic approaches to personalised systems.
2. The meeting also addressed those elements in the Bill that aim to ensure high standards of care, including: powers against those supplying false/misleading information; the power for Care Quality Commission (CQC) to develop ratings; the development of a single failure regime; and the duty of candour - which is not in the Bill but will be one of CQC's registration requirements for providers.
3. On 22 May, Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell and Carolyn Downs met Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt MP to raise our concerns regarding the funding for adult social care, both in the immediate term and the context of the spending review. In advance of the forthcoming Spending Round we have also been in discussion with the Secretary of State regarding the role of integration in alleviating pressures on health and social care. There is a pressing need for a sustainable funding solution to adult social care but we also need to address the immediate financial pressures.

### **Medical Examiners**

4. Also discussed at the meeting with the Secretary of State for Health on 22 May was the implementation of the new duty on upper-tier local authorities to appoint medical examiners to provide independent oversight of the death certification process. The LGA is currently working with the Department of Health and other key stakeholders to identify and address the practical challenges of implementing this new duty.

### **Update on Integration**

5. On 14 May, the Minister of State for Care and Support, supported by the LGA, NHS England and others, announced plans to accelerate integrated care and support across the country. The announcement committed national partners to work together to provide support to all areas to stop people being passed from pillar to post, improving care and efficiency at scale and pace across the whole health and care system.
6. This work will be led at local level by 10 pioneer projects which will be announced in September with the expectation that they will lead the way for all local areas improving outcomes and efficiency across the system. Health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) will have a key role in leading these initiatives locally. For more information about 'Our Shared Commitment', the Narrative and the Pioneers, please visit the [integrated care page on the LGA's website](#).

### **Spending Round 2015-16 Submission**

7. At the beginning of May, the LGA submitted our [final submission to the 2015/16 Spending Round](#). In it we made clear to Government that the only way of maintaining public services in the face of the proposed long-term cuts to funding is by undertaking a radical transformation of the way they are provided and paid for. This has to be based

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on the idea of allowing local areas to design services around the needs of people and communities, utilising the whole place Community Budgets model.

**Launch of sector led improvement offer for Health**

8. Councils and their local health partners have been awarded £1.8 million by the Department of Health to develop new and better ways to improve health services for local residents. Coordinated by the LGA, the Health and Wellbeing System Improvement Programme and Partnership will be funded to support the continuing development of local health and wellbeing leadership, the sharing of learning and information, and support from peers who are experts from across local government and the health sector.
9. The offer has been developed in partnership with NHS England, Public Health England, Healthwatch England, NHS Confederation and the Department of Health, and designed to help all those involved in health and wellbeing adapt to their new roles. Partners will align their own support programmes with the work of the LGA to best use the collective knowledge and experience of the whole system to drive improvement. The programme will focus on providing support and development for local health and wellbeing boards as the core decision makers in deciding how to use resources most efficiently in order to target local health priorities. Peer challenges are available for up to 15 councils this year.
10. I hosted a roundtable event on the offer on 22 May as part of the launch of this work, which was well attended by colleagues from across the country.

**Community Care magazine - Employer Standards for Social Workers**

11. The LGA is working with Community Care on the Employer Standards for Social Workers. On 21 May Cllr Elaine Atkinson was part of a panel judging photographs of which celebrate people in social care roles, as part of their campaign to support positive images of social work. The shortlist can be found at:  
<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/photo-competition/>

**Spring series of Smith Square debates ends with social care question**

12. The final Smith Square debate of the spring series was held on 14 May, entitled 'Balancing the books – how should councils tackle the social care funding gap?' and hosted by Victoria Macdonald from Channel 4. I represented the LGA alongside panellists Joe Twyman (YouGov), Shirley Ayres (Disruptive Social Care podcasts), and Richard Hawkes (Chief Executive, Scope).

**Latest resources**

13. The LGA's range of resources on key public health issues is available at:  
<http://www.local.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-adult-social-care>. Recent publications include FAQs on the NHS Health Check and National Child Measurement programmes and a factsheet on tackling mental health issues.

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

### **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, 22 May**

1. We were pleased to welcome Yinnon Ezra MBE, DCMS Libraries Adviser, to the CTS Board. Mr. Ezra outlined the issues he is seeking to address in his new role. Members discussed potential mutual priorities around supporting local political leadership, promoting shared services and embedding libraries in the government's wider public sector reform programme, especially Community Budgets and welfare reform.
2. We were also pleased to welcome members of the Farrell Review team who are carrying out an independent review of architecture and the built environment for Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister. Members emphasised the role of local government in creating attractive places to live and visit and promoting good design. We look forward to submitting a written response to the review in due course.

### **Arts Council England Governance Review**

3. CTS Board Lead Members have written to Sir Peter Bazalgette to emphasise that we are delighted the new Arts Council area councils will continue to have strong local government representation in recognition of councils' vital role supporting and funding the arts, libraries and museums locally. We are pleased that local government is able to nominate its own representatives.
4. Having discussed the practical implications of moving from nine regional councils to five area hubs at the CTS Board, we have also offered to coordinate the nominations process for local government outside London. The LGA's national mandate, coupled with our extensive experience of running political nominations, means we are in an excellent position to do this and it will also ensure that local government nominations are genuinely representative of the sector.

### **First World War Commemorations**

5. I attended the launch of the Heritage Lottery Fund's small grants programme for First World War commemorations on 15 May. Maria Miller, Culture Secretary of State also attended the event, and the LGA is promoting the availability of the funding to councils.

### **Sport**

6. I attended SPORTA's Parliamentary reception on 8 May. SPORTA is the national umbrella body for cultural and leisure trusts which deliver around 40% of culture and leisure provision. The reception was an opportunity to discuss how local government is increasingly working with culture and leisure trusts.

### **The National Leisure and Culture Forum Leading Learning Programme**

7. On 3 June, I spoke at a Leading Learning Programme event for senior officers. The programme is the only year-long leadership development programme specifically tailored to the needs of management across the leisure and culture sector. It is now in its fifth year and my presentation was an opportunity to discuss the relationship between political and professional leadership.

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

### **Streetworks**

1. Members will recall that following a discussion at the Board last year, the LGA produced a report entitled [\*Holes in our Pockets – How utility streetworks are damaging local growth\*](#). It demonstrated that councils' estimated spend on premature maintenance due to utility works was at nearly 18% of their maintenance budget (totalling £218 million). The report was well received and the utility companies responded positively to a subsequent invitation to a summit. This took place on 14 March 2013.
2. At the summit, the LGA invited utilities to work with us to address the issues. Utilities agreed that there was a problem to be solved and accepted this invitation. The Streetworks task force met for the first time on 20 May, bringing together utilities companies, Transport for London, the Association of Convenience Stores, the Department for Transport and the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme. The Vice Chair, Cllr Tony Ball spoke on behalf of the LGA and Deputy Chair, Cllr Mike Haines, chaired the meeting, which focussed on agreeing what 'good' looks like for the maintenance and reinstatement of roads and using these agreed principles to establish a framework for measuring performance against.
3. Significantly, there was also commitment from the utilities to make public in one place all compensation schemes so that businesses can better understand what to expect from different sectors/companies conducting streetworks outside their premises. The group also agreed to work on how data can be shared more effectively across sectors in order to monitor contractor performance. Positive early progress is being made and the next meeting in July should see the task force joined by The British Retail Consortium, The Civil Engineering Contractors Association and BT.

### **Parking**

4. The Transport Select Committee is reviewing local parking enforcement. We have submitted written evidence to the Committee's enquiry and I will be giving oral evidence to the Committee on 8 July. I was also interviewed by Anne Robinson on Watchdog on 22 May, advocating councils' position on parking.

### **City Deals 2**

5. On 21 May, I spoke at a meeting that the LGA hosted for the local authorities involved in the second wave of City Deals to discuss common issues arising from the negotiation process. The meeting was initiated by Chief Executive David Williams and Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson from Portsmouth City Council and the majority of Wave 2 areas were in attendance. I opened the meeting by sharing some observations from my involvement with the Leeds City Region City Deal. One of the points that I was keen to stress was that the process itself has provided a real impetus for authorities in my area to collaborate across boundaries, which is positive. But I also shared my concern that after having arrived at what we thought was an agreed Deal, we have found departments rowing back on elements of it.
6. I encouraged authorities engaged in the current process to seek strong assurances that this would not happen to them. The discussion that followed confirmed that the councils involved believe there is real potential for City Deals to be a game-changer in their

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areas, but there was a general concern that with junior civil servants now in charge of negotiating the particulars, the negotiations are getting bogged down in issues such as governance and identifying the single issue for an area to address. There is a feeling that what departments are willing to put on the table for the Deals is not very substantial, which is not helped by there being separate parallel discussions about LEPs, the Heseltine single pot and Local Growth Deals. I will be writing to Greg Clark to feed back the concerns that wave 2 areas raised and offer the LGA's assistance in bringing some coherence to the current policy landscape on devolution.

**Youth Employment Convention**

7. On 8 May, I spoke at a Youth Employment Convention panel session organised by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI) and the Association of Employment Learning Providers. The event was held for 16-19 year olds and focused on ways to improve support to reduce the numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training. I raised concerns highlighted in our Hidden Talents work that too many national schemes ineffectively support young people, a system which has been over complicated by Whitehall. A localised approach enabling councils to commission all provision would ensure the offer to young people is coordinated and sequenced. Councils are doing a lot to bring provision together and looking to ways for young people to benefit from growth opportunities which is why in his local area, they are supporting SMEs to take on young apprentices. Other panellists agreed a more effective range of support is needed, and that tailored provision is key to successful outcomes for young people.

**Growth Offer**

8. Whilst the LGA continues to lobby Central Government and others to remove barriers to growth, it is equally important that we promote our support on improvement and emerging good practice in growth and regeneration to all councils. I am therefore pleased that we are refreshing our 'local growth offer' to councils and will be making this available at the LGA Annual Conference in Manchester. The LGA offer reflects the range of actions and interventions that councils can make in supporting growth – from spatial planning and housing to supporting the visitor economy. The information will also be made available on the LGA's website.

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

### **Local Waste Review**

1. On 4 June, we launched the findings of our local waste review, '[Wealth from Waste](#)' which examined the future opportunities, challenges and risks for waste services to 2020 and beyond. The overarching message of the review is that with the right support and investment, the waste and recycling sector will be a key growth sector for the economy and release significant untapped value to the taxpayer.
2. Our report outlines a number of key recommendations we're making to the Government. This includes the Treasury refunding landfill tax receipts through councils and the Green Investment Bank to fund the building of new recycling centres, a call for new industry guidelines to improve the quality of recycled material produced and sold by the UK waste sector, and the introduction of reward schemes to incentivise residents for playing their part. Another key recommendation is the need to keep doorstep issues local. High satisfaction levels with local waste management demonstrate that councils are trusted by their residents to strike the right balance for the 23 million households they serve. The most recent polling found that nearly 9 out of 10 people are satisfied with waste collection services, which holds true irrespective of the frequency of collection that households receive.
3. The event was launched at a well-attended event chaired by Cllr Clyde Loakes, Chair of the Waste Review and Vice Chair of the LGA Environment and Housing Board. Speakers included Lord de Mauley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State of DEFRA; and other representatives from Local Government and the wider waste sector. The report also generated good media coverage, with Cllr Mehboob Khan appearing on BBC Breakfast and Cllr Loakes on BBC Radio 5 Live to discuss the report.

### **Permitted development**

4. The Environment and Housing Board continued to stress the concerns of our member councils warning the Government that new [permitted development rules](#) that came into force in May will have significant detrimental impact on our high streets. The changes will allow business owners to change the use of certain buildings from one type of business to another for up to two years. It means that premises previously used as independent shops could be transformed without the need for planning permission. Our concerns also received national coverage in the Mail, Telegraph, Independent, BBC Online, Daily Star and Channel 4 Online while Cllr Mike Jones, Chair of our Environment and Housing Board, appeared on BBC Radio 5 Live and Cllr Clyde Loakes, Vice-Chair of the Board, on BBC London 94.9 to discuss the issue.
5. I raised our concerns at a meeting with the Minister for Planning, Nick Boles MP on 07 May, where we also discussed how the Government should implement their revised approach to the regulations concerning the permitted development of extensions.

### **Housing and planning**

6. Government figures released this month showed that the number of new homes completed in the first quarter continues in a downward trend. We reiterated our call for the Chancellor to remove unnecessary restrictions in council investment in new housing in next month's Spending Round. LGA research revealed that removing the cap would create an extra 60,000 homes over five years and market analysis has

shown that the investment would be very low risk and repaid many times over by future rents on new homes. I appeared on BBC Radio 4's 'You and Yours' to discuss the housing crisis and to communicate the ways in which councils are helping to tackle the problem through providing mortgages and working with developers.

7. The LGA also hosted a meeting with Councillors Neil Clarke and Roger Philips from the District Councils Network and Councillor Robert Gordon from the County Councils Network to discuss good practice in securing infrastructure contributions. The LGA will work with DCN and CCN to highlight best practice currently taking place which sees applicants at pre application stage agree the totality of the infrastructure contribution required in advance of planning permission. This will mean that the viability of a site is considered at an early stage of the process and will support efforts to bring development forward and see those sites with planning permission move forward swiftly to completion.
8. I was accompanied by Councillors Apu Bagchi, Tony Newman and Keith House to meet with Robert Napier (Chairman) and Andy Rose (Chief Executive) of the Homes and Communities Agency on 20 May. We discussed the forthcoming spending round and its implications for housing. LGA Members took the opportunity to outline our proposals for housing which include the removal of the HRA borrowing cap, reforms to the right to buy and a new capital investment fund. The HCA play a major role in the government's land release programme and we discussed with the Agency how we can work more closely to ensure the whole of the public sector estate is used to the greatest effect.

#### **Quarterly Meeting with Greg Barker**

9. Councillors Tim Moore, Frances Rhoden and Cllr Andrew Cooper met with the Minister for Climate Change, Greg Barker MP, on 21 May. At the meeting, members agreed a joint Memorandum-of-Understanding (MoU) between the LGA and DECC which set out how the two organisations will work together. The MoU recognises that councils have a unique insight and reach into communities that can ensure carbon reduction policies and programmes benefit communities and protect the most vulnerable.
10. Members pressed for flexibility in the design of ECO and Green Deal policy to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to rolling out schemes. They also sought and received assurances that local authorities will have access to data about the take-up of Green Deal and ECO measures in order to be able to target their efforts to best effect. Members also set out the case for local leadership for tackling fuel poverty, including proposals for joint work with Energy UK and the National Housing Federation to promote good practice.

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

### **Delivering Our Lobbying Priorities**

1. With the local elections on 2 May marking the end of the purdah period, May has been a busy month, with plenty to update you on across a range of our lobbying priorities.

### **LGA EU Lobbying**

2. Given the significant impact EU Directives' can have on the way local authorities are run and on the services they provide or procure, the LGA Executive recently discussed the importance of maximising our influence on EU legislation. The Executive has tasked the Board to investigate the possibility of closer working between English local government offices in Brussels. Whilst we look forward to undertaking this work and reporting back to the Executive with our recommendations, it is important to note that the small number of English local government representatives based in Brussels, compared to those who work for the devolved administrations in Brussels, means that any efforts to coordinate English influence has to be realistic.

### **Future EU Funding 2014 - 2020**

3. On 16 May I met with Michael Fallon, Minister for Business to discuss the 2014 – 2020 EU funding programmes, for which negotiations are at a critical point. Whilst I welcomed the Minister's ambition to integrate, simplify and devolve funds, I emphasised the point that LEPs and partners need to be given real levers over spending decisions and pressed for urgent publication of notional allocations for LEP areas. I am pleased to report that we secured a number of key outcomes from the meeting, including the agreement that the LGA will have a seat on the National Growth Board. However, whilst I expressed disappointment with the decision to reduce England's funding allocation, there was no indication that this position would be reconsidered.

### **Representation of European Bodies**

4. It is worth noting that the local elections impact on UK delegations to international bodies, as UK local government is actively engaged in a range of European and international member organisations. The LGA both nominates English members to several of these bodies as well as provides the secretariats for the UK delegations. As a result of the local elections, a small number of changes to the UK delegations to the Committee of the Regions (CoR), Congress and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR – the European LGA) were required. On CEMR, Cllr Steve Comer (Lib Dem, Bristol), Chair of the CEMR Employers Platform, lost his seat. Whilst on Congress, Cllr Liz Staples (Con, Staffordshire) and Vanessa Churchman (Indep, Isle of White) also lost their seats. On CoR several members did not stand again, Cllrs: Alan Melton (Con, Cambs); Doris Ansari (LD Cornwall); Sir Simon Day (Con, Devon); Kathy Pollard (LD, Suffolk); and David Parsons (Con, Leics).
5. As of 21 May, a number of new members had their CoR appointments ratified by the EU with immediate effect, replacing members who lost their mandate in 2012. These were: Cllr Dee Sharpe (Con, East Riding); Cllr Stewart Golton (LD, Leeds) and Cllr Margaret Lishman (LD, Burnley). The Board receives regular updates on these appointments and we are keen to ensure that appointed UK members are supported to ensure they can play an effective role in representing the sector.

**Reform of state aid rules**

6. The LGA has pressed for greater exemptions for councils from EU state aid rules. The 'de minimis' rules govern small grants which councils may give to the voluntary sector or other bodies undertaking economic activities. The present system requires councils to check that the beneficiary is not receiving more than €200,000 in state aid over 3 years. The LGA is pushing for a higher €500,000 threshold to facilitate local projects.

**International Links: Learning and Sharing: Congress Peer Review of UK Democracy**

7. Congress of the Council of Europe (CoE) will be conducting a peer review of local democracy in the UK during the last week of May. The five person delegation will meet LGA leaders, Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) Ministers, the London Mayor, individual councils and the local government associations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. I will be meeting with the reporters upon their return visit later in the year. In advance of the visit, Board colleagues and I commissioned and endorsed the findings of an independent report on UK compliance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government. This report, with specific reference to English local government, will help ensure that the situation of English local government is given due consideration in the Congress report.

**Commonwealth Local Government Forum**

8. From 14-17 May, Vice Chair of the Board, Cllr Richard Kemp represented me at the biennial conference of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). The CLGF conference brings together local leaders, LGAs and Ministries of Local Government from over 40 countries. CLGF has recently received £4.5 million from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for a three year programme to build the capacity of local government in southern and western Africa and south Asia. With details of the DFID funding being discussed at the conference, an LGA presence was useful so as to help determine what role English councils could play in this programme.

**Council's role in supporting International Trade and Investment**

9. Work is underway to build on the opportunities presented by the March trade delegation of senior political and executive representatives from Republic of Mexico which I hosted. We are currently collaborating with the British Embassy in Mexico and UKTI to help facilitate exposure to new business opportunities for UK-based firms at a major local and state conference in Mexico in September 2013.

**Delegations**

10. LGA recently hosted Ms Gillian Frances, the Deputy Chief Secretary of the Government of St Helena. The three day long visit was centred on: the daily work of the LGA; local election conduct and monitoring; issues around officers-members relations; and member training. She visited Hackney BC and Tandridge DC. We also recently assisted the CoE in Ukraine in establishing the best practice exchange mechanism design of which was based on the UK Beacon Scheme. Negotiations are in place to provide a peer review of the Scheme in Ukraine at a point in the future.

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## **Improvement & Innovation Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming**

### **INNOVATION**

#### **Innovation Zone at the LGA Conference**

1. This month a lot of work has been going into the LGA national conference and specifically the Innovation Zone which the LGA is hosting in conjunction with NESTA. On Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 July NESTA will host a series of presentations, workshops and surgeries on the theme of innovation in public services. This will provide delegates with an opportunity to catch up on latest thinking with inputs from the chief executive of NESTA Geoff Mulgan and author and former government advisor Charlie Leadbeater plus Creative Councils.
2. On Thursday 4 July, the LGA will be running council-led sessions - showcasing those councils who have risen to the challenge of being more innovative. Councils will be bringing along something to share – which is not a piece of paper. They'll be demonstrating apps, pictures, videos and gadgets amongst other things. The mood in the space will be very informal and for most of the day multiple conversations will be taking place. Whilst the energy in the room will be relaxed, even fun, we are serious about our commitment to supporting councils that are taking risks to capture and share their innovative practice.

### **PRODUCTIVITY**

#### **Cap Gemini workshop reviewing the development of the New Model for Local Government**

3. This month the Improvement and Innovation Board along with a number of others from the LGA including the Leadership Board and the Corporate Leadership Team attended a workshop on the development of the New Model for Local Government. Using Cap Gemini's Accelerated Solutions Environment (ASE) approach we looked at the key issues in various areas including Sustainable funding, Independence, Growth, Adult social care, Children's social care and Welfare reform. The event was a great success and we pulled together all the work that had been done on the New Model so far, thinking about the questions that we would like to put to conference, and about the steps we need to take afterwards.

#### **Best Councils to do Business with**

4. DCLG have just announced the winners of their top 10 councils to do business with competition. A panel which included board member Cllr Ruth Cadbury as well as industry experts and local and central government representatives, judged councils on their innovative procurement practices for small businesses. The winners were Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Bury Council, City of London Corporation, Halton Borough Council, Harrow Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Manchester City Council, Norfolk County Council, Sheffield City Council and Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council with a joint bid.

**IMPROVEMENT**

**Councils help cut nation's household energy bills by £10 million**

5. In May I spoke to the press about the many collective switching schemes that councils have set up around the country. More than 100,000 households have signed up to the schemes, altogether saving residents over £10 million on gas and electricity bills. I explained that this time last year no councils were running the scheme and now we have more than 65 councils on board, therefore these savings are just the start with thousands more people set to benefit with more collective switching being rolled out across the country. Many people find switching a daunting task and therefore stay with expensive providers, these schemes are not only about saving money, but they are also about making sure members of the community, especially the vulnerable such as those with disabilities and the elderly are getting the best deal possible and staying out of fuel poverty.

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

### **Justice Select Committee inquiry into crime reduction policies**

1. The Justice Select Committee has launched a new inquiry looking at the extent to which a cross-departmental approach is taken within Whitehall on cutting crime, the impact of spending reductions on the delivery of crime reduction initiatives and the impact of the government's proposals for transforming rehabilitation. The Safer Communities Board has submitted a paper to the Committee highlighting the need for local partners to be provided with better financial incentives to work together in a cross-cutting way, through for example community budgets, and the need for smaller contract areas for the new probation service packages being let as part of the Ministry of Justice's transforming of rehabilitation. The latest proposals increase the number of contract areas and they match police and local authority boundaries, which is something the Board has stressed the need for. Where contracts still cover a number of police forces, the Board has argued they should cover no more than one force area.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill**

2. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech and shortly after the Bill itself was published. As well as containing the provisions in the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill published at the end of last year the Bill also contains provisions banning forced marriage and extending dangerous dogs legislation to private property. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board has been invited to give evidence to the committee considering the Bill in mid-June and Cllr Mehboob Khan will be representing the LGA.

### **Police and Crime Panels**

3. Following an evidence session with both police and crime commissioners (PCCs) and police and crime panel chairs the Home Affairs Select Committee published a report towards the end of May around the scrutiny of PCCs. In our response, the chair of the Board Cllr Khan, noted the role panels had played in scrutinising PCCs and their decisions, including a number of appointments of deputy PCCs, and a number had not recommended the appointment of the deputy PCC put forward. The Board also welcomed the Committee's suggestion that in future where a chief constable is suspended by the PCC, the PCC should provide the panel and chief constable with written reasons for why the suspension was necessary.

### **Domestic Homicide Reviews**

4. The Board held a free training event for local authorities on 21 May on domestic homicide reviews. The reviews were introduced in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, but not actually implemented until 2011. Since then councils have been the lead organisation in conducting the reviews. This well attended event, chaired by Cllr Lisa Brett, a Board member and deputy champion on domestic violence issues, provided the delegates with an opportunity to learn from the experiences of those who had already conducted reviews, as well as hear from the Home Office on the work they are doing related to the reviews. As well as a speaker from the Home Office the event heard from Davina James-Hanman, director of AVA who has provided training for the chairs of reviews, Anthony Willis, the chief executive of Standing Together, and three

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local authorities that have conducted reviews. One change that delegates identified was removing the requirement to publish complete reports, and production of a step-by-step guide to conducting reviews.

**Local authority health and safety inspections**

5. Councillor Khan called into question the Government message that a new Code to guide local authority health and safety work would ban inspections other than where businesses were classed high risk at a national level or in response to intelligence about an individual business. Government statements accompanying the Code's launch created the impression it would leave councils unable to take actions in response to the needs of local businesses or general concerns from their residents. In reality this new Code does not do this.
6. Councillor Khan emphasised that councils across the country are working hard every day to provide very real support and advice to businesses in their area and encourage economic growth. Environmental health teams are at the heart of this effort, working to free responsible businesses from unnecessary regulation, providing practical advice where it is needed and only targeting inspections where there is a risk to local communities.

**National Scams Awareness Week**

7. The Board showcased the work of member councils to crack down on scams and rogue traders through a press release over the bank holiday weekend. The item was picked up by The Times and The Express and the Board has been approached to contribute an ITV documentary following councils trading standards officers. This work will be followed up with work on how councils are using the Proceeds of Crime Act to recover the assets of criminals.

**Unlicensed tattoo parlours**

8. The Board highlighted the threat posed to people's health from the use of unlicensed tattoo parlours. Illegal operators offering lower prices and cut-price deals are also unlikely to check customers' age or ask about their medical history. Customers are as a result at risk of serious skin irritations, or blood borne viruses like hepatitis and HIV. The Board's chair, Cllr Khan, encouraged people to use registered with their council, and highlighted the risks going to unlicensed tattooists could bring. The LGA's statement was covered in the national press, and Cllr Khan also appeared on BBC Radio 5 Live to discuss the issue.

**BRDO Business Reference Panel**

9. Cllr Khan, represented the LGA at the meeting in mid-June of the Business Regulation Delivery Office Business Reference Panel. This is attended by ministers, officials and representatives from large businesses and business organisations. Cllr Khan gave a presentation on how local authorities and businesses could work together better, and outlined the Board's new vision for local regulation which sees it having much more of a role in supporting and helping businesses rather than just being focused on inspections and enforcement. At the panel meeting Cllr Khan was also able to highlight the new template that the LGA has produced for councils so they can explain to local businesses what services they provide and how the council can help them.

**Meeting with Fire Minister**

10. Councillor Kay Hammond, Chairman of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee met Brandon Lewis MP on 15 May as part of her quarterly cycle of meetings with the minister. Taking place in advance of the outcomes of Sir Ken Knight's Efficiency Review being announced, discussion focused on next steps for the fire service. Mr Lewis indicated that DCLG intend to consult a number of stakeholders, including the LGA before submitting their official response to Sir Ken's report.

**Fire College**

11. Councillor Kay Hammond attended the first College Management Board meeting on 29 May where discussions focused on the new governance arrangements and the vision for the College.

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

### **Pensions**

1. Work continues on regulations to implement the new LGPS from 2014 with a consultation on both the benefit and transitional regulations recently completed and a further consultation on governance regulations now expected in early June.
2. 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.
3. The shadow LGPS Scheme Advisory Board is in the process of being set up and hopes to have its first meeting in late June/early July. The board will advise the Secretary of State and local LGPS funds on best practice, cost effectiveness and scheme changes.
4. Good news from Europe, proposed minimum solvency requirements have been dropped from a forthcoming pensions directive. This follows intensive lobbying by the LGA via CEEP UK to prevent what could have resulted in combined additional funding requirements for UK LGPS funds of between 18 and 75 billion euros.

### **Local Government Services**

5. The Trade Unions are consulting on the Employers' pay offer (as notified in May's report) and are expected to announce the results in mid to late June.

### **Public Health Workforce Transition**

6. The Public Health Workforce Strategy has now been published and is available at x. Over the next few months the LGA will work with Public Health England and others to ensure that the leading role of local councils in developing the future public health workforce is highlighted.
7. National discussions about public health workforce issues will in future take place in a sub-committee of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services which has its first meeting in June. This group is designed to ensure that from now on, local government takes the lead on issues relating to a small but important new group of employees.

### **Skills for local Government**

8. LGA Workforce team has a new joint initiative with Skills for Local Government and Birmingham City Council which provides councils with support on planning their future workforce in times of austerity. The offer of support gives councils access to bespoke advice and guidance and a free on-line assessment questionnaire. We are aiming to work with up to twenty councils over the next three months.

**Fire**

9. On behalf of the National Employers, and at the request of fire authorities, we continue to press the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to put in place the same flexibility in respect of redundancy payments for all fire authority uniformed employees as authorities have for support employees. This request has now been supported by Sir Ken Knight in his recently published independent review into efficiency and operations in fire and rescue services in England, commissioned by DCLG. It is hoped that with this added impetus the request will now move to the consultation stage.
10. In the light of various case law developments in the UK courts and European Court of Justice the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services has issued joint guidance on leave entitlement and its relationship with sickness absence arising from the Working Time Directive.
11. The NJC's Joint Secretariat continues to support negotiation at local level with the provision of facilitated sessions for management teams and lead union representatives in individual fire and rescue services to jointly explore their industrial relations relationship utilising the framework of the NJC's Joint Protocol on Good Industrial Relations. Feedback from both parties is that such sessions are helpful, constructive, and assist them in putting in place a more effective working relationship.

**School Teachers**

12. At time of writing the School Teachers' Review Body's (STRB) 22<sup>nd</sup> Report is expected to be published on 31 May. It will contain recommendations on how to apply the average 1% public sector pay award to teachers in 2013/14.
13. NEOST is currently preparing evidence to submit to the STRB to inform its recommendations on (a) the pay framework for school leaders, (b) the provisions for allowances, other pay flexibilities and pay safeguarding and (c) the framework for non-pay conditions of services.

**Universal Credit workforce issues update**

14. Since our update in the November Workforce News podcast, there have been no significant developments in our discussions with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) concerning the issue of whether local authority staff performing benefit functions will transfer to the DWP under TUPE or TUPE-similar principles on the implementation of Universal Credit. This is because changes in the senior civil servants involved with the workforce aspects of the project have meant that various meetings between the LGA and the DWP that were arranged to discuss the issue have been cancelled by the DWP. The LGA is working with the DWP to reschedule the meeting. In the meantime, the LGA maintains its position that TUPE or TUPE-similar principles should apply.

**Youth and Community**

15. The JNC Youth and Community Trade Union Side's claim for 2013 was 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*



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*Worker would be Pay Point 5'*. Following consultation with local authorities the National Employers decided to make a final offer to the Staff Side of 1.0% from 1 September 2013. The Staff Side has yet to respond to the offer.

**New ways of working including social enterprises**

16. A final reminder that 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'.

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

### The Spending Review

1. On 4 April 2013, Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wrote to the Chairman of the LGA inviting us to submit views on the 2015-16 Spending Round on behalf of the sector.
2. In response to this letter, the LGA developed a series of 12 papers which were submitted to Government on 29 April. These include a summary of the LGA's asks of government for the 2015-16 Spending Round, and a paper outlining how a typical council has dealt with the funding reductions to date, its contribution to growth, the impact of further reductions in 2015-16 and how our proposed measures would help the council. The LGA produced 10 themed papers on the following areas: Adult social care; children's service culture, sport, digital economy; energy; fire; growth; housing; local government finance; transport; and waste. Community budgets was a theme that underpinned all of the papers.
3. Views of the sector were sought on these papers. Follow-up discussions with Ministers and officials are now taking place.

### Social Investment

4. The LGA is running 3 master classes on social investment in partnership with Social Finance on 9, 10 and 21 June. The first session is an introduction to social investment, the other two sessions will look at social investment in children and adult's services respectively. Details can be found on the events section of the LGA website [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/events/-/journal\\_content/56/10171/3988307/EVENT-TEMPLATE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/events/-/journal_content/56/10171/3988307/EVENT-TEMPLATE). There will also be a social investment workshop at the LGA annual conference involving Councillor David Finch on the Essex social impact bond, Ben Jupp (Social Finance) and Matt Robinson (Big Society Capital).

### Council tax referendum and Levying bodies

5. At the May Finance Panel we considered a report on council tax referendums and levying bodies. The Local Audit and Accountability Bill, now before Parliament, includes provision for including levies in the calculation of council tax referendum thresholds; currently they are excluded. The LGA is lobbying peers on this as the Bill passes its Lords stages.
6. We have made it clear that we are opposed in principle to the current council tax referendum legislation, as it means that the decision as to whether or not a council tax increase is excessive and a local referendum needs to be held is that of the Secretary of State. Local elections are the appropriate opportunity for people to pass judgement on their council.
7. Having said that we are opposed to the new change as including increases in levies set by outside bodies in the calculation of council tax referendum limits adds further uncertainty to council finances and could lead to further reductions in essential local services. It also puts members co-opted to levying bodies in a potentially difficult position. We are also opposed to the retrospection included in the Bill as it is not fair

on authorities who have taken decisions in good faith based on legislation in place at the time.

**New Model: Financial Sustainability Deep Dive**

8. Following the deep dive on financial sustainability on 16 April, the Finance Panel discussed the latest thinking on the new model for local government at its last meeting on 10 May. The Panel asked for more emphasis on the impacts on communities and discussed the challenge of re-distribution within a model where the sector funds itself from local taxes. Councillor Houghton tabled a paper on local government that he has written with Rt Hon John Healey MP.

**New Model: Welfare Reform Deep Dive**

9. On Tuesday 7 May, Councillor Caplan (Finance Panel Vice-Chair) chaired the LGA's welfare reform deep dive. The event was well attended by a wide range of stakeholders including council members, chief executives, charities and think-tanks. Delegates identified a number of key challenges for councils and partners, as well as reaffirming the sector's position that there is a need for enduring local support in which local government has a key role to play.

**Universal Credit - Local Support services Framework (LSSF)**

10. Following on from the consultation exercise on the LSSF, a meeting took place between the LGA Chairman and Lord Freud to discuss the LGA's response. Discussion was wide ranging. Particular emphasis was placed upon identifying sources for funding the LSSF and it was agreed that the community budget model may provide a way forward. A refreshed role for councils within the Universal Credit (UC) governance structure was also discussed and is something Lord Freud will be looking into further. Lord Freud and Sir Merrick are due to meet again in June to continue this dialogue. We will carry on lobbying to get further clarification from DWP on the roll out timetable for UC and clarification around new burdens funding.

**Local Authority Led Universal Credit Face to Face Pilots**

11. The Steering Group for the Local Authority pilots met on 9 May to share the latest learning from their projects. Over the next few weeks the LGA will be working with the pilots to produce a publication which will share the learning so far. We will also be developing a programme of pilot open days so that practitioners can experience first-hand what the pilots have been doing. The Department for Work and Pensions are currently considering our request for an extension of the pilots and will be making an announcement shortly.

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

### **Context**

1. Delegates attending this year's LGA Regional Roadshows offered strong support for the association's proposals for a collective bond agency.
2. Following LGA lobbying the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has offered to jointly explore the potential for an agency. Treasury officials propose meeting in July, and have undertaken to bring the capital markets colleagues to the discussions.
3. The LGA has instructed Local Partnerships to review the outline business plan to ensure key facts and assumptions remain current.
4. The concept of local authority collective agencies continues to gather pace and attract investor attention. Having received Sénat approval, the French collective bond agency is planning to launch in autumn this year.

### **Meetings**

5. The Task Group met at the end of May to consider progress and review a proposed communications plan.

### **Communications and stakeholder engagement**

6. The LGA proposed agency continues to attract positive attention:
  - 1.1. MJ and Public Finance Magazines have run prominent articles on the benefits of the LGA's proposed bond agency
  - 1.2. The LGA has been invited to a roundtable, alongside the other international local authority bond agencies, at the Euromoney Conference in June.
7. The intention is to continue to raise the profile of our proposals, officers are developing a series of events for a number of different audiences

### **LGA Annual Conference**

8. The Task Group will set out next steps at the LGA's Annual Conference.

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## Digest of Meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Councillors' Forum
<b>Date and time:</b>	Thursday 16 May 2013, 12.30pm
<b>Venue:</b>	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

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### Item

#### Welcome and Introductions

Cllr David Sparks, LGA Vice-Chair, welcomed members to the Forum meeting and introduced Bobby Duffy, Ipsos MORI, and Professor Colin Rallings, University of Plymouth. Both Bobby and Colin presented their research into electoral generational change and the meaning of the election results from the local elections on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 respectively. The Chairman, Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, joined and took over proceedings during the presentations.

#### 1 Voting Past, Present and Future

Bobby Duffy introduced his 'Generations' research by giving an overall context to the project. He explained how the research analysis focusses on re-examining a number of surveys to look at patterns, not in age group but, in generational cohorts. The aim is to establish what are more important to political voting patterns.

The 4 generations under analysis are the pre-war generation (born pre-1945), the baby boomers (1945-1965), generation X (1966-1979) and generation Y (1980-2000).

Bobby highlighted how the opinions in favour of the government's welfare spending have declined over the last decade. But he then showed that although there is a decline in support across the board generations have previously and continued to be different in their levels of support. Younger groups, such as generation X and Y, are less open to income redistribution when compared to the pre-war and baby boomer generations.

Another stark illustration was seen in the overall measures of pride in the creation of the welfare state. Whereas 70 per cent of the pre-war generation see it as their proudest achievement less than 30 per cent of generation Y (born 1980-2000) agreed. Bobby demonstrated a similar picture with party politics. Illustrating that although allegiance to one party is declining across the board, still 60 per cent of the pre-war generation see themselves as supporting one party compared to less than 30 per cent of generation Y.

Bobby then compared this English party loyalty to other European countries. The presentation research unveiled Sweden as possessing a very strong party allegiance across all generations with over 65 per cent of all generations saying they felt closer to a particular party; with the difference between the oldest and youngest generations being small, circa. 10 per cent. Interestingly, Bobby showed how Ireland demonstrated a similarly strong correlation between generations voting for one party but in the opposite direction. As although all generations were closely together in their allegiance, their party faithfulness had taken a collective dip since 2008.

Finally, Bobby's presented how this generational difference affects voting patterns. He highlighted a specific spike in the percentage of pre-war generation who would be undecided were there to be a general election tomorrow. He then considered the graph that showed how the older generations felt a considerably stronger duty to vote than the younger generations. Concluding that there is a lot to play for in winning the elder generations' vote.

Professor Colin Rallings then presented how the generational themes highlighted in Bobby's presentation had translated in the ballot box at the local elections on the 2nd May 2013.

First, he highlighted that the seat changes had been in line with forecasts prior to the elections, with the exception of the UKIP vote. But, he explained the unforeseen results came in the national equivalents, as despite Conservatives obtaining 10 per cent more councillors, they only narrowly held onto their LGA majority.

Colin went onto to explain UKIP's success. He stated that UKIP's vote share is increasingly but the context of the elections being in county and unitary authorities is important. This is because many counties where Conservatives and Lib Dems traditionally finish first and second the real alternative for voters' protest vote is only UKIP as many would not vote Labour. Furthermore, only 32 per cent voted in these elections, as they were the first elections not to clash with other major elections since 1993. With this in mind, next year, when the local elections are held in London and metropolitan authorities which are largely not good locations for Independents, UKIP are forecast not to be as significant. Equally time will tell how UKIP councillors behave in local authorities as the BNP lost support due to their councillor's behaviour once they had gained seats.

Joe Simpson concluded the presentations by updating members about Individual Electoral Registration. He told those present that the Cabinet's Parliamentary Research Unit do see it being achievable. Therefore members should be prepared for the issues stemming from this.

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

- Future for Independent councillors
- Why generation Y are so disengaged
- UKIP's geographic spread

The Chairman thanked the contributors for their presentations.

## **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.

**Next meeting:** Thursday 13 June 2013, 12:30pm, The Westminster Suite, Local Government House





# LGA location map

## Local Government Association

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## Bus routes – Millbank

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

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

## 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.

## 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** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

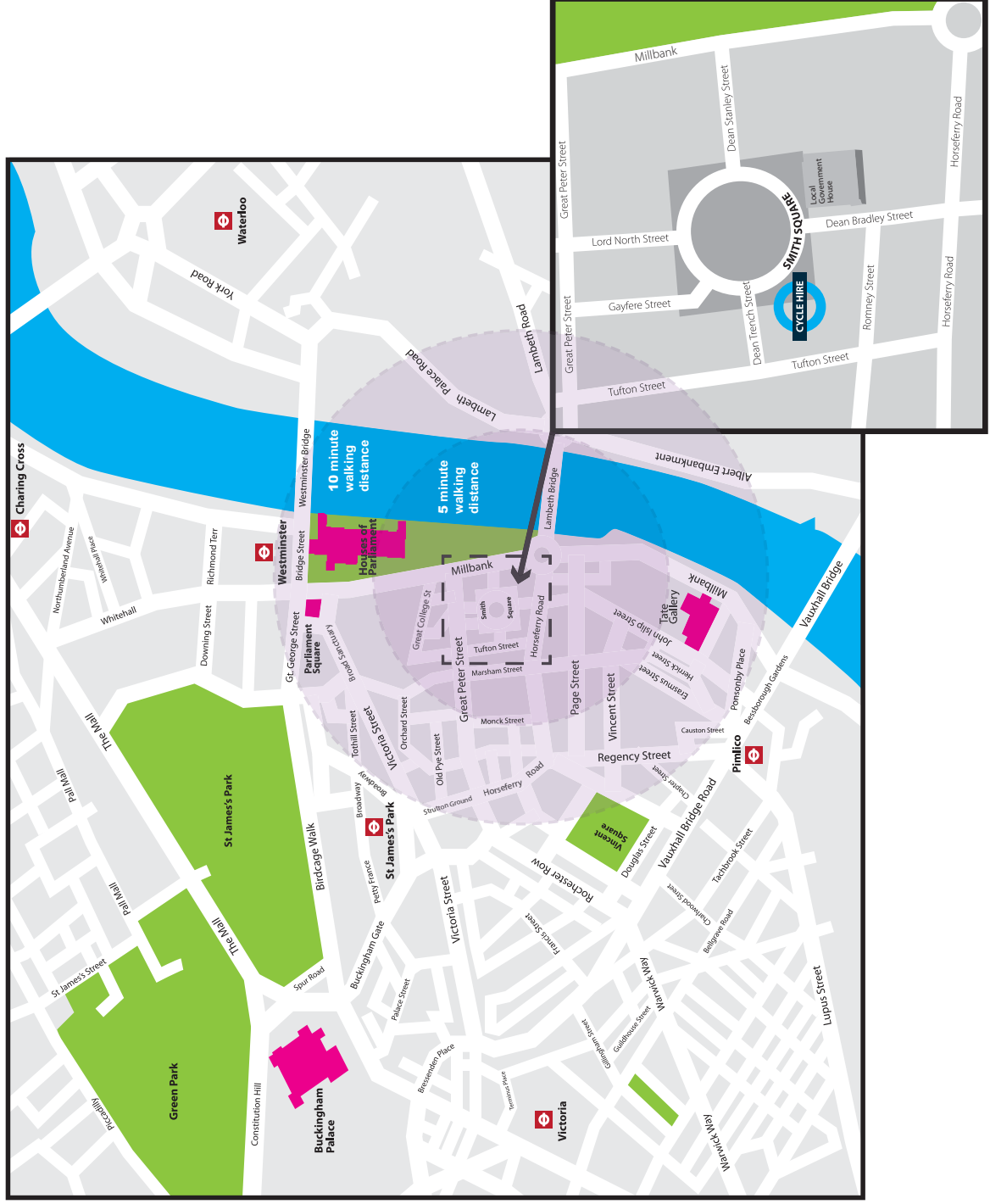
Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

## Bus routes – Horseferry Road

**507** Waterloo - Victoria

**C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

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



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