

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday 21 November 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

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.

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
21 November 2013

The **Councillors' Forum** meeting will be held on **Thursday 21 November 2013 at 12.30pm in the Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.**

Please note: The Political Group meetings will be held **prior** to this, as follows:

11.00am	Conservative	Westminster Suite (8 th floor)
11.00am	Labour	Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Meeting Room 6 (6 th floor)

Lunch will be served in The Terrace Lounge (7th 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.

Conservative:	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.groupLGA@local.gov.uk

Attendance Sheet

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Location

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

Contact

Donna Hirsch (Tel: 020 7664 3051, Email: donna.hirsch@local.gov.uk)

Guest WiFi in Local Government House

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

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.31 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Social Media

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**



Councillors' Forum 2013-2014

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	
Sir Merrick Cockell [Chairman]	Local Government Association
Tony Ball	Basildon Borough Council
Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Paul Findlow	Cheshire East Council
Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Ken Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire County Council
Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Paul Carter	Kent County Council
Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Clare Whelan OBE	Lambeth London Borough Council
Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Bill Borrett	Norfolk County Council
Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
Ken Hudson JP MBE	Preston City Council
Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Kate Wild	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
Jeff Milburn	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Sir William Lawrence Bt	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Joanna Spicer	Suffolk County Council
Mark Bee	Suffolk County Council
Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge District Council
Ravi Govindia	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Louise Goldsmith	West Sussex County Council
Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
Andrew Bowles	Swale Borough Council
Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
David Finch	Essex County Council
Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Phillippa Roe	Westminster City Council

Labour	
Sharon Taylor	Stevenage Borough Council
Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Eion Watts	Bolsover District Council
John Bevan	Haringey Council
Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Claire Kober	Haringey Council
Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Simon Henig	Durham County Council
Ian Swithenbank	Northumberland Council
Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Jim McMahon	Oldham Metropolitan Council
Sue Murphy	Manchester City Council
Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Richard Leese	Manchester City Council
John Joyce	Cheshire Fire Authority
Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Peter Smith	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
David Sparks OBE	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Ann Lucas	Coventry City Council
Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
James Alexander	City of York Council
Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
Peter Box	Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council
Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Dave Wilcox	Derbyshire County Council
Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Ruth Cadbury	Hounslow London Borough Council
Nick Crofts	Liverpool City Council
John Merry	Salford City Council
Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Mohammed Pervez	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
<i>Labour Sub Pool</i>	
<i>Sian Timoney</i>	<i>Luton Borough Council</i>
<i>Julie Young</i>	<i>Essex County Council</i>
<i>Chris Fegan</i>	<i>Chelmsford City Council</i>
<i>Michael Payne</i>	<i>Gedling Borough Council</i>
<i>Anne Western</i>	<i>Derbyshire County Council</i>
<i>Paul Bayliss</i>	<i>Derby City Council</i>
<i>Rory Palmer</i>	<i>Leicester City Council</i>
<i>Catherine West</i>	<i>Islington Council</i>

<i>Robin Wales</i>	<i>Newham London Borough Council</i>
<i>Jagdish Sharma</i>	<i>Hounslow London Borough council</i>
<i>Len Duvall AM</i>	<i>Greater London Authority</i>
<i>Iain Malcolm</i>	<i>South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough</i>
<i>Kate Hollern</i>	<i>Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>Bury Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
<i>Ronnie Round</i>	<i>Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
<i>Tony McDermott</i>	<i>Halton Borough Council</i>
<i>Barrie Grunewald</i>	<i>St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
<i>Mike Roberts</i>	<i>Rushmoor Borough Council</i>
<i>Roger Hutchinson</i>	<i>South Gloucestershire Council</i>
<i>Tudor Evans</i>	<i>Plymouth City Council</i>
<i>Aaron Shotton</i>	<i>Flintshire County Council</i>
<i>Steve Houghton</i>	<i>Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
<i>Roger Stone OBE</i>	<i>Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
<i>Judith Blake</i>	<i>Leeds City Council</i>
<i>Justin Madders</i>	<i>Cheshire West & Chester Council</i>
<i>Ian Ward</i>	<i>Birmingham City Council</i>
<i>Steve Eling</i>	<i>Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
Liberal Democrat	
<i>Barbara Janke</i>	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
<i>Lisa Brett</i>	<i>Bath and North East Somerset Council</i>
<i>Keith House</i>	<i>Eastleigh Borough Council</i>
<i>Jeremy Hilton</i>	<i>Gloucestershire County Council</i>
<i>Liz Green</i>	<i>Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council</i>
<i>Richard Kemp CBE</i>	<i>Liverpool City Council</i>
<i>Claire Hudson</i>	<i>Mendip District Council</i>
<i>Howard Sykes</i>	<i>Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council</i>
<i>Heather Kidd</i>	<i>Shropshire Council</i>
<i>Jill Shortland OBE</i>	<i>Somerset County Council</i>
<i>Cathy Bakewell MBE</i>	<i>South Somerset District Council</i>
<i>Stan Collins</i>	<i>South Lakeland District Council</i>
<i>Lord Graham Tope CBE</i>	<i>Sutton London Borough Council</i>
Liberal Democrat Sub Pool	
<i>Tim Bick</i>	<i>Cambridge City Council</i>
<i>Flick Rea MBE</i>	<i>Camden Council</i>
<i>Edward Lord OBE JP</i>	<i>City of London Corporation</i>
<i>Hilary Jones</i>	<i>Derby City Council</i>
<i>David Neighbour</i>	<i>Hart District Council</i>
<i>Chris White</i>	<i>Hertfordshire County Council</i>
<i>Abigail Bell</i>	<i>Hull City Council</i>
<i>Terry Stacy MBE JP</i>	<i>Islington Council</i>
<i>Jeff Reid</i>	<i>Northumberland Council</i>
<i>Alan Connett</i>	<i>Teignbridge District council</i>
<i>Mayor Dorothy Thornhill</i>	<i>Watford Borough Council</i>
<i>Roger Symonds</i>	<i>Bath & North East Somerset Council</i>

Independent	
Paul Cullen	Richmondshire District Council
Norman Bradbury	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Pauline Dee	Shropshire Council
Peter Jones	Babergh District Council
Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District and Surrey County Council
Julian German	Cornwall Council
Sir David Wootton	City of London Corporation
Pamela Hargreaves	Hartlepool Borough Council
TBC	
<i>Independent Sub Pool</i>	
<i>Marianna Overton</i>	<i>Lincolnshire County Council</i>
<i>Peter Reeve</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>
<i>Bob Dutton OBE</i>	<i>Wrexham County Borough Council</i>

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 21 November 2013

12.30pm – 1.30pm

The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

	Item	Page	Time
1.	Police and Crime Commissioners: One Year On Tim Passmore, PCC for Suffolk, Dr Eric Wood, Deputy PCC for Warwickshire and Ron Hogg, PCC for Durham, will set out their experiences of the last year. This is an opportunity for members to raise issues for local government.	3	12.30pm
2.	Chairman's Update - October 2013	9	1.20pm
3.	LGA Board and Panel Chairs' Reports	11	1.25pm
	a. Children & Young People Board – Councillor David Simmonds		
	b. Community Wellbeing Board – Councillor Katie Hall		
	c. Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Councillor Flick Rea MBE		
	d. Economy & Transport Board – Councillor Peter Box CBE		
	e. Environment & Housing Board – Councillor Mike Jones		
	f. European & International Board – Councillor Clarence Barrett		
	g. Improvement and Innovation Board – Councillor Peter Fleming		
	h. Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Councillor Mehboob Khan		
	i. Workforce Board – Councillor Jim McMahon		
	j. Finance Panel – Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE		
4.	Digest of Last Meeting	39	

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 20 February 2013, 12:30pm, LGH, Westminster Suite

Police and Crime Commissioners: One Year On

Summary

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took up their posts in November 2012. Tim Passmore, PCC for Suffolk, Dr Eric Wood, Deputy PCC for Warwickshire and Ron Hogg, PCC for Durham, will set out their experiences of the last year. This will be an opportunity to hear about how PCCs are working in partnership with local government on a wide range of community safety issues, to reflect on the effectiveness of Police and Crime Panels, and to consider the challenges going forward.

Purpose

This report provides background information and context to inform the discussion.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the presentation and raise issues from a local government perspective.

Actions

As directed by the Forum.

Contact officer: Eamon Lally
Position: Senior Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3132/07799768570
Email: Eamon.lally@local.gov.uk

Police and Crime Commissioners: One Year On

Background

1. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) have been in existence for one year. The anniversary presents an opportunity to reflect on and assess the impact of the PCCs and the arrangements that have been put in place to provide for their scrutiny.
2. Police and Crime Commissioners were established to achieve a decentralisation of control and to put the public "in the driving seat" when it comes to local policing and crime reduction. It was recognised from the very beginning that PCCs would be new entrants to a busy local leadership landscape and that they would need to work in collaboration with local authorities and other local partners. Elected members have also had an important role to play through PCPs in scrutinising Commissioners' decisions.

Summary of LGA's work with PCCs and PCPs

3. The LGA is engaged in formal partnership work with Police and Crime Commissioners through a Joint Strategic Partnership Board with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. The Joint Strategic Partnership Board acts as a forum for discussion and information sharing on issues of common interest to members of the Local Government Association and Police and Crime Commissioners. The Board met for the first time on 4 September 2013 and discussed issues relating to child sexual exploitation and health reforms.
4. The Board's membership is Cllr Mehboob Khan - LGA, (Chairman); Cllr Marianne Overton – LGA; Cllr David Burbage – LGA; Mayor Dorothy Thornhill – LGA; Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird QC – Northumbria; Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore – Suffolk; Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Ball – Warwickshire

Supporting PCPs

5. The LGA has commissioned work to support Police and Crime Panels. Through the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) it is currently supporting work with eight panels as they develop their approaches to scrutiny.
6. The Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) has also commissioned research into the experiences of PCPs in the first year of operation. The initial findings highlight:
 - 6.1. the importance of the relationship between the PCC and panels to effective scrutiny;
 - 6.2. problems with information sharing between the PCC and Panels; and
 - 6.3. continuing confusion about the roles of Panels and the extent to which they have enough powers.
7. The Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) has announced its inquiry into Police and Crime Commissioners: One Year On. The terms of reference for the inquiry indicate that as part of this review HASC will look at the effectiveness of Police and Crime

Panels. SSCB will be providing a written submission to HASC in respect of this inquiry which will draw on the research undertaken by CfPS.

Community Budgets

8. Community budgets are particularly relevant in relation to community safety issues where more integrated working across agencies can deliver reduced costs and go some way to helping community safety partnerships and the police tackle significant funding reductions. A number of PCCs have signalled enthusiasm about community budgets and are exploring this approach with their community safety partnerships and wider partners to tackle cross cutting issues such as anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related disorder, domestic abuse, community cohesion and mental health issues.
9. There is already evidence from community budget pilot areas that an integrated approach can be effective. Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority have developed a partnership approach with Chester Police and Chester Probation Service to address domestic abuse, and have developed a new delivery model which aims to reduce the risks, demand on public services and costs thereby delivering better outcomes for victims and their children. This is estimated to save £7.6 million (net) over five years.

Speaker Biographies

Tim Passmore (Conservative), PCC Suffolk



For the past 30 years Tim has been an intensive livestock producer and has advised on pig production and genetic breeding programmes across Europe, North America and Asia. As a self-employed agricultural and rural business consultant he has delivered seminars and lecture tours to a wide variety of farming and agribusiness organisations.

Tim is a Mid Suffolk councillor and prior to taking on the role of the PCC, he was Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council.

Tim was educated at Ipswich School before taking a degree in Agriculture at Wye College, University of London, majoring in management, marketing and economics. More recently he graduated from the Open University with an MBA.

Ron Hogg (Labour), PCC Durham

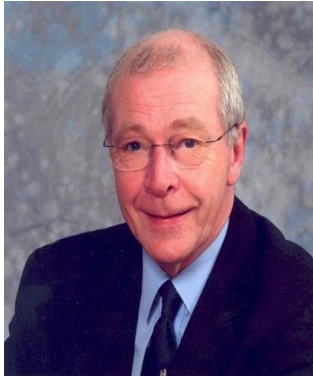


A serving police officer for over 30 years, Ron Hogg rose through the ranks to become Assistant Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary and Deputy Chief Constable of Cleveland Police. As a serving police officer he won national recognition for his expertise in policing football

Ron graduated from the University of York in 1973 with a degree in Politics. Between 1973 and 1978 he taught History

and Sociology in an 11-18 years comprehensive school in Northamptonshire.

Dr Eric Wood OBE (Independent) Deputy PCC, Warwickshire



Eric Wood was formerly the Chief Executive to the Warwickshire Police Authority, and has 18 years' experience of leadership and governance through his work as Deputy and County Education Officer in addition to his work with the police authority.

Chairman's Update - October 2013

Local Government Association (LGA) business

1. In the first few days of October, the Conservative Party Conference rounded off an exceptionally busy **conference season** for the LGA. I met with a number of Ministers and MPs during my four days in Manchester. More importantly, our Public Affairs and Campaigns team secured a total of **105 speaking platforms** at the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour Party conferences.
2. October's **Leadership Board** business included a review of the LGA's business plan and **budget for 2014/15**, focusing on high level priorities and the budget framework. Members continued to debate the review of **LGA Governance Arrangements** and commented on the LGA's **Autumn Statement submission to HM Treasury** which has now subsequently been shared with Secretaries of State across Whitehall.
3. At **LGA Executive**, Cllr David Simmonds and Cllr Katie Hall provided an update on the well-attended **National Children and Adults Services Conference 2013** in Harrogate. The agenda also included the Law Commission's **Programme for Law Reform**, our submission to the Treasury and discussions continued to focus on our governance review.
4. At this month's **Councillor's Forum** we invited **David Laws MP**, Minister of State for Schools at the Department for Education and Minister of State at the Cabinet Office to answer a range of questions on the cuts to the **Education Support Grant**, School Improvement, Schools **Funding** and Place Planning.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

5. Throughout Conference Recess and the month of October, I took up meetings with a number of MPs, including Nadhim Zahawi MP, Stephen Dorrell MP, Margot James MP and Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP. I also met:
 - 5.1. **Jo Johnson MP**, Head of the No.10 Policy Unit, to introduce our Rewiring Public Services programme of work.
 - 5.2. **Lord Freud**, Minister for Welfare Reform (Lords) at the Department for Work and Pensions to discuss **Universal Credit and the Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS)**. Following the reshuffle, conversations regarding the SFIS have also included **Baroness Stowell** at DCLG.
 - 5.3. **Hon Mike Rann, Australian High Commissioner**, ahead of my visit to Cairns for the 117th Annual Conference of the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ).

Item 2

6. I also attended the **East of England LGA Parliamentary Reception** at the House of Common, at the end of the month which was hosted by **Stephen McPartland MP**.

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

7. I also took on a number of engagements during conference which included speaking at events hosted by Homes for Britain, Prospect, Reform and Localis.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

8. During a regional visit to Devon, I visited **Exeter** to accept Cllr Pete Edwards invitation to speak with councillors from across Devon and public sector colleagues about our **Rewiring Public Services** programme. As a follow up to that event, our Rewiring work will also be taken to the **Devon District Forum**. The visit also included dinner with Leaders and Chief Executives of neighbouring authorities. The varied itinerary showcased the impressive **regeneration of the Guildhall** and a tour of the **Royal Albert Memorial Museum**.
9. Over in **Plymouth**, I met with Leader Cllr Tudor Evans and Chief Executive Tracey Lee. I was pleased to engage with Cllr John Hart and Phil Norrey, Leader and Chief Executive of **Devon County Council** who also attended the dinner. Throughout the visit, conversations touched on a number of areas including **integrated health and social care, economic development** and the physical regeneration of North Prospect and Millbay.

Item 3a

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

NCAS Report

1. At the LGA's Chief Executive meeting on 24 October, I gave an oral report to members including office holders and chairs of the Boards, alongside Katie Hill, Chair of CWB, on the National Children and Adults Services Conference. I emphasised the optimistic atmosphere at the conference, the positive outlook of delegates and the fantastic number of examples we saw of innovative practice being shared by local authorities. I explained that financial sustainability was a recurring theme raised by delegates as an issue and encouraged the LGA to take it forward even more robustly in its lobbying work.

Draft Deregulation Bill

2. I recently gave oral evidence to the Draft Deregulation Bill Committee in my position as chair of the CYP Board. During my session I emphasised to the board that the draft bill designed to remove red tape and bureaucracy from thousands of businesses and make life easier for individuals and civil society has received a largely positive reception amongst local government as our written submission outlined. However, I also used the session to detail our concerns and explain where the sector feels the draft legislation could be used as a more "exciting opportunity".

Local Employment schemes

3. This month the Guardian held an online discussion with a panel of experts all looking into local employment schemes. I spoke to the press prior to the session outlining the problems with the current schemes. Whilst there are a number of good initiatives happening around the country, the government has sidelined councils and incentivised a series of providers such as schools, colleges and the third sector to work in isolation from each other, with no clarity on who is responsible for leading the offer to young people on the ground. I emphasised that Councils are best placed to provide and commission coordinated schemes and need to be allowed to develop employment programmes for the young people in their areas.

Ofsted Social Care Annual Report

4. Since the last report the LGA has responded to the Ofsted Social Care Annual Report which said that improvement in children's services required strong and stable leadership, and published figures which appeared to show some authorities were not meeting the standards needed. In the response we highlighted that nothing councils do is more important than protecting children and the responsibility on local authorities to continually make sure children are becoming safer is one which every council takes incredibly seriously. I outlined in the response that recent cases of neglect and abuse have brought the need for vigilance right to the forefront, and it is important to recognise that the number of looked-after children under the care and supervision of local authorities is now higher than at any point in almost 30 years.
5. The LGA also responded to Ofsted's consultation on the Inspection of services for looked after children, care leavers and those in need of help and protection. Here we outlined that the inspection regime must be both complement and leave space for sector led improvement, and mutual aid. I emphasised that it is recognised peer to peer challenge

Item 3a

and support is the most effective tool in driving sustainable improvement and the sector remains committed to this approach, driving sustainable improvement whilst reducing the burden of central inspection and regulation.

Education Select Committee

6. Councillor Robert Light, who chaired the steering group of the LGA's action research on more effective commissioning of children's homes, gave oral evidence to the Education Select Committee, as part of its inquiry into proposed DfE regulatory reforms to children's homes alongside provider representatives and Ofsted. Councillor Light highlighted key messages from the research and talked about the need to listen to individual children; balancing formal qualifications with practical care skills in the workforce; and, the importance of an on-going dialogue between local authorities and children's homes providers.

Academies Programme

7. On 5 November I released a statement discussing the government policy on their academies programme. This was in response to the government's insistence that schools in some cases should convert to academies despite it not being value for money. In the BBC article I explained that in many cases, giving more flexibility to local areas to take swift action, for instance by recruiting new governors and staff, would be a better and more cost effective way of improving standards. Councils are often unable to intervene quickly in failing schools due to excessive bureaucracy; the government need to understand money being spent on conversion costs could be saved by enabling earlier intervention by councils who are focused on school performance rather than management structures.

Contact officer: Helen Johnston
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 020 7664 3172
E-mail: Helen.johnston@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Board – report from Cllr Katie Hall (Chair)

Care and support reform

1. The LGA, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives have sent a joint submission in response to the Government's consultation, 'Caring for our future – implementing funding reform', which closed on 25 October. This was a comprehensive response that built on the two engagement events we ran in Leeds and London which were attended by more than 100 senior council members and officers. One of our main points was the suggestion that government considers setting up a separate national organisation to run the universal deferred payments scheme to help people meet the cost of care in their old age. This would help ensure that local government is not exposed to the financial (and reputational) risk involved. Cllr Mehboob Khan discussed this proposal on BBC Breakfast three days later.

Integration Pioneers

2. The Government announced 14 Pioneer areas on 1 November. In order to promote and share learning from best practice examples of how integrated services can operate seamlessly, especially for older people and those with learning disabilities, the LGA has published the first four 'value cases for integration' in an [integrated care value case toolkit](#).

Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme Stocktake report

3. The Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme has completed its Stocktake report which was published on 17 November. We received returns from all 152 Health and Wellbeing Board areas.
4. Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, LGA Chairman with Norman Lamb, Minister of State for Care and Support, and Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer for England, wrote jointly to local Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs, NHS regional Directors and Chief Executives to emphasise their key roles as local leaders in delivering the national Concordat in response to Winterbourne View. The letter notes that many commissioners have made marked progress in recent months in implementing the Concordat. However, much more work is needed from a wide range of partners to ensure all those with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour are placed in appropriate settings to support them to live full lives with dignity and respect.

Low Commission - the future of advice and legal support

5. Lord Low of Dalston, Chair of the Low Commission attended the Community Wellbeing Board on 6 November to discuss the Commission's work on the future of advice and legal support, including a strategy for access to advice and support on social welfare law in England and Wales. While the Board agreed with the broad spirit of the Commission's aims, it voiced concern that any recommendations arising from it could place an extra burden on local authority resources which were already stretched by a reduced financial settlement. The Board stressed that any new responsibilities proposed would need to be adequately funded.

Community Wellbeing Board members at national events

6. Several members of the Community Wellbeing Board have been involved in national events over the past month, maintaining the LGA's high profile on health and social care issues:
 - 6.1. I spoke at the **'Ready for ageing' roundtable** on 31 October. The roundtable was hosted by the LGA and introduced by Lord Filkin and was informed by the findings of the House of Lords Select Committee report 'Ready for ageing' that was published in early 2013. The roundtable was attended by senior leaders from public and private organisations and looked at the implications of an ageing population for local government in the near future. Key themes were the need for strategic understanding of ageing in local areas; leadership; public health's contribution to healthy life expectancy; housing and care and the opportunities presented by an ageing population. The outcomes of the discussion will help inform our future work in this area.
 - 6.2. Alongside other key public health stakeholders, Cllr Steve Bedser took part in a panel discussion as part of an **evening seminar on smoking cessation**, hosted at the Guardian Offices in London on 30 October. A follow-up report on the seminar by the Guardian can be found [here](#).
 - 6.3. Cllr Bedser also spoke at a Joint Public Health England and Local Government Association workshop on the **National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)** on 31 October. As part of his contribution, he spoke about how public health teams can work effectively with elected members to deliver the NCMP and reduce childhood obesity.
 - 6.4. Cllr Gillian Ford was a panel member for a Guardian [online debate about homecare](#) on 5 November. Other panel members included the Care Services Minister, Norman Lamb MP, and Emily Holzhausen, Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Carers UK. The discussion was wide-ranging and Cllr Ford made a number of important points including: the pressures posed by the funding environment local authorities are operating in; the importance of linking up care and support with housing as part of the integration agenda; and the key role of commissioning in securing a person-centred approach to homecare.
 - 6.5. Cllr Colin Noble spoke at a **Business Services Association Conference** on 14 November on the new landscape in health and social care commissioning to highlight the leadership role of health and wellbeing boards.

Public Health resources

7. We have published a number of new public health resources over the past month, including:
 - 7.1. **Changing behaviours in public health: To nudge or to shove? A briefing for councils.** This briefing for councillors and officers explains how behavioural change

Item 3b

interventions or 'nudge theory' can help local authorities fulfil their public health responsibilities.

- 7.2. **Money well spent? Assessing the cost effectiveness and return of investment on public health interventions: A briefing for councils.** This briefing for councillors and officers explains the importance of assessing value for money in helping local authorities fulfil their public health responsibilities.
- 7.3. **Problem gambling: briefing for councillors.** This short briefing provides local councillors and chief officers with an overview of gambling and problem gambling. It also provides information on how local government can act to reduce the harm associated with problem gambling through existing legislation and guidance.
- 7.4. **Community Pharmacy – local government's new public health role.** This resource sheet focuses on the contribution of community pharmacy to local public health services. It includes information on local government statutory responsibilities for community pharmacy and several case studies that illustrate the potential of community pharmacy as a key public health resource.
- 7.5. **Social Care and Obesity: A discussion paper.** For the best part of 20 years the amount of obese people in England has been on the rise. Today one in four adults are obese, according to the Health Survey for England, compared to 15 per cent in 1993. This discussion paper considers the impact that obesity has on social care and the challenges facing social care now and in the future.

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)

Culture and Growth

1. I was delighted to speak at the first Culture and Growth Leadership Academy 22 – 23 October, hosted in partnership with Arts Council England. Through impactful case studies and practical exercises, we supported 14 portfolio holders to build resilient and sustainable cultural services.
2. Councillors Andrew Lewer, Deputy Chairman of the CTS Board, and Sonja Crisp, CTS Board Member, co-facilitated the Academy. The case study speakers included Councillor Doreen Stephenson, Leader of East Lindsey District Council and member of the CTS Board, who shared how the council's programme of cultural festivals has boosted the local economy. Other sessions explored different delivery models, working with Local Enterprise Partnerships and we heard from the Royal Shakespeare Company about how they are working with local government to boost the visitor economy.
3. All delegates agreed that the Academy had given them the basis for further improvement, and we are looking forward to the next Academy 4 – 5 December.

Sport

4. I was pleased to welcome 12 portfolio holders for sport to the eighth LGA / Sport England Leadership Academy 12-13 November. This highly successful programme supports councillors to achieve fit-for-purpose sport and leisure provision for their communities within the context of unprecedented budget pressures. Sessions explored creative ways to keep sporting assets viable, the opportunities presented by public health reform, understanding the commissioning landscape and leading transformational change in councils.
5. I have also written to Helen Grant MP, the new Sport and Tourism Minister, to congratulate her on her new role, and to emphasise the role that council sport and leisure services can play in actively promoting good health. We are meeting on 28 January.

Play

6. On 29 October I attended a roundtable on play policy convened by Play England and hosted by Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society. Representatives from a range of organisations with an interest in play also attended. The meeting was an opportunity to highlight the different ways in which councils support play opportunities – including the provision of formal and informal safe spaces to play, using the planning system to design opportunities for play and linking play to other policy agendas in a joined-up approach to children and young people's health and wellbeing. I emphasised that strong local partnerships between councils, schools, the voluntary sector and other partners was central to effective local play provision.

Contact officer:

Position:

Phone no:

E-mail:

Laura Caton

Senior Adviser

020 7664 3154

laura.caton@local.gov.uk

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

1. As winter approaches, councils are already well prepared for bad weather. We recently published our winter weather survey which showed that councils are once again in a strong position to keep businesses and the public moving, and that the biggest barrier in being able to deliver more was funding. No doubt you will all be seeing me on the breakfast news as the winter weather hits us and the Board ensures that our messages about the preparedness of councils are heard. The Secretary of State for Transport will be attending our next Board meeting and I will be ensuring that he hears the message about the excellent work of councils to keep our roads safe.

City Deals

2. I am pleased to report that, last month, two more Wave 2 City Deals were signed, which means that 3 out of the 20 in negotiation have now been agreed. The Thames Valley Berkshire Deal enables the alignment of national and local investment in youth skills and employment, with objectives that include reducing youth unemployment by 50 per cent within 3 years. The Greater Ipswich Deal also has a strong focus on skills and employment, and involves the piloting of a Youth Job Centre. It is expected that one or two more City Deals will be signed before Christmas, with the rest concluded in the New Year.
3. Despite the success of individual city regions, it is disappointing that there is slow progress overall from Government on the Wave 2 City Deals. I am concerned about the unwillingness of spending departments to explore propositions that involve bolder devolution. This exposes the risks that the Growth Deals that the Government committed to negotiating with all LEP areas will get mired in Whitehall bureaucracy. This would suggest a potential role for the LGA in supporting councils involved in the Growth Deal negotiations to try to leverage their collective bargaining power. We propose to hold an event in the New Year that would enable the sharing of lessons from the Wave 1 and 2 City Deal negotiations and discussion of common issues, with a view to strengthening the hand of local partners as they enter Growth Deal negotiations.

Winter resilience

4. On 11 November, the Board's Deputy Chair, Cllr Mike Haines, gave oral evidence to the Transport Select Committee enquiry on winter resilience. As well as questions on councils' preparedness for the coming winter months, the committee were also interested in how well councils were prepared for and had dealt with the recent St Jude's storm. Cllr Haines was able to provide evidence that preparing for extreme weather events was normal practice for councils. They provided vital services such as information to residents using all forms of media, coordinated actions through Local Resilience Fora, and mobilised staff and resources. Cllr Haines was also able to point to initial results from the LGA winter weather survey.

Highways Agency and Department for Transport

5. During our Town Hall debates, there was one issue that united councils across parties and north and south. That was the difficulty in working with the Highways Agency at a local level and the consequent blockage to growth. We have brought the Highways Agency (HA) directors to the LGA to try to resolve this issue. Joined by three LEP Chairs, the Board Vice and Deputy Chairs Cllr Tony Ball and Cllr Mike Haines and Cllr James Lewis (Leeds City) and Cllr Ian Stewart (Cumbria CC) led a very successful

discussion with the HA and Department for Transport with regards to how the HA can work better with councils and LEPs on supporting local growth. The strategic roads network, managed by the HA, has a massive impact on prosperity of local economies and growth prospects and councils have been frustrated by their inability to engage and influence HA activity and investment to support local growth. As a result of this discussion, the HA have agreed to have new strategic level conversations with sub-regions and local leaders to see how the HA can play a much more proactive role on growth. We are currently working with LEPs and the HA to convene the meetings.

Streetworks Task Force

6. We have been working with senior officials in the utilities firms to try and ensure that they manage streetworks more effectively and cut the costs to councils and business. I chaired the third LGA Streetworks Task Force on 4 November, with Board Vice and Deputy Chairs Cllr Tony Ball and Cllr Mike Haines. The Task Force brings together utility companies and local government – represented by Economy and Transport Board lead members. The meeting put the finishing touches to a joint statement of what good streetworks look like and a brief information document on streetworks for business, which will be launched shortly. The Task Force has also set up a research project looking at the drivers to good contractor performance which will report next year.

Parking fines and fees

7. The issue of parking charges has once again made national news with the Transport Committee releasing a report on local authority parking enforcement, Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP calling for free parking, and criticism from Which? on the amount of cars councils are towing. The report released by the Transport Committee called for a "five minute grace period" for parking tickets, and argued that councils should defend their position of not using parking fines as a "cash cow" by publishing annual parking charge accounts.
8. My response to this was reported on BBC Online, Mail Online and Radio 4 news bulletins. I was interviewed by BBC News on the subject, saying "As this report recognises, parking controls are not being used by councils to raise revenue. They are essential for keeping motorists and pedestrians safe, traffic flowing and ensure people can park near their homes and local shops."
9. We responded to the Which? claims that councils are "raking it in" by towing away thousands of cars for minor parking offences. Our response was included in the Sunday Times and said: "Councils follow the spirit of guidance as is demonstrated by the fact that only 1% of the total numbers of removals are appealed against successfully."
10. Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP also called on councils to offer free parking for up to 30 minutes near local high streets. In response, Vice Chair of the Board, Cllr Tony Ball, told the Telegraph: "Councils are working hard to boost trade and keep areas vibrant through parking incentives. This may work in some areas to ensure a high turnover of shoppers that would cause gridlock and chaos in others."

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 (Chair)

Housing & Planning

1. We have responded to the new national online planning practice guidance resource which has been open for public testing and comment. Our response was supportive of the progress that had been made to consolidate the existing guidance into a more focused online resource which took on board much of our earlier feedback. We stressed that Government should ensure there is a clear and simple mechanism for councils and others to highlight any issues or unintended consequences of the new guidance and that the impact of the guidance should be evaluated after 12 months to assess its effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the review.
2. The LGA launched a guide for elected members on “Good practice principles to support the self-financed HRA”. The guide sets out important principles and core questions to consider when managing your housing stock and accounting to tenants for the investment and management decisions the authority makes over the long term. The guide, developed in partnership with CIH and CIPFA is designed to support elected members by sharing good practice and lessons learned from the first year of self-financing. The guide can be found on the LGA [website](#).
3. We have also published a case study guide on housing supply and growth. The case studies highlight how councils are taking action to unlock growth and get housing developments moving. The guide includes sections on meeting housing need in areas of high demand, challenging housing markets and rural areas. The guide is available on the LGA [website](#).
4. The Government have responded to the consultation which took place earlier this year on changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations. Key changes include the limitation on S106 pooling has been moved back by one year to April 2015, payment in kind has been introduced, the vacancy test has been altered, people building or extending their own homes are exempted from CIL. We had argued for longer transition arrangements and that changes should be based on evidence and avoid excessive administration cost, delay and complexity.
5. DCLG have made an announcement on designation of local planning authorities for performance on major planning applications including that the designation of county matter authorities will be deferred for 6 months until April 2014. Further information can be found on the CLG website. In response to the announcement, the LGA highlighted that overall performance is strong with 88% of planning applications approved and that sector led improvement was the most effective means of driving improvement.

Waste

6. I have written to Lord de Mauley in response to his recent correspondence on the issue of separate collection of waste. The letter stressed the importance of clear guidance on this issue that reflects the requirement of the Waste Framework Directive.
7. The LGA launched its Reuse Commission on 31 October. The Reuse Commission was one of the key recommendations of the Wealth from Waste report this summer. The Commission, chaired by Cllr Clyde Loakes has had its first meeting discussing demand for reused products including tax breaks for reuse organisations and the development

of a reuse standard to provide consumers with increased confidence. The second meeting in late November will concentrate on supply of products and the opportunities for councils to divert more material for reuse. The Commission will report its findings in January. As part of the Commission we have issued a call for examples and case studies of council efforts to increase the amount of material reused. Responses to be send to dan.mccartney@local.gov.uk by 29 November.

8. I gave evidence on the recast of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive to the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group (APSRG). This highlighted the important role local authorities play to help the UK meet its WEEE targets and that it was positive that this role had been acknowledged by the government by enabling councils to manage WEEE streams themselves and ensure local authorities have their WEEE collected with no additional costs. I also stressed the importance of local authority involvement in setting compliance fees and receiving that fee and the opportunity that had been missed by the Government's recent proposals to incentivise reuse.
9. I also met with Caroline Spelman MP to discuss the LGA's Wealth from Waste report and the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group inquiry into waste export. The importance of establishing a level playing field on the compliance regimes was highlighted and was an area that the inquiry was looking at in some detail. I also raised the importance of providing capital funding to invest in infrastructure to support ongoing advances in increasing the quality of recyclate.

Climate Local

10. The number of Climate Local signatories has risen to 80, with the Kent Partnership being the first to publish their first year achievements. Kent's successes include working with 166 SMEs to achieve annual savings of over £2,000 per business, an energy switching scheme which helped 2,500 residents save £255,000 on their energy bills, and investment in new sea defences to protect 1,750 homes and businesses from coastal flooding.

Contact officer:

Position:

Phone no:

E-mail:

Caroline Green

Senior Adviser

020 7664 3359

Caroline.green@local.gov.uk

European & International Board – report from Cllr Clarence Barrett (Chair)

1. I was delighted to Chair the first Board meeting of the new cycle, which took place on 15 October. It was great to meet my fellow Board colleagues to hear their views on the Board's priorities, as well as agree the work programme for the coming months, which is already well underway.
2. The publication of the European Commission's work programme (Brussels' equivalent of the Queen's Speech) at the end of October will give the Board an opportunity to look in greater detail at our European lobbying priorities at our next Board meeting. I will report back to you on this in future updates.

Delivering Our Lobbying Priorities

EU Funding 2014 - 2020

3. LGA lobbying in Whitehall and Brussels secured the localisation of £5.3 billion EU structural and Investment funds through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). However, several aspects of programme management and delivery are yet to be developed so one of the most immediate priorities for the Board is continuing to lobby to ensure that councils are able to lead and implement their local growth ambitions.
4. At the Board we heard from senior civil servants from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) on the latest developments in this process, and put our own views across to them to ensure that local government has a strong voice in the process. The LGA is also working to achieve this via the EU Funds Programme Growth Board (PGB).

Programme Growth Board

5. The local government delegation on the PGB comprises of the LGA Chairman, Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Cllrs Sir Albert Bore, Sir Richard Leese and Cllr Ian Stewart. The second meeting took place on 6 November and was attended by DCLG Minister Baroness Stowell. It was an important opportunity to convey key issues from a local government / LEPs perspective, with our Members making three key points to the Minister: (1) that EU and national strategies must be flexible to enable local joined up activity to flow; (2) that national opt-in programmes offering LEP match funding must add value and impact local need; and (3) that business processes must achieve simplification and respond quickly to need.

Public services reform

6. The LGA worked with Members of the European Parliament ahead of a key vote on 21 October to ensure strict new EU data protection rules do not place undue burdens on councils. The rules, as proposed by the European Commission are designed for big businesses, but do not currently contain the proper derogations to allow councils to easily deal with personal data for public interest purposes.

Sector-led support, improvement and innovation

7. In October, the LGA worked with similar associations across Europe to respond to EU proposals that will require councils to accept e-invoices rather than paper-based ones from their suppliers. The EU's proposals will require councils to adapt their payment systems and associated software to conform with a new EU standard invoice which is currently under development.

Item 3f

International Links: Learning and Sharing

International partnership activity by English local authorities in key growth markets

8. We have had an encouraging response to our call for evidence on local government links with key high-growth markets as identified by UK Trade and Investment. The research aims to identify good practice and any potential blockages to sector progress to developing trade links, and will inform our on-going lobbying work. The survey is open until 17 November so please encourage your economic development officers to respond. For further information, contact helen.wilkinson@local.gov.uk or to download the survey visit: www.local.gov.uk/economy-and-transport-research.

Commonwealth Local Government Forum

9. Many councils work with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) to support local government in the Commonwealth. In fact, CLGF has been responsible for providing resources for many councils' international work over the last few years.
10. I was pleased to represent the LGA at a meeting of CLGF's European Members on 24 October. The theme of the meeting was 'local government innovation at a time of austerity', and with local government representatives from Cyprus, Malta and the UK, it was a great opportunity to share experiences and international learning. Members were particularly interested in hearing about the LGA's *Rewiring* campaign, with many of the themes within it resonating with the challenges local government is facing across CLGF's European membership.
11. On Thursday 7 November I met with the Executive Committee of the CLGF. This was a valuable opportunity to discuss issues affecting local government across the wider Commonwealth, the post-2015 development agenda and the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. I was joined by the Vice Chair of the Board, Cllr Richard Kemp, and CLGF Board Member, Cllr Dave Wilcox.

Council of Europe: European Local Democracy Week

12. The annual European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) took place this year between 14 – 20 October. Local authorities from all 47 member states of the Council of Europe organised public events to promote local democratic participation. The event always coincides with the anniversary of the signing of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. The Charter seeks to defend local government from central government controls and promote good governance and local democracy, and establishes various rights for local councils and benchmarks for democratic processes. These benchmarks are monitored by peer reviews, with the UK currently undergoing a review (see below).

Congress: Peer Review of UK

13. The second fact-finding visit of a delegation from Congress took place between 5 – 7 November as part of their peer review of UK local democracy. The five person delegation met with UK Ministers, parliamentarians, the Welsh LGA and Northern Ireland LGA. These parliamentarians included the LGA President, Lord Best, two former LGA Chair persons, Lord Beecham and Baroness Eaton, and the Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, Clive Best MP. The delegation's draft recommendations will follow shortly, with a final report submitted to Congress for adoption in March 2014.

European Parliament: Support and information available to councils

14. You may not be aware, but the European Parliament (EP) Information Office in the UK has a suite of materials available to councils to help raise awareness of the role of the EP in the democratic process and in particular the work of its democratically regionally elected MEPs. With the EP elections taking place on 22 May 2014, the EP Information

Item 3f

Office in the UK is looking to support councillors and council officials in their activities to raise awareness in their locality of these elections. If you are interested, a range of free downloadable materials can be found at <http://ddc.europartv.twofourdigital.net/en>.

15. In addition the EP Information Office in the UK regularly works with local partners and provides free educational resources. It takes part in local government weeks, Parliament weeks etc. to help enhance the awareness of the role of the Members of the EP to councillors, staff and the general public. To make sure your council makes the most of this support, contact: elisabeth.sweeney@europarl.europa.eu.

Contact officer:

Position:

Phone no:

E-mail:

Ian Hughes

Head of Programmes

020 664 3010

ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

Item 3g

Improvement and Innovation Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chair)

INNOVATION

Community Budgets Report

1. This month I responded to the Communities and Local Government Committee report on Community budgets. The report laid out the risk of these budgets being replaced if key issues were not resolved and called on the government to send a clear message that it will assist every local authority wishing to introduce Community Budgets and to set out the specific assistance it will provide them with. I responded agreeing with the points set out in the report. I also highlighted that it is important the government understands that Community Budgets and the Troubled Families programme have been pioneered by councils but only a fraction of the potential savings will be unlocked for councils unless the government fully commits to modernising the way it works. To read the full report, click [here](#).

Leading Innovation

2. On 1 November First magazine published an article in which I outlined the findings of the Accelerating Innovation in Local Government Research Project's recent publication, in partnership with the LGA. The project researched and identified key messages for leading councillors to drive innovation forward including, making sure councils agree a plan of the priority areas for future innovation, as well as genuinely involving frontline employees so the whole council feels involved with the innovation projects. The importance of councils persisting intelligently, despite many barriers, until the priority innovations are achieved was also emphasised. From the research, we have produced the publication 'Council Leaders' Key Actions for Innovation' so that other elected members can help their councils innovate. Councillors can use these actions as a checklist to review whether they could do more to achieve successful innovations in their local authority. To read the publication, click [here](#).

Knowledge Hub

3. After several months seeking to secure the future of the Knowledge Hub, I was very happy to announce this month that the LGA is forming a new partnership with CapacityGRID to assure the Hub's long-term future. Knowledge Hub is the most widely used online collaboration platform for public sector employees and public bodies and after receiving overwhelming support from the community, the LGA knew it was essential to secure a partnership. Under this partnership, Knowledge Hub staff will transfer to the CapacityGRID and join an enlarged team, which will assume overall operational and development management responsibility. The LGA will become a foundation partner and continue to use the Knowledge Hub as a strategic platform to collaborate with colleagues and members.

TRANSPARENCY

Further open data breakthrough funding for 2014/15

4. Cllr Tim Cheetham chaired the last "open data breakthrough funding" panel for this year, awarding the final funding of the £1 million total grant received from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS). The funding is to enable open data release from local authorities and to support easier access to open data, supporting growth and innovation, contributing to local engagement with citizens, communities and business, and

Item 3g

providing seed funding to create action. The LGA is managing the funding and received just under fifty applications, awarding funding to 16 authorities. BIS announced that they will make another £1 million available to local authorities in 2014/15.

Open Government Partnership

5. The Open Government Summit was held in London on 31 October to 1 November hosted by the prime minister and Francis Maud. The [Open Government Partnership](#) is a worldwide movement for transparency and open data from governments. Civil society networks across the world are seeking greater openness of government to enable them to engage with and empower citizens. The LGA had a stand in the exhibition promoting Rewiring Public Services and sector led initiatives on local transparency and open data, local information infrastructure, LG Inform and LG Inform Plus. Ministers from DCLG, foreign delegations and representatives from the public, private and third sector showed great interest in local government's approach to transparency. Peterborough, Hampshire and Sedgemoor Council were represented on the stand.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership Workshops

6. This October the LGA ran the fourth in a series of 24-hour workshops for Chief Executives and District Council Leaders. Working with the District Councils Network, the workshops focused on how they can lead improvements in service delivery at their own councils. So far 43 District Councils have taken part in the events with 12 different councils (24 attendees) attending the October workshop. The final event in the series is planned for 28/29 November.

IMPROVEMENT

Councillors Guide to Procurement

7. The LGA Councillors Guide to Procurement was launched in October and highlights the key role councillors have as political champions of procurement. The guide is intended to help councillors achieve their ambitions for growth and economic success in the communities which they represent and serve.
8. As councillors, we must be at the heart of local priorities that determine our commissioning decisions. The private firms, businesses and voluntary organisations that are so important to local and regional economies need to view council contracts in a positive way and want to do business with their local authorities. This guide is set to help councils achieve just that, by setting out a strategic approach to procurement, framing a set of useful questions to ask, and busting a number of procurement myths. To read the guide, click [here](#).

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 (Chair)

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill

1. Lord Taylor, the Home Office minister in the House of Lords, attended the Board meeting at the start of November to talk about the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill, which has just started its passage through the Lords. Issues for discussion were the powers of arrest that can be attached to the injunctions to prevent nuisance and annoyance, the lack of council input into the use of dispersal powers by the police, and the ability to take action against anti-social tenants in private rented accommodation.
2. In mid-November the Board's Chair, Cllr Mehboob Khan, participated in a panel session at the Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group's annual anti-social behaviour conference. The session looked at the role of councils, social landlords and other partners in tackling anti-social behaviour and the others on the panel answering questions from delegates included the police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands and the Association of Convenience Stores.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

3. Cllr Joanna Spicer, the Board's Vice Chair, spoke in early November at a Home Office conference for police and crime commissioners and their offices on tackling sexual violence and domestic abuse. Cllr Spicer outlined the role councils have in tackling these offences, the importance of multi-agency work in successfully addressing them and the need for partners to come together to jointly fund initiatives. The conference also heard from a cross-party selection of police and crime commissioners on their approaches to addressing violence against women and girls, and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on their review of the police response to domestic violence.

Police and Crime Panels networking seminar

4. The Board hosted the third of its networking events for police and crime panels in mid-November. Cllr Joanna Spicer, the Board's Vice-Chair chaired the event, which was opened by Julian Huppert MP, member of the Home Affairs Select Committee and an LGA Vice-President. Mr Huppert was able to talk about the Select Committee's consideration of panels' activities when it had looked at the impact police and crime commissioners had had as part of an inquiry in the summer, along with the Select Committee's examination of panels' role in the dismissal of chief constables. Delegates also heard about the good practice from other panels that came out of a study commissioned by the LGA and discussed conducting proactive scrutiny, the experience of panels involved in the suspension of chief constables and what lessons could be learnt from health scrutiny.

Surveillance Camera Conference

5. The Board's Deputy Chair Cllr Lisa Brett spoke at the conference held in mid-October by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner on the new Code of Practice for surveillance cameras. In her speech Cllr Brett outlined the implications of the new Code for councils across the surveillance camera systems they operate, not just the ones monitoring high streets. Cllr Brett also highlighted the need for councils to look at how councillors could scrutinise their own authority's implementation of the Code.

Criminal Justice Council

6. Cllr David Burbage attended the meeting of the Criminal Justice Council in October, which brings together a range of people and organisations involved in the criminal justice system to discuss reforms and changes in the way the criminal justice system operates. Items for discussion at this meeting included the work of the Victims' Commissioner, better multi-agency working to reduce offending and re-offending by women, and the community remedy proposals on out of court disposals set out in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill. The discussion on providing better support for female offenders and the need for earlier intervention to prevent women becoming involved in crime was used to raise the need for a community budgets approach to the funding of local services.

Rewiring the Licensing Landscape

7. Work to take forward our licensing proposals under Rewiring continues at pace, with a media release on reviewing outdated licences across at least five government departments. This has caught the attention of ministers and businesses alike and we are receiving requests for more detailed information. A more detailed set of proposals was included in the briefing provided to Cllr David Simmonds in advance of his appearance before the Deregulation Bill committee. Our submission expressed disappointment that the Bill had not been used to deliver more ambitious plans to rationalise licensing and proposed a Licensing Consolidation Bill be brought forward.

Fire Conference 2014 working group

8. In October, a working group comprising Cllrs Hammond, Joyce, Hilton and Howson as lead members of the Fire Services Management Committee met to discuss arrangements for the LGA's forthcoming Fire Conference in Cardiff on 11-12 March 2014. Members identified fire finance, national resilience and interoperability as key themes to be covered during the conference and emphasised to conference organisers the importance of inviting a range of stakeholders alongside fire authorities in order to maximise the reach of the Conference's key messages.

Meeting with South East Fire Authority Chairs

9. Cllr Hammond chaired a working **dinner with Chairs from South East Fire Authorities** on 6 November in Maidenhead. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss whether the LGA's work programme continued to meet members' needs and what support was required in the year ahead as part of the LGA's ongoing dialogue with the sector.

Safer Suffolk Partnership workshop

10. Following a survey of partner organisations gathering views on the effectiveness of its work and activities, Cllr Hammond facilitated **an LGA workshop with the Safer Suffolk Partnership** on 7 Nov. The event looked at the results of analysis to explore what the foundations of effective working were and identified “hot topics” and developing ways forward for the partnership.

Fire Leadership Academy - West Midlands

11. On 18 November, Cllr Hammond led sessions in the West Midlands at the second of the LGA's latest cycle of Fire **Leadership Academies** for elected members with senior roles on fire and rescue authorities.

Contact officer:

Helen Murray

Position:

Head of Programme

Phone no:

020 7664 3266

E-mail:

helen.murray@local.gov.uk

Workforce Board – report from Cllr Jim McMahon (Chair)

Pensions

1. Regulations for the reformed Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) have been made and laid and implementation of communications and systems is underway to prepare for an April 2014 start.
2. The LGA is assisting DCLG and the Shadow Scheme Advisory Board with analysing a call for evidence on the structure of LGPS funds with recommendations due to go to the minister before the end of the year.
3. A consultation on draft regulations for the reformed Teachers Pension Scheme to be effective from April 2015 is currently underway.

Local Government Services Local Government Services

4. At a meeting on 5 November of the NJC Executive the Trade Union Side formally tabled their detailed pay claim for 2014 for, "*A minimum increase of £1 an hour on scale point 5 to achieve the Living Wage and the same flat rate increase on all other scale points*".
5. The National Employers have undertaken to consult councils through a series of regional pay consultation briefings that we aim to conclude by 31 January.

Fire

6. Fire Brigades Union (FBU) members took part in discontinuous strike action on 25 September, 1 November and 4 November in connection with its dispute with Ministers in England and Wales on the matter of pension scheme reform. Whilst the dispute (and discontinuous strike action ballot) does also cover Scotland, separate negotiations are taking place with the Scottish Government. The FBU has consulted its members in Scotland on progress made and as a consequence decided that sufficient progress had been made for strike action not to take place in Scotland as talks continue.
7. Whilst not party to the dispute we do have an interest given the impact on fire authorities and continue to work closely with DCLG and the FBU to assist the parties to the dispute in England where it is appropriate to do so.
8. As part of this work with the FBU, and under the auspices of the National Employers, a number of potential principles on a way forward have been discussed in respect of related fitness and capability issues. This led to an FBU decision to cancel its strike action planned for 19 October.
9. The principles have been explored with Chairs of fire authorities and Chief Fire Officers at a very well attended meeting on 24 October in London and our discussion has since continued with the FBU, informed by views at that meeting.
10. Whilst that discussion has been positive in nature the FBU has been clear that there are eight points contained in its trade dispute with Ministers. In the absence of what it would regard as sufficient progress on other matters directly cited in the dispute (particularly in England and Wales), the FBU has now decided to also ballot all its members, other than in Northern Ireland, on the potential for industrial action that is

short of a strike, i.e. not carrying out the full role. That additional ballot closes on 4 December and will not affect the strike ballot which remains live.

School Teachers School Teachers

11. The Secretary of State for Education has asked the School Teachers' Review Body to make its recommendations on a September 2014 pay award by 16 May 2014. Specifically it has been asked to report on:
 - 11.1. What adjustments should be made to the salary and allowance ranges and scales for classroom teachers, unqualified teachers and school leaders to reflect the 1 per cent pay award for public sector workers?
 - 11.2. What adjustments should be made to salaries and allowances in payment?
12. NEOST must submit written evidence to the STRB on these matters by 20 December 2013 and is currently gathering authorities' views.
13. As last year, the Government has made it clear that it wishes to see an average 1% pay award for teachers overall.

Soulbury

14. The Soulbury Committee met on Tuesday 22 October to consider the 2013 Trade Unions' pay and conditions claim. The National Employers decided to make an offer to the Trade Unions of 1.0% on all pay points and allowances for this year. This decision was reached following a consultation of authorities (via regions) which showed a clear majority in favour for a pay offer for this year. The Trade Unions will now consult on this offer and have stated that they will respond to the National Employers this month.

Strategy Team

Public Health

15. Two national events are planned on in Leeds on 25 November and one in London on the 3 December. The events are titled 'Beyond the transition' and are intended to provide practical support to local authorities past the initial transfer of public health functions.

Northern Ireland chief executives

16. We have completed a review on behalf of the JNC for chief executives in Northern Ireland and made recommendations on salary levels for the chief executive posts in the new councils post review of public administration.

Case work

17. We have provided support to a number of local authorities dealing with complex employee relations case work.

Contact officer:

Sarah Messenger

Position:

Head of Workforce

Phone number:

020 7187 7342

E-mail:

sarah.messenger@local.gov.uk

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

Financial sustainability

1. Following the successful release of the 2013 Future Funding Outlook in July, the LGA has circulated to each authority an additional analysis of their financial sustainability. It uses existing published data from the Office of National Statistics, published data collected by the Government, and authorities' own financial accounts to identify a set of seven measures in addition to the Future Funding Outlook budget gap.
2. The comparative council data is presented in the form of spider web charts, or, as they have become known, 'spidergrams'. We recognise that the question of financial sustainability cannot be answered by means of any chart and that 'soft' information, together with local context, is very important as well. Authorities will need to interpret the data in relation to their local knowledge. However, it is hoped that this comparison-based analysis will provide local authorities with a useful insight on their relative strengths, weaknesses, risks and opportunities in an England-wide context.

Autumn Statement

3. Following discussion in both the Finance Panel and the Executive, the LGA has now made its proposals for the Autumn Statement to the Treasury (<http://www.local.gov.uk/finance>). The submission has been sent to the Chief Secretary and the Shadow Chancellor under cover of a letter from the LGA Chairman, and more widely to Ministers, Parliamentarians and the media.
4. The key message is that by the end of 2013-14 councils will collectively have made only half of the cuts they need to make by March 2016. The same level of cuts that has been achieved over the last three years must be achieved again in the next two, from services which are already stretched to breaking point.
5. We have said that the next two years are going to be very tough indeed and we fear that 2015-16 will be the crunch year. Councils will face real terms reductions in core funding of 21% across 2014-15 and 2015-16. In some cases, the reductions for individual councils are nearly a third. It is therefore inescapable that there will be cuts to frontline services people rely on and some services will have to stop altogether. The submission makes a number of proposals to help councils manage their financial position, promote growth and reform services more effectively.
6. Alongside the submission we have provided an updated analysis of the financial position of a typical English local authority, "Anycouncil" and an assessment of the impact of our proposals would have in helping Anycouncil protect local services and growth.

Rewiring Public Services: Task and Finish Groups

7. The Finance Panel is holding 3 task and finish group meetings on the financial proposals *in Rewiring Public Services* on: alternatives to the Barnett Formula; distribution; local treasuries; and 5 year funding settlements.
8. The discussions have looked at the ways in which the current arrangements are not fit for purpose, the principles that would underpin new arrangements and the issues we would like to see covered. In each case, officers are now working on straw-man proposals as the basis for further discussion. The next Finance Panel meeting on 29 November will receive an update from the task and finish groups.

Introduction to Social Impact Bonds: Regional Workshops

9. The Big Lottery Fund has appointed Social Finance in partnership with the LGA to offer a support package to those organisations developing, or thinking about developing, a Social Impact Bond (SIB). This covers SIBs and other Payment by Results (PbR) based social investments as part of the Big Lottery Fund's £40 million Commissioning Better Outcomes fund and the Cabinet Office's £20 million Social Outcomes Fund. We are running a series of regional workshops where you can find out how your organisation can benefit from the support available. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, these half day events are free to attend. Further details and workshop dates can be found at:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/finance>.

Universal Credit and Single Fraud Investigation Service

10. The LGA continues to lobby successfully on Universal Credit (UC). In mid-October Sir Merrick Cockell met with Lord Freud to discuss a range of welfare reform issues. Lord Freud recognised the LGA's concerns about needing to give councils a clear long term role in supporting residents with UC claims. He therefore suggested that it be made clear that the council role should last until at least 2020, except where a council did not want to take it on or was clearly failing. It was agreed that this statement would be formalised and incorporated within the November update of the Local Support Services Framework (LSSF).
11. On the Single Fraud Investigation Service, Sir Merrick Cockell said that we were concerned the current business case was too narrow and that we wanted to work together with DWP on a more thorough examination of the options. The Minister agreed that officials would work together to develop a shared understanding of what the evidence said about the best model for the future, and that work is now underway.
12. The Face to Face pilot open days continue to go from strength to strength. Thanks to North Dorset, Lewisham, Melton, Oxford, Bath and North East Somerset and Rushcliffe for having held very well attended events which demonstrate the level of interest around this topic. For further details of our remaining events please go to our website:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/events>.
13. The controlled roll out of UC continues with Hammersmith Jobcentre now taking on claims. UC will expand to Rugby, Inverness, Harrogate, Bath and Shotton by the spring. The first claimants to UC are single jobseekers and the majority of claims will be made online.

Welfare Reform

14. On 16 October I gave oral evidence to the Work and Pensions Select Committee hearing on welfare reform and Jobcentre Plus. The session was an opportunity to highlight the need for sustained employment outcomes, the benefits of a partnership approach, and the role of councils in bringing agencies together with a local understanding of the clients' support needs and the labour market. I also emphasised the need for Jobcentre Plus to extend good practice on partnership working so it is more consistent across the country, and how improved data sharing will help to support clients.
15. The LGA has submitted written evidence to the Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiry into housing costs in the reformed welfare system. We said that councils are best placed to bring the partners together who have an understanding of the local area, existing relationships with individuals and families, and an established track record of working together to meet complex or multiple needs. However, to make the scale of savings projected by Government, and avoid the risk that those savings are transferred to councils in arrears and increased homelessness, we need real changes to funding.

Contact officer:

Position:

Phone no:

E-mail:

Alan Finch

Head of Finance

020 7664 3085

alan.finch@local.gov.uk

Digest of Meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date and time:	24 October 2013, 12.30pm
Venue:	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square

Item	Action by
------	-----------

Welcome and Introductions

Councillor David Sparks OBE, LGA Vice-Chairman, chaired the meeting in Sir Merrick Cockell's absence and welcomed members to the meeting.

The Chairman introduced David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools at the Department for Education and Minister of State at the Cabinet Office.

1 Discussion with David Laws MP, Schools Minister

David Laws began by addressing the issue of schools' capital. He noted that councils are struggling with a massive increase in the pupil population, the biggest since the baby boom. While the increase varies across the country, some areas have seen a 40-50% increase in the primary school population. The government has therefore not only increased the proportion of the budget spent on primary school capital, but also increased the amount in real terms. It has also given more long-term capital funding so that councils can plan ahead. The method for calculating basic needs capital has also been refined. David Laws asked councillors to take the message back to their councils that this is a much more sensible system but it relies upon the cooperation of councils to provide information about funding particulars.

David Laws then spoke about the national funding formula. He explained that the new formula is particularly important in a time when budgets are strained and money needs to be sent in the right proportions to the right places. David Laws assured councillors that this new formula is not intended to displace local decision making since the money will still be distributed locally by councils. This new formula is scheduled to be implemented in 2015-16.

Finally, David Laws talked more generally about the role of local authorities in schools. He acknowledged that there has been a shift in the last few years from local control to national control and partly attributed this to instances of poor performance. He emphasised that local authorities must show enthusiasm and commitment to their role and will be left to fulfil it if their schools are succeeding.

David Laws then took questions from the floor. Topics of discussion included:

- Shifting assessment criteria for schools leading to academies where they are not wanted. David Laws urged this member to send him details of the specific case.
- Encouraging the Department for Education to involve the LGA in setting up the new head-teacher leadership system announced by Nick Clegg.
- The adverse impact that lack of schools funding can have on local business investment.
- The discrepancies between the position of the Department for Education and OFSTED.
- Lack of stability in schools policy.

Cllr Sparks thanked David Laws for addressing the forum.

2 Chairman's Update

Members noted and accepted the Chairman's report.

3 Programme Board Chairs' Reports

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

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21 November 2013, 12:30pm – 1:30pm
The Westminster Suite (8th Floor), 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

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

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.

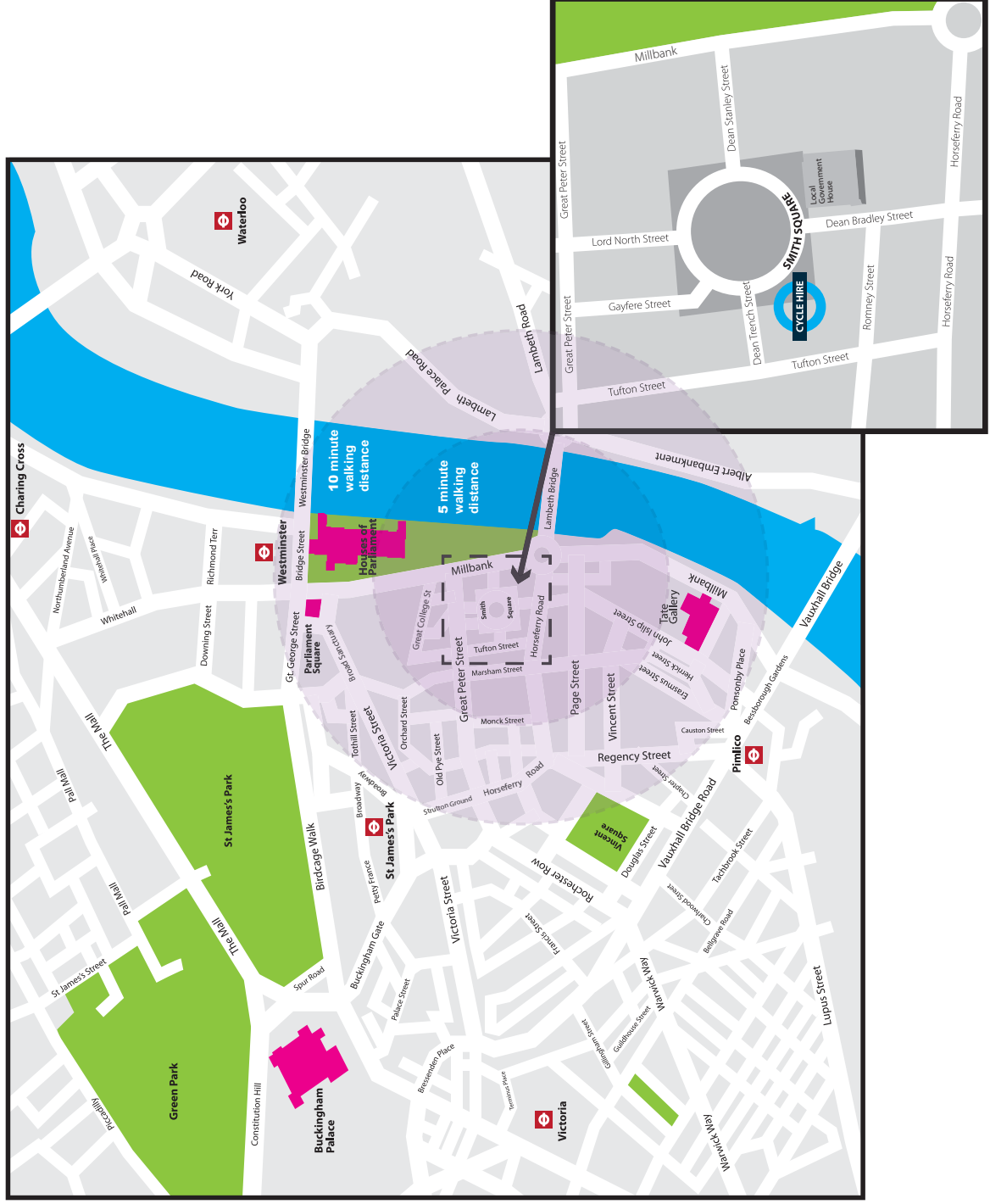
Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria

- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

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



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