

Environment and Housing Programme Board

Agenda

Monday 13 September 2010
11am

Rooms 7.1 and 7.2
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Environment and Housing Programme Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Notification

There will be a meeting of the **Environment & Housing Programme Board** at **11:00 on Monday 13 September** in Local Government House in rooms 7.1 and 7.2 (7th Floor).

The Lead Members' pre-meet will be at 9.30am in 7.1 and 7.2.

Political Group meetings will be at 10am.

A sandwich lunch will be provided.

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.

Apologies

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

Labour: Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative: Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: angela.page@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
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Location

A map showing the location of local government house is printed on the back cover.

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Carers' Allowance: *As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £5.73 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (ie. Children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.*

Hotels: If you wish to stay overnight in London, discounted hotel rates are available through the **Local Government Travel Club** (consult your own authority for information) or contact **Hotelzon** on tel: 01962 844 004 or fax: 01962 860 974.

Environment & Housing Programme Board

Date: 3.08.10

Environment & Housing Programme Board - Membership 2010/11

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Gary Porter [Chairman]	South Holland DC
Peter Britcliffe	Hyndburn BC
Andrew Gravells	Gloucestershire CC/Gloucester City
Clare Whelan	Lambeth LB
Jason Stacey	Ealing LB
*David Smith	Lichfield DC
Substitutes:	
Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
*Mary Mears	Brighton & Hove City Council
Labour (4)	
*Clyde Loakes [Vice Chair]	Waltham Forest LB
Derek Bateman	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Tony Newman	Croydon LB
Ed Turner	Oxford City
Substitute	
Tim Moore	Liverpool City
Richard Williams	Southampton City
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Dorothy Thornhill [Deputy Chair]	Watford BC
Berni Turner	Liverpool City
Paula Baker	Basingstoke & Deane BC
Substitute	
Roger Symonds	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Independent (1)	
Mike Haines [Deputy Chair]	Teignbridge DC
Substitute	
Andrew Cooper	Kirklees MBC

14 member Board

*** new member/substitute**

+ substitute in 2009/10

Agenda

Environment & Housing Programme Board

13 September 2010

11am – 1pm

7.1 and 7.2, Local Government House

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Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 17th November, 11am, Local Government House

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**Homes and Communities Agency – discussion with
Sir Bob Kerslake**

Summary

This report provides background information and suggested issues for discussion with Sir Bob Kerslake, Chief Executive of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

The Board will receive a presentation from Sir Bob Kerslake to open the discussion.

Recommendation(s)

Members to consider raising issues in this report in discussion with Bob Kerslake and consider how the HCA and LG Group can work together to support councils to deliver an enhanced leadership role on planning and housing.

Action

Officers will take forward the agreed work programme reflecting agreed outcomes of the discussion.

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**Homes and Communities Agency – discussion with
Sir Bob Kerslake**

Background

1. Sir Bob Kerslake, Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Chief Executive, will be attending the Board meeting to discuss the work of the HCA, over the last year and particularly implications of the spending review and emerging housing policy for HCA programmes and working with councils.
2. The HCA have provided a background paper to inform the discussion. This is attached at annex A. The remainder of this paper sets out issues and questions proposed for discussion at the meeting.

Suggested areas for discussion:

Single Conversation

3. In the light of big cuts to central government capital spending, and the commitment to localism, how does HCA think the objectives and process of the single conversation need to change? What role might HCA have if LGA proposals for place-based budgets are implemented?

New sub-regional governance arrangements for housing and planning

4. Under previous regional architecture, the HCA committed to working with RDAs and Leaders Boards in developing integrated regional strategies. How will they engage with new arrangements being developed for cross boundary working currently being developed, including Local Enterprise Partnerships?

Affordable Housing

5. Currently, the rules for accessing social housing grant count council investment and input of land as public expenditure, whereas Housing Association borrowing does not. This means that Housing Association schemes score more highly in value for money criteria than council schemes even though they might actually result in fewer homes being built for a given quantum of government subsidy. Will councils be able to access HCA funding for affordable homes on an equal will have a level playing field with Housing Associations when it comes to applying for a smaller pot of HCA grants in future?

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Housing and new development incentives

6. Councils are supportive of the proposed New Homes Bonus in principle, but there are a number of issues that need to be resolved if the incentive is to be effective. An LGA briefing on these issues can be found at Annex B. Have the HCA identified similar or additional issues and potential solutions?

Housing renewal and empty homes

7. In many areas of the country, replacement of housing stock and bringing long term empty homes back into use will remain important tool in meeting local housing needs (and we will argue that the incentives package should recognise this). Will the HCA future work programmes also recognise the need to tackle these issues?

Infrastructure planning and tariffs

8. The LGA wants to see Local Development Tariffs implemented as quickly as possible as part of a comprehensive package of incentives for development. Will the HCA work on infrastructure plans help make the case for tariffs and assist councils in implementing schemes?

Community involvement, engagement and leadership

9. Unlocking councils' potential to play a much stronger leadership role in their local communities is crucial to the success of the government's ambitions for community led development. Is this reflected in the HCA's discussions with Government on Community Right to Build, and community planning?

Future of regulation

10. The LGA's response to the review of the Tenants Services Authority (TSA) stipulated that we see the creation of local panels as a solution for effective local co-regulation with housing providers, tenants and interested people sitting on these bodies and providing a critical friend role to housing providers. Would the HCA support that proposal and how would it seek to engage with new structures? For example, could the HCA use this scrutiny mechanism in their judgment on the viability of a housing provider that is applying for HCA grant?

Reform of Council Housing Finance

11. How will the HCA work with councils under the new self financing regime? What funding will be available to self financing councils and how will the current proposed debt cap affect the HCA's approach to allocating councils HCA grants?

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Sector led improvement and capacity building

12. What are Bob Kerlake's plans for the Skills and Knowledge Directorate of HCA (successor to the Academy for Sustainable Communities)? What does he think should be the respective roles of the LG Group and central government and its agencies in ensuring the skills and knowledge are in place in councils and other local bodies to manage development and regeneration effectively?

Financial Implications

13. No funding requirements arising from this report.

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Annex A

HCA work since the election

Business as usual

Annual Performance

The Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2009/10 show that the Agency has partially recovered from the market turmoil of the previous year, with its strong delivery supported by a steadily improving financial position. The Agency met or exceeded all of its key targets in 2009/10, including an 'exceptional' housing performance, starting or completing over 120,000 new and affordable homes with our local delivery partners. The total equates to more than half of all homes under construction during the reporting period.

As well as starting or completing over 120,000 new and affordable homes, during 2009/10 the Agency also attracted £583m of private investment to the sector, gave a boost to jobs and economic activity through the creation of 175,000sqm of employment floorspace, and reclaimed 356 hectares of brownfield land, bringing it back into productive use and helping to remove the blight of dereliction in communities.

The value of the HCA's net assets grew by £214m to £1.16bn, while development assets also saw an increase in value, of £20m, resulting from a £24m writeback of the impairment charge recorded in the previous financial year. Available for sale assets grew by 130% to £381m, as a result of greater investment in low cost home ownership products, helping first time buyers and the house building industry as well as promising a return to the taxpayer in future years.

Nine HCA-supported projects across the country were also recognised for their good design and layout in this year's Housing Design Awards. The awards, run by Design for Homes, acknowledge exceptional housing design in the public and private sectors, using criteria including external appearance and internal planning, relationship to surroundings and neighbourhood, sustainability in construction and handling of garages and car parking.

Despite a significant increase in activity in 2009/10, reflected in a 42% increase in the value of the Agency's Programme relative to the previous year, overall administration costs fell in line with the Agency's efficiency target and resulted in a £2m saving.

Our new Corporate Plan development is currently under development, while we are also working on efficiency measures to respond to the Government's plan to reduce the deficit.

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Programmes and Policy

Core Programmes

In May reductions were made to the HCA's programmes of £230m as part of wider efficiency saving imposed on CLG - £100m (NAHP); £50m (Kickstart Round 2); £30m (Gypsy & Traveller Programme); £50m (Housing Market Renewal). It was indicated that Housing Pledge funding of £780m was not secure, but that £170m of funding would be reinvested in the HCA for social rented housing, creating an overall potential shortfall in funding for the Agency of £610m (£780m - £170m = £610m).

In June Government has decided the remaining £610m was unaffordable given the extent of similar commitments across government, but guaranteed £390m for this year, on top of the £170m announced in May. This will prioritise new affordable housing, existing commitments on Decent Homes and Mortgage Rescue.

In total this left a programme reduction in 2010/11 of £450m (£230m plus £220m). This reduced the HCA's capital budget for 2010/11 by around 10%, to £4.11bn.

Following the review of Kickstart and local authority new-build schemes that took place in light of these cuts, a number of schemes have since received funding, and some have completed, including:

- South Tyneside Council is set to build 20 new eco-friendly homes in South Shields, after the HCA confirmed £803,000 in funding;
- First new council homes in Oldham for 15 years with £797k HCA funding;
- A Redditch development in the West Midlands has become the first in the country to be completed under the Kickstart programme

We are currently working with local authorities, Registered Providers and developers to seek alternative delivery mechanisms for those schemes that did not receive the expected funding following the review.

Other emerging programme work

- **Empty Homes** – The Agency has been running an online forum to capture the sector's ideas and thinking around the empty homes agenda. A report and map of empty homes around the country is expected in the Autumn.
- **Developer Partner Panel (DPP)** - Lovell is working on the first housing scheme awarded by the HCA DPP which has been set up to fast-track the development of new housing on public land.
- **Public Land Initiative (PLI)** – Work is ongoing around the PLI to see if it can be adapted for smaller and community-led project, and how we might develop a more publicly accessible approach to identifying and advertising land.
- **Standards Consultation** – We are reviewing the results of our consultation on the new design standards.

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- **Existing Stock Strategy** – Work is ongoing around the development of an HCA Strategy to address energy efficiency in existing stock, the results of which we hope will be announced early in the new year.
- **Emerging Government Policy** – We are working closely with CLG on policies such as Community Right to Build, Home Swap, Right to Move and for helping social tenants to own their own home.

Localism and the Big Society

We are taking a number of steps to further develop our approach to delivery to ensure it responds to the priorities of local authorities, places and communities. This includes a raft of measures from improving our local investment planning process, to increase transparency by publishing detailed Agency spending over £500, to supporting local authorities to develop new council housing and innovative, locally accountable delivery vehicles.

Local Investment Planning

By working with local authorities and communities, we support, enable and facilitate delivery of improvements for people and places. From the launch of the HCA in December 2008, we focused on implementing the Single Conversation as a local place-based business model. We have now initiated the process with every local authority in England.

Our focus is now shifting to the development and implementation of the Local Investment Plans to which we have made some changes. We will work with those local authorities who wish to continue with local investment planning to complete all the Local Investment Plans currently in progress by March 2011. In future we will adopt a voluntary approach to local investment planning with councils. We are also paring back the Guidance for this process and introducing some core elements which will help local authorities and the HCA maximise the impact of available resources. We have also introduced an internal Peer Review process to help share best practice and improve the LIP development process.

Emerging agreements include:

- Joint working in support of the Greater Manchester Strategy has prioritised schemes for investment in areas where they will have the greatest impact and are most needed. As a result of this successful collaboration, nearly £400m is now expected to be invested across Greater Manchester over the period covered by the Local Investment Plan.
- The Leeds City Region (LCR) has agreed a one year £110m funding deal with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), to support the delivery of major housing and regeneration schemes across the city region

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London devolution

The HCA is working closely with London boroughs to tailor new housing and regeneration investment to local needs. The Mayor of London Boris Johnson and London Councils have put forward plans which could see London boroughs taking greater control of their housing budgets. Under 'devolved delivery', the Mayor and the London Housing Board – which includes borough representatives – will agree an indicative budget for boroughs, allowing them to allocate this funding according to London-wide and individual priorities.

Devolved Delivery Agreements would be entirely voluntary and boroughs can choose to participate but are not required to do so. *"It is hoped this approach will avoid the trap of the agreements becoming watered down pacts that have been enforced upon local authorities regardless of their capacity or enthusiasm for devolved housing delivery."* David Lunts, HCA Regional Director

The consultation follows discussions between the GLA, London Councils, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Department of Communities and Local Government. It is expected that this will be confirmed in legislation to be introduced by ministers in the autumn. We are also working closely to ensure that non-legislative transitional arrangements are in place to minimise disturbance to existing business, fully engage with boroughs in the process, ensure ongoing accountability and maximise the efficiency of the programme.

Community-led Housing Policy

The HCA continues to develop its thinking and policy around community-led models of housing delivery (Co-operatives, Mutuels, Community Land Trusts, Co-housing etc). We are working closely with the sector, and liaising with partners such as the LGA, to help support the building of capacity in this area, and local authority engagement will be central to the success of the work. We are also working closely with CLG on their new Community Right to Build proposals.

As part of this, we have identified Hab Oakus, a joint venture between Kevin McCloud's company Hab and housing group GreenSquare, as the delivery partner to work up detailed plans to develop a former hospital site in Cashes Green, Stroud, Gloucestershire. The agreement sees Hab Oakus work alongside the Community Land Trust, Gloucestershire Land for People (GLP), local residents and stakeholders to develop a full planning application for a comprehensive redevelopment of the site to include 78 new homes, allotments and a community building. It is the first time a housing-focused Community Land Trust proposal will be delivered on HCA-owned land.

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Community Engagement Toolkit

Work continues to revise and update the Community Engagement Toolkit (originally developed by English Partnerships) to align it to our Community Engagement Policy. The work is being undertaken by the Young Foundation and workshops have been held to gather feedback from internal and external colleagues on the initial draft. A final draft is expected soon.

Developing our enabling role

We are working to adapt our approach and culture to be increasingly driven by what local areas need: a local agency with national influence, providing both investment and support to local communities, at their request, to help them achieve their objectives, focusing on: Transparency; Innovation and accountability; Efficiency and value for money; Supporting community led responses; and Competition.

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Annex B

Briefing for LGA Members and request for evidence to inform local government's response to proposals for a New Homes Bonus (13th August 2010)

Summary of the New Homes Bonus proposals

Housing Minister, Grant Shapps, wrote to all councils on 10th August to reiterate the government's commitment to put in place a framework of incentives to encourage housing and economic development. The letter confirmed that a New Homes Bonus scheme would be put in place early in the spending review period to reward councils who facilitate the building of new homes. The letter also confirmed that they are working up proposals on business rates reforms to encourage economic development, as well as reforming the Community Infrastructure Levy as part of the incentives package.

The details of how the scheme will work are yet to be confirmed, but previous announcements have included a proposal that the sum an area receives from council tax as a result of building new homes will be matched for a six year period. We also understand that the bonus scheme be funded from within the existing Formula Grant to local authorities, so councils who build new housing will get more funding and councils who do not will receive less grant.

Key issues to be addressed

Feedback we have had from councils so far indicates support for the principle of providing incentives for new homes. Building new homes is essential to economic recovery and growth. Regenerating local economies and creating jobs will require homes that people can afford in the quantity and of the standard and type that accommodates people's needs. Building more housing is also crucial to tackling long term social and environmental issues we face, including tackling homelessness and overcrowding and the heavy health and social costs they generate. But if new homes are to meet these challenges, and be acceptable to local communities, it is essential that they come with the infrastructure, facilities and services required to support them. So the New Homes Bonus will need to work as part of a wider package of support for new homes that includes developer contributions through section 106 agreements, local development tariffs and central government capital investment.

Equally, it is important to recognise that local housing needs are different in different areas of the country. Increasing the total number of homes will have significant economic benefits in areas facing problems of scarcity and lack of affordability. However, in other areas, there is a need to replace existing housing that is in poor

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condition and does not meet local needs. In addition, there is a need to ensure that large scale new developments, for example on Greenfield sites do not have a negative impact on communities nearby by attracting people away from existing housing. Areas that include National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB) are also likely to find it more difficult to benefit from the Bonus due to restrictions on development in these areas. It is essential that the incentives package supports development that most effectively meets local housing need and benefits local economies in all areas of the country.

Developing an effective incentive package

The Minister has invited views from councils, developers and communities on the scheme design ahead of a consultation after the spending review. The LGA will be working with Ministers, councils to ensure that the package adds up to an effective incentive and provides sufficient resources to cover the costs of delivering development.

There are a number of issues and questions that will need to be addressed, and on which we would like your views, including:

- **Will the incentive be large enough to overcome barriers to new housing?**
To act as an effective incentive, the additional revenue councils accrue under the scheme in combination with other income from Section 106, capital investment and local development tariffs will at a minimum have to cover costs of providing services to additional households. If the community is to receive additional benefits from development, the incentive package would need to exceed these costs. **We would welcome information from councils on the costs of service delivery and infrastructure need per additional household in your area.**
- **How will the incentive relate to the Local Government Finance system?**
Would the gain from the Bonus be offset by reductions in formula grant funding? If the incentive is drawn within the local government settlement, it will have a redistributive effect. How would this impact on grant floors and damping?
- **How will the incentive be apportioned between different tiers of local government and neighbourhoods?** In two-tier areas, housing growth will have an impact on the costs of services provided by both counties and districts. As planning authorities, districts are responsible for taking tough decisions about housing development and convincing their communities of the benefits. **What should be the process for discussions about how the incentive should be apportioned? Would we want Government to leave this to councils to agree among themselves, for example across a county area?**
- **Will it incentivise the right sort of housing where it is needed?** Council tax income per head from smaller houses or apartments is greater than from family

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houses, so the scheme could incentivise housing numbers rather than the sort of housing needed in an area. Councils could be incentivised to grant permission on sites that are easier to develop in volume, missing opportunities for smaller scale infill.

- **Will it work for all areas?** Housing markets face different challenges in different areas of the country. In areas where obsolete or unattractive housing stock need to be removed to make way for more appropriate housing, there may not be a net gain in housing units, but the council could be meeting very real housing need. **How will the incentive ensure that local circumstances are taken into account? We would welcome evidence on the economic benefits both of increasing housing supply in areas of the worst affordability and of regenerating areas of unsustainable, poor quality housing.**
- **How is a new home defined?** For example, if a large house is converted into four flats, would that be counted as three or four new homes? If a derelict or long term empty property is refurbished and brought back into use, would that count as a new home? In thinking through these issues, the government needs to have an eye both to definitions being clear and workable, and not creating incentives which skew decisions only local housing strategy away from meeting local needs in the most effective way?
- Should the scheme include any enhancements to incentivise policy priorities, such as a higher rate for delivery of affordable or energy efficient housing?
- Our understanding is that the New Homes Bonus will be calculated in terms of housing completions, not on granting of planning permissions. While this makes sense in terms of encouraging councils not to stall permissions pending the introduction of the bonus , the government also needs to think about mechanisms for ensuring that development takes place without undue delay following the grant of permission

We would welcome your input on these issues, or any others you wish to see addressed as well as any ideas you have about how Government can ensure the scheme is effective.

Please send your information to info@local.gov.uk. If you would like to discuss the scheme in further detail, please call Caroline Green on 020 7664 3359.

Item 3

Local Government's Offer on Climate Change

Purpose of Report

To decide on the final proposals for the Local Government Group's Climate Change Offer and determine how the Group negotiates with the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Summary

In his speech at the LGA conference, Chris Huhne asked the Group to develop an offer on how local and central government can work together to meet the UK's 80% CO2 reduction target and achieve the national carbon budgets. This paper reports where discussions with DECC have got to, and officers will provide a further update and advice on the negotiating position at the Board meeting.

Recommendations

- That the Board agrees on proposals to put to DECC
- That the Board decides the Group's position on the key deal-breakers
- That the Board agrees the negotiation process with Government

Action

Leading Members and officers to take forward negotiations in line with the Board's decisions.

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Local Government's Offer on Climate Change

Background

1. At the Local Government Group Annual Conference in Bournemouth in July, Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Chris Huhne, invited the Local Government Sector, to:
 - *Put forward another 'offer' outlining how local and central government can work together to meet our national climate change targets;*
 - *Construct a new partnership between local and central government, to enable them together to meet these goals in the fastest and most cost-effective manner we can;*
 - *Discuss the appropriate structure through which local authorities could take the lead in accepting responsibility for carbon emissions in their own areas.*
2. Officers from the Local Government Group have been developing a draft 'Offer' for discussion with the Environment and Housing Board, and exploring the issues it would need to address with officer experts from the sector and DECC officials.
3. This paper provides an outline of the issues and the Environment and Housing Board will be presented with additional detail on the Offer and options at the meeting.

The issues

4. Chris Huhne has specifically said he wants to see a key role for councils in the Green Deal, but no confirmed details have emerged from DECC about what exactly this might mean, and one strand of thinking there clearly favours an approach in which private sector businesses would compete in an unconstrained way to deliver the Deal for households. Nor is it clear what the department's plans are to involve the 14 councils who agreed with the Conservatives to be pilots for the Green Deal prior to the General Election.
5. Energy efficiency measures contribute a significant proportion of the carbon emissions that can be saved locally, and is a key element of improving health, creating local employment, and increasing the proportion of income available to spend in a local area. Councils currently provide over half the energy efficiency programmes in England, and according to a recent report by the Energy Saving

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Trust, are the most popular with customers. Without a clear role in improving energy efficiency, it will be impossible for councils to take on responsibility for their local CO2 emissions.

6. Whilst Government has clearly set out a role for councils in increasing renewable energy deployment in the UK by allowing councils to sell electricity, the full potential of this cannot be realised due to the procedure OFGEM require councils to go through to obtain a "light licence".
7. In return for creating a local evidence base that demonstrates the opportunities available for councils to contribute their share of the national carbon reduction targets, councils must have access to appropriate data.
8. A key element of the Offer for DECC is making all councils accountable, and transparent, on local emissions and the actions they are taking to reduce them. There is continued pressure for Local Government to make any local targets binding, and to possibly take on a Duty to act on climate change.
9. Access to funding to deliver locally will be an important element of the Offer. There may be opportunities to access funding through the Green Investment Bank. Rationalisation of spend by Government means that many of the organisations and programmes that would have supported councils in this area are under review. Any rationalisation should be accompanied by an impact assessment on how it will affect local government's ability to deliver on local carbon reduction plans.

The Proposals

10. Our current thinking is that the main lines of our Offer should be:
 - 10.1 The creation of a single journey for all councils to help them develop local carbon reduction plans, led by the Local Government Group with top performing councils, supporting organisations, and using the Local Carbon Framework pilot councils.
 - 10.2 An active role for councils in the Green Deal.
 - 10.3 A local evidence-based approach to developing a local carbon reduction prospectus and local delivery plans that are transparent and accountable. These plans would be available for private sector investment and councils could use then as business plans for a cost-effective approach to reducing carbon emissions.
 - 10.4 No new statutory duties or top down targets for councils.

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10.5 How the Local Government Group works with DECC to help design policy that works for the Local Government Sector, and how the Group can support DECC's staff in understanding the sector.

The Negotiation Process

11. It is recommended that the Local Government Group submit the 'Offer' to DECC before the end of September so it can be considered as part of the Spending Review, due for announcement at the end of October.
12. It is recommended that submission of the 'Offer' is followed by a high-level meeting between Secretary of State Chris Huhne, Cllr Gary Porter as Chairman of the Environment and Housing Board, and Cllr Richard Kemp as Deputy Chair of the Local Government Association.
13. It is anticipated that following the submission of the 'Offer', the group will enter discussions on refining the proposals and agreeing a new framework for central and local government to work together on climate change.

Conclusion and next steps

14. The 'Offer' gives the local government sector, through the Local Government Group, a good opportunity to determine and agree with DECC how the sector acts on energy, energy efficiency, and climate change in the forthcoming years.
15. Acting on the decisions made by the Environment and Housing Board on the draft proposals, the key elements of the Offer, and the negotiation process, officers will finalise the Offer and begin the submission and discussion phase with DECC.
16. Officers will keep the Board updated on progress.

Financial Implications

17. The main financial implication for the Group is that the delivery of support to councils through the 'journey' described in paragraph 10 above would need to be included in the work programme emerging from the current discussions with Government about topslice funding. LGID colleagues, including the Managing Director, are closely in touch with our work on this.
18. Winning the arguments for policy frameworks for local energy saving which give councils a strong role would have significant positive financial implications for councils and communities, notably through supporting local energy efficiency programmes, improvements in the social housing stock, and councils' ability to generate savings and revenue from generating power and heat.

Item 4

**Environment and Housing Programme Board: Programme for
2010-11**

Purpose of report

In addition to this being the first meeting of a Board year, the Board needs to look at its ways of working and programme in the light of:

- it being a Group Programme Board, with formal accountability not just for LGA policy and lobbying, but support and improvement work across the whole Group;
- changes in the performance and improvement landscape, including the abolition of CAA and the likely reduction in central Government and NDPB activities intended to assist councils with know-how;
- discussions currently under way with Government about the funding and priorities of the Local Government Group.

Summary

The May Board meeting discussed working arrangements for the new Environment and Housing Programme Board as programming the light of the changes to the role and operation of the Boards agreed as part of the *Getting Closer programme*. This report makes proposals on the Board programme for 2010-11 which Members are asked to comment on and agree.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Agree the proposals set out in paragraph 15 of the main report for specific activities the Board should undertake to reflect the new context
- comment on the stance the Chair should take in forthcoming Executive discussions on the place of environment and housing work in the Group's priorities and work programme

Action

- Officers to incorporate Members' views into proposals for the operation of the new Environment Programme Board.

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Item 4

Environment and Housing Programme Board: Programme for 2010-11

Background

1. Environment and Housing is one of nine Group programme boards which replace the LGA policy boards. These Programme Boards have been tasked with delivering the business plan priorities through more active engagement with councils and to strengthen the link between improvement and policy/lobbying (through common membership with central body boards where relevant). The purpose of the new Board is to provide strategic oversight of all the LGA Group's policy and improvement activity in relation to the environment and housing, in line with the LGA Group priorities.
2. This will differ from the previous arrangements as follows with regards to Programme Boards:
 - The Programme Board will have formal responsibility for the whole LG Group's work on environment and housing, not just policy;
 - There will be a much clearer relationship between the Group Business Plan and the priorities and work programmes of the Programme Boards;
 - There is a much stronger emphasis on being more outward focussed and connected to councils.

Performance and development

3. Many Boards, including the predecessor LGA Environment Board, have already been taking an interest in sector performance and improvement as part of the work they have been doing. The remit of the new Programme Boards reinforces this responsibility and serves as an invitation to Boards to review their approach and consider the extent to which they should seek to maintain an ongoing understanding of council priorities and performance in their areas of responsibility and how best to do so.
4. Two issues arise:
 - **First:** the Group will need to be in a position to respond quickly to councils that may require support on a range of issues. We will need to be confident that as a sector and as a Group we have the capacity to deal with these issues. This issue is probably most acute in high profile areas such as children's services and adult social care where to date the government has provided significant resources and support to councils that have been identified with challenges in these areas through their use of field forces and service advisors.

- If they have not already done so Boards will want to consider the extent to which they maintain an ongoing understanding of council priorities and performance in their areas of responsibility and how best to achieve this. The Improvement Board is charged with oversight of the performance of the sector as a whole but is keen to work with all the respective boards to ensure that they are fully engaged in the service areas that come under their remit.
 - **Second:** the CAA data will have a relatively short shelf life and the future of the NIS is unclear. A new approach to performance data is needed that makes more use of the data that councils and partners already use to manage their own performance. In due course this should provide an easily accessible resource enabling the sector to monitor its performance across a range of locally important and selected indicators.
 - In the meantime members are invited to offer views and suggestions about the type of performance information they would find helpful in monitoring performance of the sector within their remit.
5. In addition, on 13 August, the Secretary of State announced plans to disband the Audit Commission and refocus audit on helping local people hold councils and local public bodies to account for local spending decisions. In summary:
- The Commission's responsibilities for overseeing and delivering local audit and inspections will stop;
 - The Commission's research activities will end;
 - Audit functions will be removed to the private sector;
 - Councils will be free to appoint their own independent external auditors from a more open and competitive market, regulated within a statutory framework and overseen by the National Audit Office;
 - The powers of the Local Government Ombudsman will be strengthened, making findings legally enforceable;
 - There will be a new audit framework for local health bodies.
6. The new system will be in place from 2012/13 financial year with the necessary legislation being sought in this Parliamentary session. In relation to this Board's remit, the Government is reviewing the role of the Tenant Services Authority in regulating social housing landlords, and the Audit Commission's Housing Inspectorate has been a major player in reviewing housing performance by social landlords in recent years.

Future arrangements for topslice funding

7. The LG Group has reached agreement with CLG for topslice to be paid to a single specified body for a set of agreed high level outcomes, allowing us to allocate funding and decide on the best means of delivery to achieve those outcomes. In return we are bidding for RSG topslice of £31.5m - a 30% reduction. CLG is currently consulting councils on these proposals.
8. Over the summer, work has been underway across the LG Group on the RSG top slice bid, building on a consultation exercise with councils carried out in the Spring by Rob Whiteman, Managing Director of Local Government Improvement and Development, and further discussions with councils at the LG Group conference.

9. Programme Board members are invited to review the priorities in the draft submission prior to this being signed off by the LG Group Executive on 16 September - where Board Chairs will have the opportunity to feed back - and Resources Panel the following week. As well as forming the basis of the submission to CLG, these priorities will be central to the LG Group's strategy and business plan for 2011/12, which will be discussed further with members over the autumn. There is a read-across between this and the negotiations with DECC and a sector offer which is also on the agenda for the September Board meeting.
10. A summary of the proposed outcomes in the RSG submission can be found at **Annex A**. The full draft submission, which will also include information on the LG Group's offer to deliver those outcomes, will be available for circulation to Programme Board members on 7 September.
11. In line with the Group's existing business plan priorities, the priorities proposed do not include environment and housing as separate items. Rather, the Group's work on housing and environment would form part of work on some of the stated priorities, in particular on strong local economies and local performance and value for money.
12. Members are asked to consider whether the outcomes in the submission:
 - a. reflect the overall priorities of local government, based on the experience of their own councils and more general feedback;
 - b. are in line with the specific priorities identified by their Programme Board;
 - c. whether the submission needs to be more explicit about how key themes the Board deals with – physical development, waste and climate change are actually key political, economic and financial issues for councils.

Proposed new approach

13. The Programme Board should seek to influence the high level business plan priorities set by LGX, and in turn actively shape the environment and housing programme within the priorities agreed by LGX, and ensure the programme is being delivered.
14. As part of the new governance arrangements a member of the LACORS Board will sit on the Environment and Housing Programme Board to provide input and information on the substance of LACORS activity on environment.
15. A table of objectives and proposed actions can be found below:

Objective	Proposed action	Timetable
Programme Board members to take greater ownership of Board papers. This would help to ensure that papers are 'owned' by individual Members or groups of Members on the Board.	Members propose and lead discussions, with officers drafting papers and providing advice as appropriate. Lead Members will continue to agree agendas as per the current system.	On-going throughout the Programme Board meeting cycle.
Members agreed that the Programme Board would	Programme Board meetings take place in September,	Dates for meetings for the 2010-11 meeting cycle have

<p>reduce the number of formal meetings from 6 to 4 and use the remaining two dates as opportunities to engage in discussions with the sector on a wider basis.</p>	<p>November, March and late June, to coincide with the Group Annual Conference.</p> <p>The dates confirmed for January and May are used for wider engagement/events with the sector. These events will be hosted by local authorities away from Local Government House and will focus on a specific issue, either in the form of a round-table discussion or a conference with the sector. These will not be Board meetings held in a different venue.</p>	<p>been agreed. Officers to work up proposals for the January and May dates, with the input and approval of Programme Board Office Holders.</p> <p>Lead Members to discuss with Programme Board members in political group meetings with the aim of identifying host authorities and topics for discussion.</p>
<p>The Programme Board needs to consider its remit with regards to performance and improvement.</p> <p>Draft Terms of Reference for this group can be found at Annex B</p>	<p>Officers propose a performance and improvement review panel is created to oversee this work. This review panel would be chaired by one of the Board Office Holders and could, subject to member's views, include a member of Improvement Programme Board.</p> <p>This sub-group would scrutinise the improvement and development work undertaken by LGID, LRR and Local Partnerships and would report to the Environment and Housing Programme Board.</p>	<p>A meeting of the review panel should be arranged early in the meeting cycle. This could be preceded by a 'call for evidence' sent out via the Chairman's bulletin asking members and officers where they think councils need improvement and development support from the LG Group.</p>
<p>Programme Board members are asked to commit to undertake work on behalf of the Board within their regions, such as influencing local MPs or attending pre-existing meetings of environment portfolio holders</p>	<p>All Members are asked to attend a minimum of two regional events during the cycle in lieu of the reduced number of Programme Board meetings.</p>	<p>Programme Board members to report back to the Board on the work that they have undertaken. Dates of regional meetings will be circulated to members.</p>
<p>To take a more strategic approach to the Programme Board's activity on</p>	<p>A map of forthcoming conferences covering the main areas of the</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout 2010-11.</p>

conferences, covering our own LG group and external paid events.	Programme Board's work is attached and speakers for these events will be sought in due course.	
Portfolio holder groups will continue under the new Programme Board arrangements.	Officers suggest that opportunities may arise when it is desirable to involve those outside the Local Government Group's formal structures in discussion. The flooding and housing finance groups are examples of where this approach has already been employed.	Portfolio holder groups to be used as and when appropriate to conduct business, with wider member input from the sector where appropriate.
The Strategic Core Group of officers will continue to meet quarterly.	We propose that one of these meetings is attended by Environment Programme Board members.	The proposed date of the next Core Group meeting is the 11th October . Dates of further meetings to be circulated in due course.
The Programme Board will continue our more active and targeted communication with the sector, through the Chairman's bulletin for example.	LG Group Member Communications team will have a full list of all Environment and Housing related portfolio holders in place by September 2010.	The Chairman's bulletin will continue to be sent out monthly, with other communications circulated as appropriate.

Conclusions and next steps

- Chair to contribute to Executive discussion on 16 September reflecting feedback from the Board. Officers to incorporate Members' views into proposals for the operation of the new Environment Programme Board.

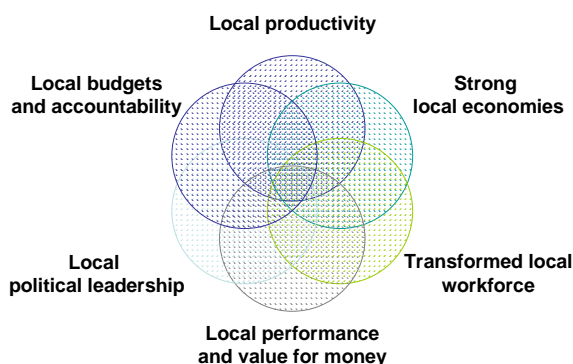
Financial Implications

- See especially 7 to 12 above. The new governance arrangements are one mechanism through which the Group will ensure it focuses its available resources effectively on the highest priorities for the sector.

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Summary of RSG Submission

Six key RSG top slice outcomes



To lead the transformation of local public services, councils will need to go beyond just joint working with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to get the very best outcomes for their communities and neighbourhoods, and improve **local productivity**. This means pooling resources, re-designing services and reinventing state activity through the development of the voluntary sector and other local groups. Our offer is designed to:

- identify the key productivity gains for local government, achieved through a mix of national and international data combined with local experience
- develop clear proposals to make sure councils deliver these savings quickly
- push those parts of local government that are falling behind
- develop a sector-wide approach to benchmarking to drive down unit costs and improve productivity
- increase the skills of councillors and officers in reviewing and taking action on spend data.

Local government will need to become smaller and more flexible than it is now, delivering high quality outcomes – not necessarily services. Councils will have to deliver **a transformed workforce**, employing their staff differently to achieve more for local

Item 4

people and be able quickly to evolve new ways of working in response to changing priorities and needs. We will support local government in making sure we have a workforce capable of responding to major changes in the way the public sector operates. Our offer is designed to:

- help councils develop a flexible and productive workforce
- ensure an affordable and flexible pay, reward and conditions system for the whole of local government
- work with the different public sector employers to address the challenges and opportunities in local workforces.

Tough decisions about local services are best taken locally by the people who are accountable to residents and know their areas best. Central to this is the need to transform the way the public sector works and cut out the middlemen to save billions of pounds and allow councils to do more for less through **local budgets with greater accountability to local people**. Local government creates the climate in which individuals, families and businesses can come together as communities and local budgets will create more freedom to do that. Through our support to councils on local budgets, we will radically transform the way services are organised, allowing savings to be made and for people to take more responsibility over their own lives. Our offer is designed to:

- help bring together different parts of the public sector in an area in a local budget, using expertise of having undertaken this work in different areas before
- develop new systems of governance that work well for local people where there are local budgets
- help councils and their partners commission and design services round people's needs, not institutional silos
- support councils in operating transparently and sharing information with local residents in a useful way.

As part of this, councils have a role with local business leaders in stimulating growth and creating **strong local economies** in their areas. Local enterprise partnerships - tackling issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure priorities, employment and enterprise and the transition to the low carbon economy – are central to this vision. Our offer is designed to:

- ensure that Local Enterprise Partnerships deliver tangible benefits for their areas
- ensure councils are successful in planning and financing infrastructure projects
- achieve a cultural shift in councils to help residents take charge of their neighbourhoods
- support councils in stripping away and streamlining regulation.

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Democratic local accountability underpins all of this. The big public sector challenges require strong **local political leadership**, with constant development and renewal of local politicians. We will provide development programmes and direct support to improve the skills of councillors across local government to:

- help councils change the way they work with local people so they have more control over their lives and are less dependent on services
- devolve power to neighbourhoods and local people
- work more effectively with and through the voluntary and community sector
- ensure that local government recruits new talent to increase the range of ages and backgrounds of councillors.

The government has signaled a radical approach to decentralising power and enhancing **local performance and value for money** by providing transparent information to local people. Inspection is being significantly scaled back and CAA abolished. Councils will need to work with their partners to monitor and assess their own performance and provide assurance on the effectiveness of local services. We will help councils improve their performance and deliver value for money for local people by:

- helping councils take responsibility for reviewing and challenging their own performance rather than through central government targets
- supporting councils in sharing knowledge, so that local government learns from the best and demonstrably takes responsibility as a sector for its own improvement and performance
- proactively identifying councils who are struggling and providing councillor and officer peer support, to turn around struggling councils, challenging complacency and encouraging councils to try and do things differently.

LG Environment & Housing Programme Board - Improvement and Development Review Panel

Draft Terms of Reference

The purpose of the Environment and Housing Programme Board is to provide strategic oversight of all the LG Group's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to the sustainability of the environment, including issues of housing, planning and waste, in line with the LG Group priorities.

One of the work areas that the Environment and Housing Programme Board will be responsible for is developing a thorough understanding of council priorities and performance in the areas of responsibility, using strong networks and robust information.

The Programme Board has decided to set up an Improvement and Development Review Panel to review the Group's current offer in relation to council priorities and the national policy landscape and report back to its March meeting.

The Panel will be chaired by one of the Environment and Housing Programme Board office holders and consist of one Member from each group. It may choose to approach the Improvement Programme Board to seek a Member to represent the Programme Board in the work of the sub-group. It will be responsible for:

1. Reviewing the Improvement and Development work undertaken in the areas of Environment and Housing across the LG Group;
2. Gathering views from member councils about their priority needs for supporting performance and improvement on housing and environment;
3. Making recommendations for the 2011-12 financial year and beyond for how the Group's performance and improvement work should be developed;

This sub-group will meet on a maximum of four occasions and will provide its final report to the Programme Board at its March meeting. Lead Members and the Programme Board can decide to extend the life of the sub-group if they consider that there is useful work that it can continue to undertake.

Item 5

Membership and Terms of Reference 2010 – 11

Purpose of report

For notification.

Summary

This report sets out the Membership, Terms of Reference and Meeting dates of the Environment & Housing Programme Board for the 2010-11 year.

Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to:

- Note the membership, terms of reference and future dates of the Environment & Housing Programme Board for 2010-11.

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Membership 2010/11

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Gary Porter [Chairman]	South Holland DC
Peter Britcliffe	Hyndburn BC
Andrew Gravells	Gloucestershire CC/Gloucester City
Clare Whelan	Lambeth LB
Jason Stacey	Ealing LB
*David Smith	Lichfield DC
Substitutes:	
Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
*Mary Mears	Brighton & Hove City Council
Labour (4)	
*Clyde Loakes [Vice Chair]	Waltham Forest LB
Derek Bateman	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Tony Newman	Croydon LB
Ed Turner	Oxford City
Substitute	
Tim Moore	Liverpool City
Richard Williams	Southampton City
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Dorothy Thornhill [Deputy Chair]	Watford BC
Berni Turner	Liverpool City
Paula Baker	Basingstoke & Deane BC
Substitute	
Roger Symonds	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Independent (1)	
Mike Haines [Deputy Chair]	Teignbridge DC
Substitute	
Andrew Cooper	Kirklees MBC

14 member Board * new member/substitute + substitute in 2009/10

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Terms of Reference

The purpose of the Environment and Housing Programme Board is to provide strategic oversight of all the LG Group's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to the sustainability of the environment, including issues of housing, planning and waste, in line with the LG Group priorities.

Programme Boards should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through task groups, Rural and Urban Commissions, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement); essentially operating as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.

The Environment and Housing Programme Board will be responsible for:

1. Developing a thorough understanding of council priorities and performance in the areas of responsibility, using strong networks and robust information.
2. Helping to shape the LG Group Business Plan by ensuring the priorities of the sector are fed into the process.
3. Overseeing a programme of work to deliver the strategic priorities set by the LG Group Executive, covering lobbying/campaigns, research/policy, good practice, improvement support and events – as specified in the business plan, taking into account linkages with other policy boards where appropriate.
4. Representational and lobbying activities on behalf of the LG Group and responsibility for the promulgation of activity through public statements in its areas of responsibility.
5. Building and maintaining effective relationships with key stakeholders.

The Environment and Housing Programme Board may:

- Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with guidance in the Political Conventions.
- Appoint member champions where appropriate (who must be a current member of the Board) on key issues, with responsibility for liaising with portfolio holders on key issues that require rapid response/contact with councils.

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Meeting Dates 2010 - 2011

DAY (2010)	DATE	TIME	ROOM / VENUE
Monday	13 September 2010	11.00	7.1 & 7.2, LGH
Wednesday	17 November 2010	11.00	8.2, LGH
DAY (2011)			
Wednesday	12 January 2011	11.00	Tbc
Wednesday	16 March 2011	11.00	7.1 & 7.2, LGH
Wednesday	25 May 2011	11.00	Tbc
Monday	27 June 2011 (to coincide with LGA Conference)	11.00	Birmingham

Item 6

Appointments to Outside Bodies and Portfolio Holders 2010-11

Purpose of report

For discussion and decision

Summary

This report outlines outside bodies to which the Programme Board is asked to appoint for the 2010 / 11 meeting cycle.

Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to:

- formally appoint to outside bodies in accordance with the procedure outlined in **Appendix A**, ensuring that the bodies to which they wish to appoint accurately reflect LGA priorities;
- that members currently representing the Programme Board on outside bodies provide any appropriate feedback from the previous meeting cycle;
- provide the LG Group Executive October meeting with the Board's 2010-2011 list of outside body appointments.

Action

- Officers to inform outside bodies of any changes in, or confirm continuation of, LGA representatives.
- Officers to confirm appointments directly to members and also via a paper for information to the next appropriate full Programme Board.

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Appointments to Outside Bodies and Portfolio Holders 2010 - 11

Background

1. The Local Government Group currently benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across all Programme Boards. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Group to ensure that the aims and activities of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LG Group.

Programme Board appointments

2. A list of the organisations to which the Environment & Housing Programme Board currently appoints member representatives is attached as **Appendix B**. This list also details where Councillors have been returned to the Board in the new cycle and where changes in membership have created a vacancy on an outside body. Members are asked to note and comment upon the appointments for this meeting cycle, which are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LG Group. Also attached at **Appendix C** is a list of Portfolio Holders from the Board 2009-10 for consideration.
3. A new database for centrally recording all the information relating to appointments has been created and is held by the Member Services team.
4. In order to clarify the process for making appointments; the method of recording information on appointments; and to set out the level of support we will offer to appointed members, a procedure has been drawn up (**Appendix A**) which aims to ensure that Members are, ahead of the first meeting of the cycle, fully briefed on both the policy direction of the outside body and the logistical arrangements, such as meeting frequency, meeting location and membership.

Financial Implications

5. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA Group for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.

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Appendix A

Procedure for LGA appointments to outside bodies

1. List of Outside Bodies

1.1 It is the responsibility of the Boards to review the need for representation on outside bodies as part of their annual appointments process. Boards should:

- Ensure that the list of outside bodies reflects LGA priorities, both by ending appointments where these are not felt to be of value and by actively seeking representation on new organisations;
- Evaluate both the value of the LGA's relationship with the organisation and the level of LGA influence on that body; and
- Have consideration of when it is necessary to appoint a member representative and when an officer appointment would be more appropriate.

1.2 The Boards will submit a report to LGA Executive setting out their current list of outside bodies every year in October.

2. Political Proportionality

2.1 As stated in the LGA Political Conventions:

Every effort will be made to ensure that all groups recognised by the Association are fairly represented on outside bodies both numerically and in terms of the range/type of appointments made. Each Board or Panel responsible for making appointments should agree the means by which this is achieved ... Appointments to individual outside bodies should reflect political balance where possible, subject to the constraints set by the number of appointments to individual bodies.

2.2. While the Boards are responsible for ensuring appointments are made in accordance with the LGA's political proportionality, the political group offices have oversight of this process through:

- a) Considering individual appointments in the context of all appointments to outside bodies across the organisation.
- b) Maintaining lists of members of Boards and other councillors willing to serve on outside bodies, together with details of their particular skills and experience.
- c) Discussing nominations to outside bodies with their members at the political group meetings preceding September Board meetings.

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- d) Being kept informed of any additional appointments that arise during the course of the board cycle.
- e) Finding a representative if a Board is unable to secure an appointment.

3. Appointments

- 3.1 Appointments will be agreed by each Board at their September meeting and will be time limited – set according to the outside body's governance arrangements.
- 3.2 The Business Manager will then write to each organisation notifying them of the appointment and requesting details of forthcoming meetings.
- 3.3 Certain appointments are made centrally and appointments are also made by LGE to negotiating bodies and by the European and International Unit. While the process for making these appointments will be different, this information will be recorded on the central database and the same requirements for review and for support to members apply.

4. Recording information about appointments

- 4.1 A database of existing outside body appointments will be maintained centrally by the member support team, to include:
 - Councillor details, including political party;
 - Term of Office;
 - A key contact at the organisation;
 - Any allowances or expenses paid by the outside body; and
 - Named LGA link officer.
- 4.2 The Member support team will add details of the appointment to the notes on the appointed councillor's CRM entry and on the organisation's CRM entry.
- 4.3 The list of Outside Bodies, broken down by Board, will be published on the LGA website and details will also be added to each member's web profile. The member support team has responsibility for ensuring this is kept up to date.
- 4.4 This list will also include any 'member champions' – board members appointed to hold a particular portfolio area of responsibility within the LGA, for example the European and International Champions on each Board.

5. LGA support for members appointed to Outside Bodies

- 5.1 Members appointed to outside bodies must receive support from LGA officers in order to maximise their contributions to outside bodies, including being kept

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informed of key LGA lobbying messages. Support will therefore be provided in line with the following Scrutiny Panel recommendations, agreed by the LGA in 2003:

- For each Board making appointments to outside bodies, there should be a designated LGA member of staff to oversee the appointment process for that executive, including the provision of introductory briefing for new appointees.
- A named member of staff should be appointed as the liaison person for each outside body.
- Each Board should consider the need for induction support for appointees in relation to particular outside bodies.
- Where deputies or substitute representatives are appointed, they should also be made aware of arrangements for support and report back.
- Details of any financial support from either the LGA or the outside body should be provided for all appointees.

5.2 Business Managers will oversee the appointment process and in most cases will be the liaison officer for outside bodies linked to their Boards; however, in certain cases it may be more appropriate for a Policy Consultant to act as the liaison.

5.3 Member Support Officers will ensure that appointees receive a letter setting out the details of the appointment, term of office, future meeting dates, arrangements for expenses and the contact details of both the organisation's named contact and the LGA's link officer.

5.4 New appointees will receive an initial briefing on the work of the outside body and relevant LGA lobbying messages from the link officer and will also be kept informed of any arising policy issues and of other LGA contact with the organisation.

6. Mechanisms for feedback

6.1 All appointees should be encouraged to provide updates to the link officer following meetings and when important issues arise.

6.2 All appointees, including non-board members, should be encouraged to feed into board 'other business' reports every 2 months. Appointees who are not board members may also wish to attend a board meeting to report back.

6.3 Towards the end of each year, all appointees will be contacted by either the Member Support Officer or Business Manager and invited to feed back their views of the appointment, in preparation for the Boards' annual review of appointments. This should cover how many meetings they have attended, how

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useful they feel their role has been, whether they wish to continue and whether they have any additional support needs.

- 6.4 The named contact at the outside body should also be contacted annually to confirm details of attendance and provide an update on any changes.

7. Expenses

- 7.1 Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA Group for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.

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Appendix B

LGA Environment Board representatives to outside bodies 2010-11

Outside Body	Conservative	Labour	Lib Democrat	Independent
National Planning Forum	Cllr Andrew Gravells	Cllr Derek Bateman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill	Cllr Michael Haines
HCA Rural Advisory Board	Cllr Gary Porter	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Commission Steering Committee	N/A	Cllr Derek Bateman	N/A	N/A
Flood Risk and Water Management	Cllr Andrew Gravells (cc Cllr Gary Porter)	Cllr Derek Bateman	Cllr Berni Turner	Cllr Michael Haines (Chair)
* European & International Programme Board	Cllr Clare Whelan	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Nominations to the European & International Programme Board should include one Conservative, one Labour and one Liberal Democrat member on the understanding that only one of these will then go on to represent the Board.

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Appendix C

Environment & Housing Programme Board portfolio holders 2010 – 11

Portfolio	Conservative	Labour	Lib Democrat	Independent
Housing	Cllr Gary Porter	Cllr Tony Newman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill	Cllr Michael Haines
Planning	Cllr Andrew Gravells	Cllr Derek Bateman	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill	Cllr Michael Haines
Waste and Material Resources	Cllr David Potts	Vacancy	Cllr Berni Turner	Cllr Michael Haines
Green and Green Issues	Cllr Peter Britcliffe	Cllr Ed Turner	Cllr Paula Baker	Cllr Michael Haines

Item 7

Conference Mapping

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This report sets out the procedures used by LG Group officers in prioritising invitations to Members to speak and / or attend conferences.

A grid of major LG and external conferences / events taking place between September 2010 and July 2011 - related to areas of flooding, housing, planning, climate change and waste - is attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the arrangements.

Action

Officers to take forward conference programme in light of members' comments.

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Conference Mapping

Background

1. LGA officers receive a number of invitations for members and officers to speak at conferences and to attend stakeholder events. These can involve extensive preparatory work e.g. producing presentations and briefing papers, often at short notice.
2. To help us to anticipate and prioritise which invitations we accept and allow maximum time for preparation, a mapping and tracking system of LG and external conferences / events has been devised. This system will map invitations and track the process through from the acceptance/decline of invitations to producing briefing and speaking notes.

The issue(s)

3. The Grid will enable officers to be prepared for each event and to ensure the relevant briefing is provided in good time. A decision can also be made on the importance of the invitation e.g. should an attendee/speaker be provided at all and if so does it warrant a members attention or that of an LGA officer.
4. Officers would like to ensure that the briefing and speaking notes we provide to Members are as useful as possible. Members are invited to inform officers of any suggestions in terms of expectations for briefings.
5. Members will have the opportunity to feedback on engagements at each subsequent meeting of the Board.

Tracking System

6. The process below illustrates the mapping and tracking system:
 - Invitation is received and passed to Member Support Officer (MSO) for logging;
 - Invitation is considered in consultation with colleagues and members;
 - MSO accepts / declines invitation;
 - If accepted, MSO will commission a briefing from officer or adviser;
 - Officer/adviser will provide a briefing to attendee and handle any changes/ updates;
 - Members will provide feedback on the event to officers for action if necessary;
 - Members will have the opportunity to feedback to the Board.

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Appendix A

Date of Event	Organisation	Title of Event	Invitation Received	Decision
14 Sept 2010	Policy Connect	SRF roundtable with Bob Neill MP	✓	Cllr A Gravells attending with Martin Wheatley / Clive Harris
16 Sept 2010	Home Builders Federation (HBF)	Annual Planning Conference	✓	Cllr M Haines attending as speaker
17 Sept 2010	Chartered Institute of Housing	Chief Officers Conference		
23 Sept 2010	LG Group	Carbon Reduction Commitment Conference	Via LG Group Events Team	Cllr G Porter attending as speaker
23 Sep 2010	Chartered Institute of Housing	Carbon Reduction Commitment - issues, strategies and resources for the public sector		
05 Oct 2010	Chartered Institute of Housing	The Future of Affordable Housing		
12 Oct 2010	LG Group	Local Government Group climate change annual conference	Via LG Group Events Team	Cllr A Cooper (sub) attending as speaker

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15 Oct 2010	RTPI planning convention	CLIMATE CHANGE - Delivering Essential Waste, Energy & Flood Management Infrastructures		
26 Oct 2010	Public Service Events conference	Renewable Energy in the Public Sector: working towards a zero carbon future	✓	Cllr Porter attending as speaker
4-5 Nov 2010	RTPI planning convention	Planning for climate change conference		
9-10 Nov 2010	Business Council for Sustainable Energy	Climate Finance 2010		
9 - 11 Nov 2010	Chartered Institute of Housing	CIH Eastern Annual Conference – The Sky's the Limit		
11 Nov 2010	GovToday	Sustainable Communities Conference	Invitation to Chair / address sent directly to Cllr Porter by Organiser	Cllr G Porter - unable to attend, Cllr Loakes / Cllr Haines able to attend. Fatima to notify organiser
11 Nov 2010	ADEPT	Adept Conference	✓	Cllr Clyde Loakes attending as Speaker
24 Nov 2010	Environment Agency	EA Annual Conference - Speaker and request to be on Adaptation Panel	✓	Awaiting Response from Cllr Porter

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14-16 June 2011	Futuresource	Europe's sustainability event		
21-23 June 2011	Chartered Institute of Housing	Annual Conference		
28 – 30 June 2011	LG Group	LG Group Annual Conference and Exhibition 2011: Localism Works		

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Update on other Board Business

Purpose of report

Members to note the following:

- Cllr Gary Porter's reports to the LGA Executive for July 2010 (**attached**)
- Members' Feedback
- Any other Business

Recommendations

Members to note the reports.

Action

Members are invited to feedback the outcomes of recent Outside Body and other meetings.

Contact officer: Fatima de Abreu

Position: Member Support Officer

Phone no: 020 7664 3136

E-mail: Fatima.deabreu@local.gov.uk

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Cllr Gary Porter's reports to the LGA Executive for July 2010

Lord Best Commission on Councils' role in Housing Development

Cllr Margaret Eaton met with Lord Richard Best and Housing Minister, Grant Shapps on 30th June to discuss the work of the CLG/LGA commission on councils' role in house building. The Minister expressed his support for the commission's work and agreed that it has a useful role to play in helping the Government to develop effective policies to support the delivery of new housing. Lord Best is also participating in a session at LGA annual conference which I am chairing to discuss council's role in delivering new homes.

Flood Risk Management

To support the lead role and to gather opinions from around the country in line with Getting Closer, the LGA has set up a new Inland Flood Risk Management Group, which met on 24 May. This is linked to the LGA Environment Board and chaired by Cllr Mike Haines. The Group will feed expertise and views into the Board and has member representation from all the English regions, Wales and the Board. The Group aims to support communication, learning and progress in all authorities in taking on new responsibilities and is backed up by an officer network. Information on the Group (and the Joint Panel) is available on the Community of Practice on Flood Risk: <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/2050378/home.do>

Joint Meeting between representatives of the LGA Environment Board and the Environment Agency Sustainable Communities Board Group

On 28th June, Board Members, LGA Officers and I met with the EA to discuss ways of strengthening partnership working and delivery on strategic environment priorities. Discussion included identifying ways in which the EA can help local councils in delivery of key functions around flood risk management and other issues. The group agreed the importance of continued dialogue and that another EA / LGA meeting should be held in 12 months time.

Environment Board Meeting held 5 July 2010

The LGA's Environment Board met in Bournemouth in advance of the LGA Conference and discussed issues around Planning Reform, Housing and the Decentralisation and Localism Bill. After the meeting, Members received a presentation from Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

Contact Officer: Fatima de Abreu

Tel: 020 7664 3136 Email: fatima.deabreu@local.gov.uk

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Members' feedback

Planning Reform Meeting

Planning Portfolio holders for the LGA Environment Board, met on 28th July to discuss forward strategy for LG Group to work with central government, stakeholders and councils to deliver a decentralised planning system. We plan to have a developed strategy in place for autumn 2010.

EU Update

Revision of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE)

The LGA has been working closely with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and the UK government as the report progresses through the EU institutions. Members of the European Parliament Environment Committee voted on the draft report in July endorsing the LGA position for a full application of the producer pays principle to cover the costs of providing a doorstep collection of household WEEE.

The European Parliament has currently scheduled a plenary for October and we are working with both MEPs and the UK government to further promote our position. It is however expected that the European Parliament and the Council – Member States – will not reach agreement on the negotiations and so discussions will continue into a second reading in 2011.

A detailed update will be brought to a future meeting of the Environment Board after the European Parliament plenary.

Proposals on the Management of Bio waste in the EU

The European Commission – the EU's Executive – announced in May that Member States should continue to use existing legislation such as the Landfill Directive to make progress on reducing bio waste, commonly known as kitchen and garden waste. The Commission nevertheless said it would be looking into the possibility of setting targets for bio waste prevention at a later stage. The LGA's position is against separate legislation and we do not support binding targets for separate bio waste collection.

The European Parliament voted in July to support separate legislation with binding targets but as stated above, this position is not supported by the European Commission. We are continuing to work at the EU and UK levels to promote our message that binding targets could undermine local investment and that councils are best placed to make decisions on the most appropriate solution depending on local circumstances.

Industrial Emissions / IPPC Directive

Local authorities play a vital role in regulating industrial premises and processes in England and Wales under environmental permitting legislation. Members of the

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European Parliament voted in July to approve an agreement reached by European Parliament and Member State negotiators in June which will see stricter limits on emissions levels for large combustion plants. The LG Group worked with MEPs in the run-up to the vote to ensure that local government's role in regulating smaller plants was also recognised and was successful in securing a commitment within the new Directive for the Commission to review the need to control emissions from these smaller operations across Europe. This allows for an informed decision to be made about what controls are proportionate to prevent and control emissions.

Air Pollution

LG Group urges government to do more to tackle air pollution

Councillor Gary Porter and Councillor David Sparks have written to Department for Transport and Defra ministers to seek further commitment to, and action on, tackling air pollution caused by transport emissions. Current pollution levels are not only a health risk but are also likely to cost the country hundreds of millions of pounds in fines for breaching European limits. (Letters attached at **Annexes A and B**)

The LG Group has made a commitment on behalf of local government to play its full part in reducing air pollution, but is seeking definitive action from Government to help councils to adequately tackle pollution. This includes the Government changing the method used to assess transport projects to take better account of pollution, better supporting cleaner fuel options such as biomethane already used by some councils in their vehicle fleets and putting greater effort into changing the behaviour of the public including increasing the use of public transport, and cycling and walking.

Lord Henley
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Defra
Room 625, 9 Millbank
c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

25 August 2010

Dear Lord Henley,

As you know, councils play a key role in improving air quality in their local areas. This work is a legal and health necessity, and councils are leading the way with innovative local schemes focussing on this. Local government is also keen to help deliver the Coalition Government's commitment to comply with European air quality standards. The Local Government Group would like to discuss how we can work with you at the earliest opportunity.

We face significant challenges ahead. The UK is at severe risk of failing to meet EU requirements on air quality, which will result in fines running to hundreds of millions of pounds and cause major damage to people's health. The European Commission issued a final warning to the UK in June for failing to comply with the standard for particulate matter. Meeting nitrogen dioxide limit values poses an even greater challenge. Transport emissions are the major contributor to these problems and reducing these must be a priority.

Action is already being taken at the local level. For example, Oxford and Norwich have established low emission zones, and other councils have used planning-based low emission strategies to secure mitigation measures by developers. South Yorkshire's "ECO Stars" fleet recognition scheme works with local businesses, providing both fuel savings for operators and reductions in air pollutant emissions.

While excellent local work is taking place, many sources of pollution, such as motorways, are beyond local government's sphere of control as are some of the levers and resources required for action. For this reason, we believe there is a case for a joint national and local strategy to ensure European requirements are met and people's health is protected. The development and implementation of a strategy requires the full involvement of the Department for Transport (DfT) as well as Defra. The strategy should act on the Environmental Audit Committee's recommendation and commit to investigate, with local government, a framework for low emission zones that provides consistency for industry as well as local flexibility.

A significant issue that needs to be overcome is that the air quality impacts of transport projects do not receive sufficient weight in current appraisal methodologies. Recent studies by the Cabinet Office demonstrate that the costs to society of poor air quality from transport are similar to the economic consequences of traffic congestion at £11 billion per year, but are given less weight in the DfT's New Approach to Transport Assessment (NATA). A better

appraisal that accurately reflects the costs and benefits of infrastructure investment is essential to ensure that pollution and air quality are properly considered in investment decisions.

We also need to look at incentivising the development and uptake of new, cleaner technologies amongst businesses and the public. The Government's current review of waste policy gives a significant opportunity to support the use of biomethane from anaerobic digestion as a transport fuel. Several councils have already trialled this in their fleets.

However, beyond this there also needs to be a fundamental change in public attitudes to transport and pollution, and local government is ready to work alongside the Government in communicating the importance of this. Increasing the use of public transport, and cycling and walking needs to be a priority, and there must be a focus on ensuring public buy-in for local actions, such as low emission zones, especially in a time of financial austerity.

Clearly central and local government must now work together closely as a matter of urgency to deliver on the country's legal commitments and to improve the environment for all. The Local Government Group will be in touch with your office shortly so we can take this work forward together and demonstrate publicly the political leadership necessary to address this problem. In the meantime, if your officials have any questions or would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, they can contact Nick Clack (nick.clack@local.gov.uk; 020 7665 3876) or Cassandra Harrison (cassandra.harrison@local.gov.uk; 020 7665 3878).

We are also sending a similar letter to Norman Baker at the Department for Transport.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Gary Porter,
Chair of the Environment Board



Councillor David Sparks OBE,
Chair of the Regeneration and Transport Board

cc. Daniel Instone, Defra
cc. Robert Vaughan, Defra

Norman Baker MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

25 August 2010

Dear Mr Baker,

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We face significant challenges ahead. The UK is at severe risk of failing to meet EU requirements on air quality, which will result in fines running to hundreds of millions of pounds and cause major damage to people's health. The European Commission issued a final warning to the UK in June for failing to comply with the standard for particulate matter. Meeting nitrogen dioxide limit values poses an even greater challenge. Transport emissions are the major contributor to these problems and reducing these must be a priority.

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Clearly central and local government must now work together closely as a matter of urgency to deliver on the country's legal commitments and to improve the environment for all. The Local Government Group will be in touch with your office shortly so we can take this work forward together and demonstrate publicly the political leadership necessary to address this problem. In the meantime, if your officials have any questions or would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, they can contact Nick Clack (nick.clack@local.gov.uk; 020 7665 3876) or Cassandra Harrison (cassandra.harrison@local.gov.uk; 020 7665 3878).

We are also sending a similar letter to Lord Henley at Defra.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor David Sparks OBE,
Chair of the Regeneration and Transport Board



Councillor Gary Porter,
Chair of the Environment Board

cc. Rupert Furness, DfT
cc. Iain Forbes, DfT
cc. David Grocott, DfT

Item 9

Decisions and Actions from Previous Meeting 5 July 2010

Title:	Environment & Housing Programme Board
Date and time:	11am, 5 July 2010
Venue:	5 July 2010, Shaftesbury Suite, Bournemouth Highcliff Marriot Hotel

Present

Chair:	Cllr Gary Porter (South Holland DC)
Vice-Chair:	Cllr Linda Thomas (Bolton MBC)
Deputy Chairs:	Mayor Dorothy Thornhill (Liberal Democrat, Watford BC); Cllr Mike Haines (Independent, Teignbridge DC)
Conservative:	Cllr Andrew Gravells (Gloucestershire CC and Gloucester City); Cllr Peter Britcliffe (Hyndburn BC); Cllr Clare Whelan (Lambeth LBC); Cllr Jason Stacey (Ealing LBC)
Labour:	Cllr Derek Bateman (Cheshire West and Chester Council); Cllr Tony Newman (Croydon LBC); Cllr Ed Turner (Oxford City Council)
Lib Democrat:	Cllr Paula Baker (Basingstoke and Deane BC)
Apologies:	Cllr David Potts (South Tyneside MBC); Cllr Berni Turner (Liverpool City Council)
LGA Group Officers:	Martin Wheatley; Russell Reefer; Caroline Green; Clive Harris; Fatima de Abreu
Observers:	Mike Holmes, (Bournemouth BC); Terry Huggins (Chief Executive, South Holland DC)
Guest Speaker: (post-Board meeting)	Joanna Averley (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, CABE) (Presentation available at Annex A)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Porter welcomed Members to the meeting and introduced Terry Huggins (Chief Executive, South Holland DC) and Mike Holmes, (Bournemouth BC).

2. The Decentralisation and Localism Bill

- Martin Wheatley (LGA) introduced the discussion, noting that details of the Bill had been circulated to all Boards for comment at the request of the LGA Executive.

A number of comments were made:

- Welcome devolution of decision-making could not be looked at in isolation from the Government's decisions, already announced and in prospect, on public spending. Some Members expressed strong concern about the impact of these:

- There is a need to ensure that local referenda don't duplicate or bypass the role of local government. Councils would also need to be sufficiently resourced to administer referenda;
- Members felt that clarification was needed on the difference between the powers of general competence and the existing wellbeing power;
- This was a good opportunity for the LGA to push for a positive balance between good governance and centralised additional burdens to councils;
- Regulatory issues that prevent councils from raising additional money need to be addressed.

Decision

- The Board **agreed** that Members and officers work to influence drafting of the Bill, to best reflect the needs of local authorities.

Actions

- Officers to circulate a document setting out how the proposed power of general competence differs from the wellbeing power.

Clarissa Corbisiero/Clive Harris

3. Planning Reform

Caroline Green (LGA) briefed Members on the coalition government's proposals for reform of the planning system. She explained that the focus of these proposals was to remove central prescription from the planning system, support more engagement in decision-making, provide more flexibility for development where it is supported by the community and restrict the involvement of planning inspectors to matters of process.

The Boards' views were invited on the LGA Group's proposed policy positions and their role within the new framework. Members discussed each issue as follows:

Regional and Local Planning -. There was broad support for the commitment to a more localised approach to planning. The chair encouraged members to view the reform as an opportunity to plan locally for development that is required and aspired to locally. Members emphasised the need for councils to work together in partnership to strategically plan for infrastructure and development at a higher level than the individual district. It was also stressed that councils should not be forced to abandon their LDFs or elements of regional plans that remained useful and relevant. It is also important that councils continue to have access to evidence base and research conducted at regional level to inform local and strategic plans. There were concerns about resource implications of proposals for greater community engagement and questions about how the term "neighbourhood" should be defined. It was suggested that the definition of neighbourhood and the best way to engage communities should be defined locally. Members suggested provision of training for elected members to support them in the new regime.

Major Infrastructure / Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) -

Members **agreed** with the proposed position, subject to sufficient resources being available to enable councils to play an effective role in representing community interests in the Major Infrastructure process. The LGA has previously proposed that these costs should be met by project promoters.

Reforming the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Members raised issues of how development tariffs would be divided between districts and counties in two tier areas. They also highlighted the importance of councils' ability to continue to secure Section 106 contributions and argued for these to be determined locally.

Presumption in favour of sustainable development – Members felt that this needed to be properly defined as interpretations were unclear.

Strengthening enforcement / Compulsory pre-application discussions – Members discussed enforcement issues and **agreed** that local authorities' need a stronger role in ensuring correct planning procedures are followed and tackling those who rely on retrospective planning permissions.. Members considered wider pre-application discussions, but felt that making this should be a matter for local discretion as compulsory pre-application processes would be disproportionate in some cases and could create delay in decision-making.

Appeals reform – Members emphasised the importance of a good appeals system, and although there were some concerns raised about potential delays caused by 3rd party right to appeal, they were keen to point out that an appeals mechanism is an essential requirement of a democratic process.

Flexible Zoning / Use Classes Order – Members were concerned with repercussions for the wider community if zoning led to complete removal of council control over use class. It was suggested that the LGA should argue for councils to be able to decide on appropriate use of Use Class Orders and zoning locally.

Schools – Members **agreed** the LGA position, and noted the need to work together with central government to communicate the importance of ensuring that planning decisions on schools were integrated with local planning policy due to the significant impact schools have on supporting infrastructure and communities.

Traveller sites

The Board spoke briefly about councils' requirement to identify and volunteer sites for travellers, and the need to be flexible in addressing issues around this. Members were reminded that, although funding was no longer available, the duty to provide sites according to identified need remains.

Decision

- Members noted the report and agreed proposed positions subject to the comments noted above.

Action

- Officers to arrange a session with the Environment Board Planning Portfolio holders to discuss the government's proposals in more detail and further develop the LGA's position.
- Officers to pursue with CLG a process for Members to have direct involvement in shaping Government policy on the new planning framework.

Caroline Green / Russell Reefer

4. **Waste Review: LGA Policy Position**

Cllr Clare Whelan declared an interest as a member of WRAP's Board of Directors.

Clive Harris (LGA) said that positive meetings between the LGA Chairman and the Defra Secretary of State, Caroline Spelman MP had taken place and that Defra were keen to work closely with the LGA and local authorities on their review of waste policy.

Members said that finding mechanisms to drive down all waste and raise revenue for funding investment in infrastructure were important issues.

Decision

- Members **agreed** the LGA's new waste policy position as set out in the paper.

5. **Housing**

The main points raised in discussion were as follows:

- The need to identify the likely impact on private and social landlords, and hence the availability and affordability of homes;
- The importance of securing self-financing on sustainable financial terms;
- The future of social housing regulation, including the maintenance of lender confidence in housing associations, and the scope for a more localised approach to driving performance and improvement in consultation with tenants.

Decision:

- The Board **agreed** the positions on key policy issues set out in the report.

Action:

- LGA Officers to seek nominations from Lead Members to join a Housing Benefits Task Group. **Fatima de Abreu**
- LGA Officers to invite the Housing Minister, Grant Shapps MP to attend a future meeting of the Board. **Clive Harris**

6. **Update on other Board Business**

Members received the reports to the LGA Executive for June, and Annexes A and B.

Decision:

The Board **noted** the reports.

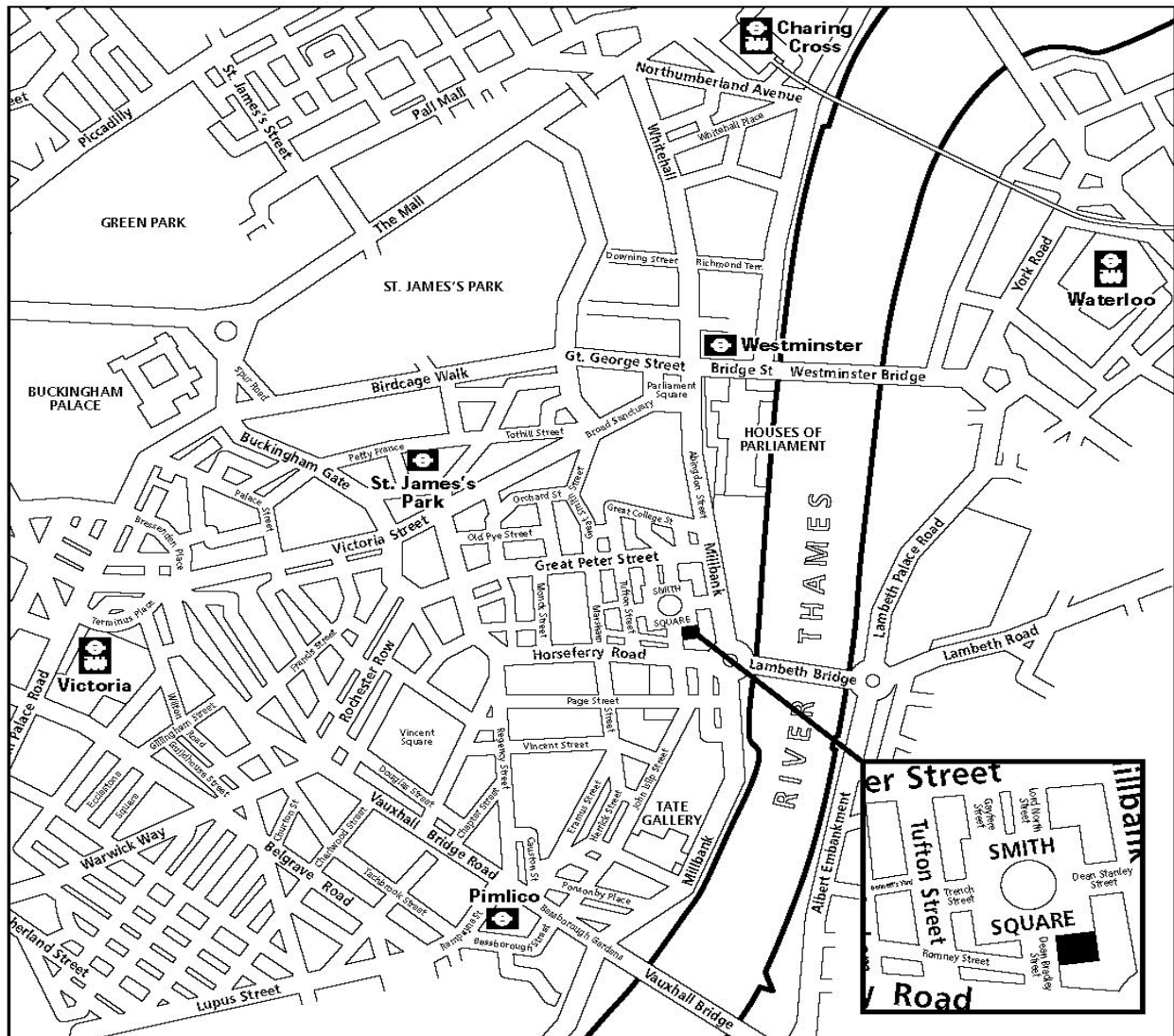
7. **Decisions and actions from previous meeting**

Cllr Porter (Chairman) thanked colleagues, noting that it was Cllr Thomas's last attendance as a member of the Board, and expressed Members' best wishes for the future and gratitude for all her work.

Decision:

- The Board **agreed** the note of the last meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13 September, Local Government House



Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
Tel: 020 7664 3131
Fax: 020 7664 3030
Email: info@lga.gov.uk
Website: www.lga.gov.uk

Public transport

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

Bus routes - Millbank

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

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

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

Cycling Facilities

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

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

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Car Parks

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