

# Environment and Housing Programme Board

Agenda

**Monday 27 June 2011**  
**2.00pm**

Vista Suite 2  
Crowne Plaza Birmingham City  
Central Square  
Birmingham  
B1 1HH

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

## **Travel Directions**

### **Road**

#### **From M6 South or North-West**

Leave the M6 at Junction 6 and follow the A38(M). Follow signs to 'City Centre, Bromsgrove (A38)'. Do not take any exit to left. Go over 1 flyover and through 2 Queensway tunnels. On leaving the second tunnel, keep in the left hand lane, indicate left and drive down the 'slip road' to the Holloway Circus island. At that island, double back up the dual carriageway (Suffolk Street Queensway) keeping in the left hand lane and take the 4th exit left which is only a matter of yards after the 3rd exit (Holliday Street).

#### **From M5 South-West**

Leave the M5 at Junction 3 and travel along the A456 (Hagley Road) for 4 ½ miles to the Five Ways island. Keep in the outside lane and go under the island into Broad Street using the underpass. Turn right into Gas Street immediately before the 4th set of traffic lights after leaving the underpass. At the end of Gas Street, take a 180° left into Holliday Street. Where Holliday Street meets the dual carriageway (Suffolk St. Queensway), turn left and travel up the Queensway for just 20 yards before turning left into the Crowne Plaza forecourt.

#### **From M40 Oxford and South**

Arrive on the M42 and travel west towards the M5. Travel north on the M5 leaving at Junction 3. (Read directions "From M5 South West").

#### **From M42 East Midlands**

Join the M6 heading towards Birmingham Central and leave the M6 at Junction 6. (Read directions "From M6 South and North-West").

#### **From National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham International Airport**

Follow the A45 (Coventry Road) towards the city centre for about 6 miles. At the major island just after the large Citroen Showroom, take the first exit following signs for M5, NIA and Convention Centre. Travel along a short stretch of dual carriageway (Bordesley Middleway) for about 500 yards and at the next island go straight ahead (2nd exit), again following signs to NIA and Convention centre. On coming to the next island just after PC World, take the 3rd exit, still following signs to the NIA and Convention Centre. As you descend down a long, straight stretch of dual carriageway, keep in the left hand lane. After the 1st exit left, get into the left filter lane which takes you up to an island where you go straight ahead (2nd exit). Keep in the middle lane and at the Bristol Road traffic lights turn right into Bristol Street. Stay in the middle lane and after ½ mile, travel through the Holloway Circus underpass, now keeping in the left hand lane. On leaving the underpass, indicate left and take the 2nd left into the Crowne Plaza forecourt (Please note that this 2nd left is only a matter of yards after the 1st left (Holliday Street)).

### **Rail**

The hotel is only a few minutes from New Street Station where there is a regular train service to and from all parts of the country. Trains run every ½ hour from London, Euston, the journey time being about 100 minutes.

**LG Group Environment & Housing Programme Board**

27 June 2011

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There will be a meeting of the Environment & Housing Programme Board at:

**2.00pm on Monday 27 June 2011 in Vista Suite 2**, Crowne Plaza Birmingham City, Central Square, Birmingham, B1 1HH .

The **Lead Members' pre-meeting** will be in Vista Suite 2 at **12.30pm**.

**Political group** meetings will start at **1.00pm**.

**Conservative:** Vista Suite 2

**Labour:** Executive Room 2

**Liberal Democrat:** Executive Room 10

**Lunch** will be served in the restaurant from 1.00pm so please bring your lunch to your political group meetings.

**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](mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk)

**Conservative:** Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: [angela.page@local.gov.uk](mailto:angela.page@local.gov.uk)

**Liberal Democrat:** Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: [libdem@local.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk)

**Independent:** Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: [independent.group@local.gov.uk](mailto:independent.group@local.gov.uk)

**Location**

A map showing the location of Crowne Plaza is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Sarah Monaghan Tel: 020 7664 3214 Fax: 020 7664 3232;

e-mail: [sarah.monaghan@local.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.monaghan@local.gov.uk)

**Carers' Allowance:** As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £5.93 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.



## Environment & Housing Programme Board

Date: 9.05.11

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### Environment & Housing Programme Board - Membership 2010/11

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (6)</b>	
Gary Porter <b>[Chairman]</b>	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
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
Mary Mears	Brighton & Hove City Council
<b>Labour (4)</b>	
Clyde Loakes <b>[Vice Chair]</b>	Waltham Forest LB
Derek Bateman	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Tony Newman	Croydon LB
Ed Turner	Oxford City
<b>Substitute</b>	
Tim Moore	Liverpool City
Richard Williams	Southampton City
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
Dorothy Thornhill <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Watford BC
Paula Baker	Basingstoke & Deane BC
Roger Symonds	Bath & NE Somerset Council
<b>Substitute</b>	
Vacant	
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Mike Haines <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Teignbridge DC
<b>Substitute</b>	
Andrew Cooper	Kirklees MBC

**Note:** Cllr Berni Turner (Liverpool) lost her seat in the local elections on 5 May 2011.  
Cllr Roger Symonds, Bath and NE Somerset Council replaced Cllr Turner.



## LG Group Environment & Housing Programme Board Attendance 2010-2011

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>13.9.10</b>	<b>17.11.10</b>	<b>16.3.11</b>			
<b>Conservative Group</b>						
Gary Porter	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Peter Britcliffe	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Andrew Gravells	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Clare Whelan	Yes	No	Yes			
Jason Stacey	Yes	Yes	Yes			
David Smith	Yes	Yes	Yes			
<b>Labour Group</b>						
Clyde Loakes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Derek Bateman	No	Yes	Yes			
Tony Newman	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Ed Turner	Yes	Yes	Yes			
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>						
Dorothy Thornhill	No	Yes	Yes			
Berni Turner	No	Yes	Yes			
Paula Baker	Yes	Yes	Yes			
<b>Independent</b>						
Mike Haines	Yes	Yes	Yes			
<b>Substitutes</b>						
Roger Symonds	Yes					
Neil Clark		Yes				
Tim Moore		Yes				





## Agenda

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**Meeting title** LG Group Environment & Housing Programme Board

**Meeting date** 27 June 2011

**Meeting time** 2.00pm

**Meeting venue** Crowne Plaza, Birmingham City Centre

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	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Part 1</b>			
1.	<b>Councils' leadership role in Housing - discussion with the Homes and Communities Agency and feedback from LG Group housing seminars</b>	<b>3</b>	2.00pm – 3.00pm
2.	<b>Waste Review update</b>	<b>19</b>	3.00pm – 3.30pm
3.	<b>EU Update</b>	<b>27</b>	3.30pm – 3.40pm
4.	<b>Adaptation to Climate Change</b>	<b>33</b>	3.40pm - 3.50pm
<b>Part 2 To note</b>			
5.	Fire Safety Guidance Purpose Built Blocks of Flats	<b>47</b>	
6.	Getting Closer	<b>51</b>	
7.	Update on other Board Business	<b>57</b>	
8.	Decisions and actions from previous meeting	<b>71</b>	



27 June 2011

**Item 1**

**Councils' leadership role in Housing - discussion with the Homes and Communities Agency and feedback from LG Group housing seminars**

**Purpose**

For discussion and direction

**Summary**

Pat Ritchie, Chief Executive, Homes and Communities Agency will attend the meeting to update members of the work of the HCA and to discuss their priority areas of work and how the HCA and the LG Group can work together to support councils on current issues and priorities for housing.

Merron Simpson and Lee Shostak will also attend for this item to present the outcomes of the recent LG Group seminars *Changing the way we do housing*.

This paper provides background information and suggested issues for discussion and key messages emerging from the housing seminars.

**Recommendation**

Members to consider raising issues in this report in discussion with Pat Ritchie and consider how the HCA and LG Group can work together to support councils to deliver a strong leadership role on planning and housing and what a support offer to councils should seek to address.

**Action**

Subject to the outcomes of the discussion, officers will develop proposals for a programme of support to councils in delivering an enhanced leadership role in housing.

**Contact officer:** Caroline Green

**Position:** Senior Advisor

**Phone no:** 020 7664 3359

**E-mail:** [caroline.green@local.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.green@local.gov.uk)



## **Councils' leadership role in Housing - discussion with the Homes and Communities Agency and feedback from LG Group housing seminars**

### **Background**

1. Pat Ritchie became Chief Executive of the Homes and Communities Agency in October 2010. Following a successful session in September 2010 with her predecessor Sir Bob Kerlake, Pat has agreed to attend the board to discuss HCA priorities and challenges facing the sector.
2. The Local Government Group convened five seminars across the country in March 2011, to help elected members and senior council housing officers consider the opportunities arising from the government's planned reforms of housing and planning and how these will affect councils in their strategic leadership role. At each event, a senior official from the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) spoke on increasing the supply of housing. The events were facilitated by Lee Shostak and Merron Simpson who have subsequently produced a report, *Changing the way we do housing*, summarising discussions and key messages emerging from the events. The key messages are summarised in annex A to this paper and hard copies of the full report will be available at the meeting.
3. This item provides an opportunity to discuss emerging issues and future challenges for local authorities with the HCA and the authors of the report and how the HCA and the Local Government Group could work together to support councils in meeting the housing needs of their communities. This paper provides an overview of the HCA work programmes, current issues for local authorities and key messages resulting from the seminars.

### **New focus for the HCA**

4. Following spending cuts and the government's housing reform agenda, the HCA's remit is changing to place more emphasis on its role as an enabler rather than an investor. The previous 17 investment programmes have been reduced to three. With the abolition of regional targets and a new role for councils in determining local housing needs and achieving housing growth, the focus will be on supporting and enabling councils in this.

### **Council's strategic leadership role**

5. The success of the government's fundamental reforms to housing policy depends on strong leadership from councils. However, more fundamentally,

**Item 1**

the LGA has long argued a strong strategic housing function is essential to the wider success of an area, supporting economic growth, contributing to health and well-being, tackling inequalities and creating places where people want to live.

6. Now more than ever before, councils will need to provide a coherent local approach in engaging their communities, in understanding housing needs, putting evidence based plans in place, identifying sources of investment and bringing together key partners to meet local housing needs. The challenge for local authorities is to deliver this leadership role at a time of considerable change and fewer resources.
7. The *Changing the way we do housing* work identified four key areas in councils need to consider in meeting their strategic housing needs and in which government reforms will require them to work differently. The four key areas are:
  - 7.1 Increasing the supply of housing
  - 7.2 Putting homes to good use
  - 7.3 Improving existing homes
  - 7.4 Supporting vulnerable people and communities
8. The key messages emerging from discussion of these themes are attached in annex A and will inform the LG Group's work on developing a support package for councils on housing.
9. Points for discussion:

Given the consensus that councils' strategic leadership role is crucial to delivering the government's ambitions for housing growth and meeting the needs of local communities, how can the HCA and LG Group work together to support councils in developing this role?

**HCA key programmes:**

HCA enabling role on land and investment

10. The HCA have an enabling role to bring forward public sector land to stimulate housing development. This involves identifying and unlocking surplus public sector sites to increase the supply of land available for commercial, housing and community-led development. On 8 June 2011 HCA published a Development and Land Disposal Strategy setting out its approach to the disposal of HCA land. They are also working other public sector bodies, such as the Regional Development Agencies, and working with councils to analyse

**Item 1**

how best public land can be used collectively to maximise benefits to communities, through economic growth and regeneration schemes.

11. The HCA has worked with councils to develop Local Investment Plans (LIPs) to set out investment required to deliver the economic, housing and environmental ambitions of an area. The plans are based on robust evidence from local strategies (including the sustainable community strategy, local development frameworks and infrastructure plans) and are designed to inform funding discussions. As of the end of April 2011, 144 LIPs were in place, covering 90% of the country.

12. Points for discussion:

12.1 The HCA aims to promote councils acting in a more commercially focused way with developers. What support can the HCA provide councils in this regard? For example supporting councils to assess viability of private development locally?

12.2 Delivering communities ambitions is not simply about increasing housing supply at all costs. What is the HCA doing to support councils to balance the pressure on them to deliver supply with the need to ensure that development is sustainable and locally appropriate?

12.3 In light of reductions in funding and proposed abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies in the Localism Bill what is the scope to revise Local Investment Plans and what support can HCA offer?

Affordable Homes Programme

13. The HCA's Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) aims to invest £4.5 billion over the period 2011 – 15 to build 150,000 affordable homes in England. The programme includes existing commitments from the previous National Affordable Homes Programme. There is £2.2bn of uncommitted funding for the development of new affordable housing for the period 2011-2015. Affordable Rent will be the primary housing product supported by HCA.

14. Other parts of the programme include the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, Homelessness Change Programme, Traveller Pitch Funding and Empty Homes. Some funding will also be retained for proposals that come through the Community Right to Build route over the course of the 4 year period.

Affordable Rent

15. The Affordable Rent model is designed to generate additional financial capacity to support new supply. Registered Providers (RPs) are able to bid for funding under the scheme to build homes to be made available to tenants at up to a maximum of 80% of market rent and allocated in the same way as

27 June 2011

**Item 1**

social housing is at present. Government has introduced a series of other measures such as changes to tenure (no longer a requirement to offer lifetime tenancies to new tenants, flexibility to offer shorter terms with a minimum of two years); greater flexibility for local authorities in their strategic housing role and options to increase mobility for social tenants. An LG Group briefing on Affordable Rent is attached at annex B.

16. There has been concern that in some areas of the country where social rents are close to market rents the scheme will not be feasible because the potential for additional income will be limited.
17. The deadline for providers to submit proposals to the HCA was 3 May 2011, with the intention that initial contracts will be signed in July 2011. In deciding which programmes to support, the HCA will have a strong focus on value for money and will look for evidence that proposals will meet identified local needs.
18. Local authorities are theoretically able to apply under the scheme. However, the public borrowing rule places councils at a disadvantage compared with housing associations. This is despite the fact that in previous local authority led programmes the level of central government grant received for each home built has been less than for housing associations. For example, £1m of HCA grant would buy an extra two, typically larger homes from a council than if the funding was directed to a housing association.
19. Points for discussion:
  - 19.1 What has been the response from registered providers to the programme – are there geographical trends?
  - 19.2 Have local authorities been engaged in determining successful bids and are these decisions based on Local Infrastructure Plans?
  - 19.3 What has been the take up from local authorities wishing to take forward direct provision of the affordable homes scheme (including authorities wishing to take forward the scheme using their own resources)?
  - 19.4 There are concerns that the Affordable Homes model will not be sustainable in the long term as providers have used all available investment in the first round. Has the HCA done any work to assess the long term viability of the scheme?
  - 19.5 Affordable rent means that more than ever strong partnership working will be crucial to ensure that local authorities coordinate with housing providers. Requiring local authorities to write a strategy is not the most effective means of doing this. We would like to see enabling powers in the bill for registered providers to come together to discuss tenancy options and approaches locally and make these transparent in an accessible means to residents.



**Item 1**

Funding for decent homes

20. The 2010 Spending Review settlement made £1.6bn available to local authority landlords - including those with housing stock managed by ALMOs - to help tackle the backlog of homes that are not meeting the Decent Homes Standard. The Government made available another £500m to 'gap fund' the existing transfer of housing stock.

21. The Decent Homes programme remains a priority for social housing and councils' existing duties and powers enabling them to support and improve private housing remain<sup>1</sup>. There have been reductions in Decent Homes funding for social housing and funding for improvements to private homes (around £300m) has ended.

22. Points for discussion

22.1 Councils will continue to invest, through the HRA, in the improvement of their existing stock of dwellings. The LGA is lobbying through the localism bill to remove the borrowing cap to allow local authorities to invest in their stock as appropriate locally.

22.2 There is increasingly a need to think creatively about funding improvements and reinvesting in stock. For example the Energy Bill contains measures relating to the Green Deal and sets out a process for driving energy efficiency improvements in the private rented sector. In addition many councils are engaging with the new Health and Well Being Board to make the case for investment in housing as a means for driving up health outcomes. How are the HCA reinforcing the importance of these relationships – for example by engaging with other government departments at national level?

**Financial Implications**

No funding requirements currently arising from this report.

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<sup>1</sup> These include duties to enforce against poor standards, a duty to draw up a policy for providing support for home improvement, duties to license HMO's and powers to license private housing in an area.



**Item 1**

**Appendix A**

**Councils' leadership role in Housing - discussion with the Homes and Communities Agency and feedback from LG Group housing seminars**

**Appendix A**

**Key messages emerging from the LG Group seminars March 2011**

Increasing the supply of housing

With their strategic housing responsibilities, unitary and lower tier authorities must play a strong role in:

- defining the full range of housing needs in their communities;
- identifying the amount of new housing which should be built in the future, the most appropriate mix of tenures, and the land required to meet these needs;
- working in partnership with registered providers, land owners and private developers to bring forward the needed schemes.

The combination of tighter lending requirements introduced by mortgage providers alongside reductions in government investment in housing, means that it will be more difficult to finance new home construction. Private developers will continue to seek to renegotiate their Section 106 obligations

In many communities, promoting new developments on publicly owned land offers significant opportunities to bring forward affordable housing schemes

Where requested, as an enabling agency the HCA offers considerable resources in support of councils' efforts to meet their housing needs. The HCA welcomes efforts to update Local Investment Plans to set a framework for this assistance.

Putting homes to good use

In every community, the 'market' will embrace a wide range of social, affordable and market rented housing and a variety of ownership models. This means that councils must develop a more refined understanding of their citizens' housing needs, aspirations and ability to pay – and the contribution that each tenure will make.

The relationship between councils and registered housing providers will be

**Item 1**

**Appendix A**

increasingly important to formulate and implement tenancy strategies that support sustainable communities. This will require strong leadership, shared agreements around goals, and mutual trust.

Improving existing homes

Councils need to identify how home improvements can deliver health, energy efficiency and other social outcomes. This can provide the basis for funding bids.

In future, the private rented sector will play an even more important contribution to meeting needs. Councils should carefully consider how best to work with private landlords to improve stock condition and management. Councils have significant powers and new funding (for empty homes) that they can use proactively; a mixture of enforcement and support is likely to achieve the best outcomes.

Supporting vulnerable people and communities

Housing professionals need to build relationships with Health and Wellbeing Boards. They need to understand Boards' specific goals, demonstrate how housing can support them, and evidence value for money and efficiency in doing so.

Councils could expand the range of floating support available to people in general housing as an alternative to new integrated supported housing schemes. They could do this by co-producing with service users, allowing them to shape future services.

Councils must include relevant housing information within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and use it in a consistent manner to inform capital and revenue investment through the Local Investment Plan, the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and any Joint Commissioning (care or support) Strategies.

Councils might want to consider adopting housing-led programmes focused in deprived areas, (such as those in Dorset, Liverpool and Wakefield) to improve residents' health and wellbeing, to prevent acute needs from emerging with the consequent resource savings.

Aids and adaptations programmes offer significant potential for cost-savings – both in terms of how they are funded and the savings that can be made in acute care. Whole-community or group approaches to supporting people can provide benefits by deepening relationships between citizens, reducing isolation and increasing purchasing power and efficiency.

**Item 1**

**Appendix B**

**Councils' leadership role in Housing - discussion with the Homes and Communities Agency and feedback from LG Group housing seminars**

**Appendix B**

**Briefing for LGA Members on the Affordable Rent framework**

**17 February 2011**

CLG and HCA published a framework for the Affordable Homes Programme following previous government announcements on reforming social housing. The framework sets out how the development of new affordable housing will be funded over the next 4 years and how the new Affordable Rent product will work. There is £2.2bn of uncommitted funding for the development of new affordable housing for the period 2011-2015. Affordable Rent will be the primary housing product supported by HCA.

There are four parts of the programme which have been given indicative funding – the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, Homelessness Change Programme, Traveller Pitch Funding and Empty Homes. Some funding will also be retained for proposals that come through the Community Right to Build route over the course of the 4 year period.

**Housing providers**

Bids are invited from housing providers for four year investment programmes with indicative proposals, instead of individual schemes.

Requests for HCA funding should be for the minimum necessary to make development viable.

- When deciding which programmes to support, the HCA will have a strong focus on value for money and will look for evidence that proposals will meet identified local needs.
- The HCA anticipates that most new developments should be intended for Affordable Rent, or a mixture of Affordable Rent and shared ownership
- Providers will be expected to supplement grant funding by converting vacant social homes into other tenures such as Affordable Rent, shared ownership,

27 June 2011

**Item 1**

**Appendix B**

disposals or a mixture to all of these, generating cross subsidy, and using s106 and public sector land opportunities.

- Affordable Rent properties will be offered to the same client groups as social housing, through the same allocation mechanisms.
- The deadline for providers to submit proposals to the HCA will be 3 May 2011. The HCA intends that initial contracts will be signed in July 2011.
- Providers who wish to work both in London and in the rest of the country will need to enter into two separate framework contracts, one for London and one for the rest of the country. This is due to the government's intention to devolve more responsibility or investment to the Mayor of London.
- Proposals must meet the HCA's Design and Quality Standards and Housing Quality Indicator (HQI) information will still be collected in the normal way.
- The HCA will operate framework contracts with providers on a flexible basis. This will include quarterly reviews of the contract and a full strategic annual review.
- HCA funding will be on a 'payment by results' basis at completion.
- The TSA will also assess proposals and give advice to the HCA on whether the provider is currently in compliance with the TSA's standards, including the Governance & Viability Standard, and whether they are likely to continue to meet the standards.

**Local authorities**

- Local authorities are also invited to respond to the framework and contribute to the delivery of the main Affordable Rent product. However offers for direct provision by local authorities are likely to be for starts after the final HRA settlement (and borrowing headroom) is confirmed later in 2011/12.
- Local authorities will be able to convert existing properties to an Affordable Rent where they have entered into a contract for delivery of new supply. CLG is working with DWP to agree that void properties converted to Affordable Rent and new units delivered as part of the Affordable Homes Programme will be exempt from the Limit Rent. It is anticipated that this will be possible from 1 April 2012.

27 June 2011

**Item 1**

**Appendix B**

- New and converted Affordable Rent properties will be exempt from the limit rent mechanism, as long as the revenues generated are invested in new supply
- Local authorities may also intend to deliver new supply without HCA funding - by using their own resources (including headroom within the HRA settlement) and additional income generated from charging Affordable Rents on new and converted properties and free land. They will be requested to indicate the anticipated numbers for new delivery and for conversion on the HCA's standard information template.
- The self financing reform will introduce controls on borrowing solely in relation to debt incurred within the HRA. Other local authority debt is not controlled through this mechanism. Local authorities cannot use borrowing within the HRA to on-lend to other bodies. For this reason, borrowing undertaken by ALMOs or Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) will be taken into account in the HCA's value for money assessment of proposals received from those organisations for schemes which start on site either before or after April 2012.
- Local authorities will be required to publish tenancy strategies for their area, which registered providers must have regard to. However, ultimately it will be for individual providers to decide what types and length of tenancy to offer.
- Provided that a local authority's overall scheme is framed around the existing Reasonable Preference categories, local authorities can choose to reserve certain properties for allocation to other client groups. This means that a local authority could choose to prioritise groups such as households in work but on low incomes for Affordable Rent properties.

**Affordable Rent**

- Providers that enter into a contract with the HCA to develop new supply will be given the flexibility to convert a proportion of social rent properties to Affordable Rent at re-let.
- Affordable Rent can be set at up to 80% of the gross market rent, including service charges. Providers can choose to charge lower rates. However the HCA will need to understand how the proposal helps to meet particular housing needs while still delivering value for money and generating the capacity required to deliver new supply.

**Item 1**

**Appendix B**

- Affordable Rent cannot be lower than the rent calculated on the current target rent regime.
- Tenants in Affordable Rent properties will be eligible for Housing Benefit, rather than Local Housing Allowance.
- Providers can use a fixed term or a secure/assured tenancy under Affordable Rent.
- The maximum annual rent increase on an Affordable Rent property will be Retail Price Index (RPI) +0.5%. Additionally there will be a requirement to rebase the rent each time a new Affordable Rent tenancy is issued or renewed.
- At the end of an Affordable Rent tenancy, providers and their tenants may choose to convert it to shared ownership.
- Providers converting existing social homes to Affordable Rent will be encouraged to reinvest the funds raised in new supply within the same wider housing market area. However, funding will not be ring-fenced to particular areas.
- When ending an Affordable Rent tenancy, providers will be required to offer reasonable advice and assistance to the tenant to find alternative suitable accommodation.

**Challenges for providers and strategic local authorities**

- Defining the length of tenancy to offer each household. A clear tenancy policy will be needed. Local authorities' tenancy strategies should help to inform these but the timing isn't right as they will not be required to publish them before April 2012 and they will not be binding. Strong partnership working will be crucial to ensure local authorities coordinate with housing providers.
- Ending Affordable Rent tenancies.
- Providers operating across many local authority areas will have to consider a number of different tenancy strategies across their stock.
- A new focus on asset management. Providers will have to make informed decisions about the proportion of stock they decide to convert to affordable rent and financial implications.



27 June 2011

**Item 1**

**Appendix B**

- A new level of risk from linking affordable rent to market rents. Rental income could fall because local private rent levels fall. These risks will need to be addressed in business plans.

**Affordable home ownership**

- The framework encourages providers to increase their offer of affordable home ownership, by including it in their proposals for new development and by offering to tenants leaving Affordable Rent.
- The HCA funding for affordable home ownership will be in the form of shared ownership and equity loans, branded as HomeBuy outside London and First Steps in London.
- The maximum equity loan that can be offered by providers will be 20% of the value of the property.
- The HCA will no longer fund Rent to HomeBuy or Intermediate Rent as distinct products. However, providers could offer these to Affordable Rent tenants at the end of their tenancy.
- Existing social tenants and serving armed forces personnel will retain a priority for access to affordable home ownership. Beyond this local authorities, and their partners, will have the flexibility to set the priorities for access to affordable home ownership in their area.
- The HCA will also welcome proposals for two types of variant on shared ownership for vulnerable groups – Home Ownership for people with Longterm Disabilities (HOLD) and Older People’s Shared Ownership.

**LGA comments**

Most of our comments are the same as our response to *Local decision: a fairer future for social housing*

The LGA welcomes the increased flexibilities for local authorities and social landlords around social housing generally. However, these changes are taking place against the background of very significant changes to housing benefit, very big reduction in funding for new social homes and central government grant to councils. This will make it therefore very challenging for councils and social landlords to be in a position to meet the legitimate housing aspirations of all local people.

27 June 2011

**Item 1**

**Appendix B**

We are pleased that the government has included the possibility for local authorities to introduce affordable rents should they wish to. Technically at least, council landlords are now able to bid for the affordable homes programme, something the LGA has been campaigning for. Whether in practice they will be able to put together a bid which has any hope of success depends whether they can overcome the current public borrowing rule which puts them at a disadvantage compared with a housing association as a private sector entity whose borrowing doesn't count to the public sector.

In their strategic role, councils would be concerned if HCA agreed proposals from housing associations which the local council doesn't think appropriate. Many of our membership have questions and concerns regarding the affordable rent scheme:

- In particular there is concern that the 80% market rent rate may be more than the new housing benefit (HB) limits in some places. Putting workless people into higher rents will worsen the existing benefits trap and will increase the cost of HB bill at a time when government is trying to reduce it.
- We are also concerned that the change will mean authorities need to revisit their affordable housing requirements and viability assumptions in their local planning documents.
- Larger homes will be far less viable under the new affordable rent model and there will likely be an increase in small-size properties being developed. This might be an issue in London where overcrowding is high.
- There are significant questions as to whether some Housing Associations will have the financial capacity or whether banks will fund developments of the new product as there is a much greater element of financial risk in the model.
- There are serious issues around the ability to deliver any future estate regeneration schemes as leasehold acquisition and minimal private sales cross subsidy potential will make estate regeneration very difficult to achieve without substantial grant funding.
- Including supported housing in the affordable rent model is going to be challenging in particular as supported housing, targeted specifically at the most vulnerable in society, and may not be affordable at 80% market rent. From a practical point of view it will be difficult to determine 80% market rent, given the absence of comparable schemes charged at a market rate as the basis for any calculation.

**Item 2**

## **Waste Review update**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction

### **Summary**

This paper provides members with a summary with a summary of the contents of Defra's review of waste policy that was published on the 14<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Suggest actions to ensure awareness within Government of the Group's key messages is maintained.

### **Action**

As directed by Members

**Contact officer:** Clive Harris  
**Position:** Advisor - Programmes  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3207  
**E-mail:** [clive.harris@local.gov.uk](mailto:clive.harris@local.gov.uk)



Item 2

## Waste Review update

### Background

1. On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 the Defra Secretary of State, Caroline Spelman MP, announced that the Government would undertake a full review of waste policy in England. The Programme Board agreed its key message for inclusion in the Group response to this review at its meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> July and the final response was submitted on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### Defra's response

2. Defra's Review response was published on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, focusing primarily on waste as a resource. This central theme was supplemented by sections on empowering local communities and business, as well as a section on disposal, covering recovery and the waste hierarchy. The key points in Defra's response to the review are set out below.

### Empowering local communities

3. Whilst the Review mentions increasing the frequency and quality of collections it notes that waste services are a matter for councils to decide locally.  
**LG Group position: We are delighted that the Government has confirmed that collection methods and frequencies should be determined locally.**
4. The Review proposes a refresh of the Waste Collection Commitment in conjunction with the LG Group and WRAP to ensure households continue to be well informed about collection services in their areas and to make it easier for them to do the right thing.  
**LG Group position: The text of the revised WCC has been cleared by Environment and Housing Programme Board lead members and we are currently awaiting sign-off from Defra.**
5. The review references the spending constraints that are facing councils and suggests that innovative approaches will need to be taken in terms of procurement, shared services, and combined decision-making as a result. As well as this, the removal of centrally generated targets is also mentioned, but there is no mention of amendments to the Schedule 2 regulations.  
**LG Group position: All councils are considering new ways of working to ensure services are maintained despite reductions in spending wherever possible. We welcome the removal of centrally generated targets and urge Defra to implement changes to Schedule 2 regulations as soon as possible.**

**Item 2**

6. The Review announces that LATS will be ended at the end of the 2012/13 scheme year and that the statutory duty on local authorities to produce Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies (JMWMS) will be removed.

**LG Group position: We welcome the ending of the LATS scheme and the removal of the duty to produce JMWMS.**

7. The Review notes that Defra will work with the LG Group, WRAP and IESE to develop a national route map detailing the steps that need to be taken to set up waste partnerships, complementing the LGG's *Place-based productivity steering group's* work in this area, including work being undertaken to achieve efficiencies through better procurement.

**LG Group position: We would be happy to lead this work and fully support the development of sector-led and owned guidance.**

**Business Waste collection**

8. The Review notes that many of the issues around commercial waste are the same as those for municipal waste and they should therefore be considered as part of a single waste stream. The review makes particular reference to waste collection and disposal from Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in particular. Councils are asked to work with LEPs, Chambers of Commerce and local trade associations to highlight to SMEs the value of pursuing joint recycling contracts to achieve the necessary economies of scale to ensure these schemes are cost effective. The waste management industry will also have a significant role in this area.

**LG Group position: Councils could be interested in extending their services and providing more recycling facilities geared to businesses if it did not expose them to higher landfill tax on residual waste.**

**Involvement of civil society**

9. The Review highlights the role that civil society groups can play in waste and recycling, both in terms of working with communities and the public and private sectors. There are however barriers that the Government will need to remove for civil society groups to play a full role in this area in terms of finance, regulation, capacity and education.

**LG Group position: Councils would be happy to work with civil society groups to maintain services where practicable. As the Review is likely to note however, regulations will need to be amended to facilitate this.**

**Recycling on the go**

10. The Review makes reference to the current difficulties in recycling 'on the go' when compared to recycling at home and goes on to suggest that WRAP will assist councils who wish to work with businesses to explore how street infrastructure can be funded.

**Item 2**

**LG Group position: Councils will need funding to install and maintain new street infrastructure – this could be achieved through the producer pays principle and agreements struck with business. A strong evidence base that such investment would result in significant increases in recycling, compared with similar additional investment in improved household collection would make recycling on the go a more attractive proposition.**

**Rewards and recognition**

11. Defra have announced that they will launch a grant funding scheme for innovative reward and recognition schemes that will be available to community groups, civil society groups and local authorities. The Review also proposes that the LG Group and WRAP, with the support of Defra, work to develop best practice information for councils considering the introduction of reward schemes.
- LG Group position: Reward schemes are one way of increasing recycling schemes that councils should be able to use. We would be happy to work with Defra to develop any grant scheme and to develop and disseminate best practice.**

**Enforcement**

12. The Review notes the Government's desire to reduce intrusion into the lives of individuals by repealing powers that allow entry into domestic premises and evidence gathering activities to determine whether waste has been placed in the correct receptacles. A civil sanction regime including fixed penalty notices will ensure individuals will not get a criminal record for presenting waste for collection incorrectly. A 'harm to local amenity' test will be used before a civil penalty can be imposed by a council and this will allow action to be taken against 'neighbours from hell' and other repeat low-level offenders. Officers are seeking to gain a better understanding of what this will mean from Defra officials.
13. The Review proposes that stronger powers are introduced for local authorities and the Environment Agency to seize vehicles suspected of involvement in fly-tipping and waste crime; that the EA eliminates illegal waste management sites; to consider whether the current level of fines and sentencing are sufficient to disrupt and deter serious and organised waste crime and will include work on the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act and; consider whether prosecutions are sufficiently visible and whether Magistrates have enough information or training about sentencing for waste crime offences.
- LG Group position: We will consider with an open mind proposals for ensuring formal powers are effective and proportionate, but councils do need appropriate legal sanctions as a last resort for people who behave in an anti-social way. Indeed councils must: recognise and reward the vast majority of residents who do the right thing; constructively put right people who misunderstand or make mistakes; and respond as necessary to local people's**

**Item 2**

**concern about householders or businesses whose poor approach affects local environmental quality. Stronger powers for dealing with serious and organised waste crime and fly-tipping are welcome.**

**Energy recovery**

14. The Review suggests that energy from waste is a sector that could expand. This process will reverse however as more and more waste is recycled, reused or prevented from entering the waste stream. This is not however true of food waste which could continue to provide fuel for anaerobic digestion plants. The Government will publish a separate anaerobic digestion strategy to provide further detail on this.

**LG Group position: Both energy from waste and anaerobic digestion are examples of technologies that can be used to divert waste from landfill and should be options when councils decide which infrastructure is best suited to meeting their requirements.**

**Infrastructure and Planning**

15. The Review notes that a duty to co-operate in the Localism Bill will be important in ensuring councils explore cross-boundary solutions and that the waste sector's needs are considered in the development of the Green Investment Bank's priorities. Elsewhere the Government will publish a detailed waste infrastructure planning policy as part of a revised National Infrastructure Policy Plan in November 2011.

**LG Group position: Government's approach to waste planning suggests communities should take responsibility for managing their own waste. However technologies, economies of scale and sustainability issues often makes planning for waste facilities a matter of more than local significance (e.g. in relation to energy production from waste and its connection to wider infrastructure). At the same time, local decision making and accountability is essential, and therefore councils must be equipped to make the necessary strategic decisions whilst analysing all advantages/disadvantages involved.**

**Conclusions and next steps**

16. The LG Group's lobbying of politicians and officers has resulted in significant successes for the sector in the final review response, most notably that frequency of collection will continue to be decided by local authorities. Members and officers will continue to ensure that the sector's position on waste collection and disposal is taken into account by the Government.

17. It is proposed that the following next steps are taken:

17.1 Further work with local authorities, DEFRA, WRAP, IESE and others to develop and publish the Household and Business Waste Commitment.



**Item 2**

- 17.2 Influencing work to ensure that enforcement powers available to councils are appropriate and proportionate and a more joined up approach to enforcement/ For example via advice to sentencing council and Environment Agency on forthcoming sentencing guidelines.
- 17.3 Work with DEFRA, WRAP and IESE to develop a national route map detailing the steps that need to be taken to set up waste partnerships.
- 17.4 Work with DEFRA and others to ensure learning and best practice from reward and recognition schemes are widely disseminated.

**Financial Implications**

- 18. Waste services cost local authorities over £3.1bn in 2008-9 and are expected to increase to £4.2bn by 2013. Apart from education and social care, waste collection and disposal is the biggest area of council spending. Any future lobbying on the outcomes of the Review must stress the importance of creating assurance that EU targets can be met and fines avoided at the minimum possible cost

**Contact officer:** Clive Harris  
**Position:** Advisor, Programmes  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3207  
**E-mail:** [clive.harris@local.gov.uk](mailto:clive.harris@local.gov.uk)



## **EU update**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction

### **Summary**

Two EU proposals are being developed now which require the LGG to take a stance as we develop our position and take it through our lobbying through the EU decision making process here in Whitehall and also in Brussels.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to discuss the overarching principles.

### **Action**

Officers to use the principles as the basis for policy positions for lobbying on these EU proposals.

**Contact officers:** Jasbir Jhas / Cassandra Harrison

**Phone no:** 020 7664 3114 / 020 7664 3878

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



## **EU update**

### **Background**

1. Two EU proposals are being developed now which require the LGG to take a stance as we develop our position and take it through our lobbying through the EU decision making process here in Whitehall and also in Brussels. Our elected members on the Programme Board and the EU's Committee of the Regions will be pivotal in our lobbying on these issues.

### **Energy efficiency and savings directive**

2. As the EU risks missing its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020, further measures will be taken by the European Commission, the initiator of EU laws. A new legislative proposal on Energy Efficiency Savings/Services Directive will be published towards the end of June.
3. Although not yet published, public bodies will play a leading role. The impact on local authorities will be significant as owners of building stock and key local purchasers of goods and services. The proposals may require public authorities to:
  - 3.1 refurbish at least 3% of their buildings each year to high energy performance levels to increase the refurbishment rate of their buildings including energy efficiency upgrading, taking into account cost-effectiveness, technical feasibility and national circumstances, including conditions related to heritage buildings. This will be based on floor area, which has not yet been specified. The rate will be twice the current rate for the European building stock. Each refurbishment should bring the building up to the level of the best 10% of the national building stock.
  - 3.2 rent or buy existing buildings at the best available energy performance class (e.g. ICT equipment), and, where appropriate, services and works (e.g. refurbishment, operation and maintenance of buildings, energy and transport) that achieve high standards of energy efficiency.

### *LG Group activity*

4. The issue was first mooted by the European Commission in its annual work programme (equivalent to the Queens Speech) in 2010 and then again in 2011. LG Group highlighted this as an issue we should seek to influence the outcome of. To date we have worked to highlight this issue with all the relevant decision makers in this process. This involves MEPs in the European Parliament, national governments working through the Council of the EU.

**Item 3**

5. We will work with MEPs working in the lead committees, and in particular UK members. Through our European LGA, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).
6. The UK government has indicated that it does not support binding targets, and that existing renewable energy and emissions reduction targets, along with Energy Services Directive targets provide incentive enough. LGG will work with DECC to clarify if the 3% is UK wide.

**Air Quality Review**

7. Councils already play a key role in tackling air pollution. The European Commission is starting work on the review of air quality policy and legislation, with a view to adopting a revised Directive no later than 2013. The Commission states that air quality problems remain and that current EU and national policy efforts have not delivered the expected results for a range of reasons. These include: an increase in transport; slow fleet turnover; and the gap between vehicle emissions in real world conditions compared to testing. Stakeholder consultations will take place during 2011 and beyond.

**Overarching principles**

8. There are several overarching, strategic principles which could be applied to one or more of the above issues.
9. Mandatory targets
  - 9.1 Local authorities will have to play a significant role in any energy efficiency targets and the deadlines, and should be effectively consulted by national government as it negotiates the UK line and subsequent EU directive. The cost of implementing these targets could be significant, and the LGG will want to work with local authorities to analyse costs.
  - 9.2 Duties and targets should not be placed on local government where they do not have full control over compliance. Example: councils do not have full control over pollution sources in their areas such as motorways and airports. It would therefore be unreasonable to place any direct duties on them.
10. Potential penalties: We would not support the European Commission suggesting any reference to penalties in the Directive. This would be against the principle of subsidiarity, and has crept into various EU Directives in recent years.

27 June 2011

**Item 3**

11. Light touch EU law: Proposals should not add additional administrative or financial burdens to councils. Any changes should develop a “light touch” approach to enable councils to provide local solutions to local challenges.
12. Impact assessment: Any EU legislation must take account of potential negative impacts on councils’ existing operations and not increase costs. To ensure this, proposals should be subject to a full impact assessment to ensure that future changes would result in legislation which is fit-for-purpose.
13. Evidence base: EU legislation and targets must be based on the most robust and up-to-date evidence to ensure that the approach is proportionate and that resources are focused where most appropriate/needed.
14. Members are asked to discuss the over-arching principles.
15. Subject to Members’ discussion, officers to use the principles as the basis for policy positions for lobbying on these EU proposals.

**Contact officers:** Jasbir Jhas / Cassandra Harrison  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3114 / 020 7664 3878  
**E-mail:** [jasbir.jhas@local.gov.uk](mailto:jasbir.jhas@local.gov.uk)  
[Cassandra.harrison@local.gov.uk](mailto:Cassandra.harrison@local.gov.uk)





**Item 4**

## **Adaptation to Climate Change**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction

### **Summary**

The report provides an update on LG Group work on Adaptation to Climate Change and new arrangements for local / central dialogue on Adaptation.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to agree their preferred option for ensuring member input into a new Local Adaptation Advisory Panel.

### **Action**

As directed by members.

**Contact officer:** Vanessa Goodchild-Bradley  
**Position:** Policy Consultant, LG Group  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3291  
**E-mail:** [vanessa.goodchildbradley@local.gov.uk](mailto:vanessa.goodchildbradley@local.gov.uk)



**Item 4**

## **Adaptation to Climate Change**

### **Background**

1. The expected impacts of climate change present a major challenge to all local authorities in ensuring the protection of communities, the delivery of services and business continuity. There are potentially large costs for authorities and communities if we do not adapt buildings, services and local economies so that they can continue to function well in a changing climate (with the related possibility of new pests and diseases) and in extreme weather situations.
2. Local authorities are key to ensuring the country is well prepared for a changing climate, given their responsibilities for planning, managing infrastructure and buildings, emergency planning and as community leaders. This has been recognised by the Adaptation Sub Committee, the independent body set up as a result of the Climate Change Act and which advises the Government on Climate Change policy.
3. A new forum for central / local dialogue on adaptation is now being set up – the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP) - and this report provides the context for members to consider how they would like to input into the new Panel.

### **LG Group policy development on Adaptation**

4. LG Group policy work on adaptation to climate change has emphasised the need to embed adaptation within all service areas, to identify the economic, social and environmental risks to services and the benefits of planning for the expected impacts. Many authorities have assessed the risks to services of future climate change, taken steps to climate proof buildings and services and are working with vulnerable groups to reduce risk. An LG Group publication, Winning Solutions for Adaptation, published in June 2011, includes case studies of action by authorities.
5. Members from other LG Group Boards will recognise that adaptation is not solely an issue of interest to the Environment and Housing Programme Board and it is planned to take a short report on adaptation to each of the LG Group's Boards this year, identifying adaptation issues relevant to their programme area. Members from other Boards may have an interest in being involved in or updated on LG Group work on Adaptation.
6. Flood and erosion risk management are key adaptation issues and the LG Group's Inland Flood Risk Management Group and Coastal Issues SIG provide forums for members to develop LG Group policy and for the exchange of information, ideas and advice between local government and central government and its agencies.

**Item 4**

**Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP)**

7. LG Group work on Adaptation to Climate Change has mainly been focussed through a high level national officer forum for central / local dialogue, which is now being restructured into a Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP). This will meet every 4 months, with the first meeting on 12 July 2011. The Panel is convened by Defra but the Chair and Deputy Chair roles have been assigned to local authority officers to reflect the new localism agenda. LG Group has helped to identify local authority members of the Panel. The Chair will also sit on Defra's Adaptation to Climate Change Programme Board, to ensure a strong local influence on the Government's programme.
8. The draft Terms of Reference are attached at appendix 1, together with details of Defra's Adaptation to Climate Change programme, which will implement key parts of the Climate Change Act.
9. The aims of LAAP are to:
  - 9.1 Directly influence the work of the Government's Adaptation to Climate Change Programme and its delivery bodies, including the development of the National Adaptation Programme (to ensure the policy framework properly supports local adaptation) and the provision of evidence and interpretation tools (such as Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Economic Analysis).
  - 9.2 Act as an efficient forum for two-way dialogue between local government, its partners and central government and its arms length/delivery bodies on local climate change adaptation work, with a particular focus on priority themes determined by the group.

**Member input into the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP)**

10. Although the Panel is an officer forum, it is important that there is member input, to raise the profile of adaptation amongst all authorities and to ensure the Panel identifies and addresses political issues.
11. Members of the Environment Board are asked to consider various options for ensuring member input into the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, so that your views can be sent to the first meeting of the Panel in July. Options for member input into LAAP include:
  - 11.1 A regular report from LAAP to the Environment Board, with a report / recommendations back from the Board as an agenda item for LAAP meetings.

27 June 2011

**Item 4**

11.2 LG Group to convene a regular member meeting on adaptation (every 6 or 12 months with invites extended to all LG Group Boards) to help develop LG Group policy positions and provide recommendations to LAAP.

11.3 A session for members at LAAP meetings (possibly every 6 or 12 months)

12. Members are asked to consider which option(s) they would recommend (or any alternative), to ensure effective two way dialogue between members and LAAP.

**Conclusion and next steps**

13. Officers will let LAAP colleagues know how members would like to input into the work of the Panel and will set up any required processes. An update from the first LAAP meeting can be provided for the next Board meeting.

**Financial Implications**

14. The financial implications of the options above are meeting and attendance costs if members decide LG Group should convene a regular member meeting on adaptation, or attendance costs if it is decided that a member session should be added onto LAAP meetings.



**Draft Terms of Reference for the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP), HM  
Government Adapting to Climate Change (ACC) Programme**

LAAP members will agree on the final details of the new group at the first meeting in June 2011.

**Purpose and remit of LAAP**

The aims of LAAP are to:

1. Directly influence the work of the HM Government ACC Programme and its delivery bodies including the development of the National Adaptation Programme (to ensure the policy framework properly supports local adaptation) and the provision of evidence and interpretation tools (such as Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Economic Analysis).
2. Act as an efficient forum for two-way dialogue between local government, its partners and central government and its arms length/delivery bodies on local climate change adaptation work, with a particular focus on priority themes determined by the group.

Specific outcomes from LAAP include:

- helping define local actions within the National Adaptation Programme and the process for gathering this information from local government and its partners;
- shaping the provision of evidence (science, economics, social research) and tools that help interpret evidence at the local level. For example to shape the outputs of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and subsequent Adaptation Economic Assessment, or to recommend priorities for work by ACC delivery bodies such as the UK Climate Impacts Programme;
- using the cross-Government ACC Programme to further join-up relevant policy and regulator frameworks to best support the most cost-effective and proportionate local adaptation efforts and to identify other incentives for local adaptation;
- advising on the breaking down of barriers to successful local adaptation

**What is out of scope?**

To provide clarity on the remit of the group and how it fits in with other organisations and networks, the following exclusions have been specified:

- peer-to-peer learning / knowledge networks - these activities are already provided through a number of routes and are best led by local government for local government, Examples include the Nottingham Declaration Partnership and the Community of Practice website hosted by Local Government Group (LGG), regional LGG structures and the Climate Change Partnerships.
- project based work – there is no funded work programme so there is no risk of duplication with other locally driven projects.

### Terms of Reference

LAAP will:

- be a focused Advisory Group (advising the Defra/HMG ACC Programme) with a clear remit for local and sub-national adaptation;
- have its revised remit and Terms of Reference set for the period April 2011- March 2013 (i.e. agreed for a further 2 years), with a 'fit for purpose' review in March 2012 (or sooner if required)
- not have a funded or detailed work programme;
- have a secretariat provided by the ACC Programme;
- aim to hold some meetings at locations other than London;
- meet every 4 months (3 times per year) with a guiding principle that meetings will be four hours and held between 10:30 and 2:30pm, but could be extended as needed on a case by case basis;

### Who should chair?

The chair should act independently and ensure that the views of all those represented are heard. The preferred option is that the chair is selected from local government and nominated by Local Government Group.

### Membership

Total membership would be a maximum of 25, as illustrated below:

	<b>Member organisation name</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Total no</b>
Local government and its partners       (up to 18 members)	Local Authorities – (9 max) A wider range of local authorities than LRAP	Reps from a mix upper and lower tier and with a geographical spread from across England & a mix of urban, suburban and rural localities.	Up to 9 in total
	Local Government Group		1
	Nottingham Declaration Partnership		1
	Core Cities Climate Change Working Group		1
	Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)	Up to two members	2
	RCCP/Climate UK	A representative nominated by Climate UK	1
	National Association of Local Councils (NALC)	NALC acts as the umbrella body for English town and parish councils.	1
	Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)		1



	RDAs (up to March 2012, when the abolition will be complete)	Currently EEDA is the RDA rep.	1
Central government and its agencies  (up to 8 members)	Defra ACC	Also providing Secretariat	3
	DCLG	Climate Change adaptation team	1
	DECC, CO and/or BIS	Depends on subject being discussed	1 or 2
	ACC delivery body representative	Currently UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP)	1
	Defra delivery bodies working on sub-national adaptation	A representative drawn from the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission	1

**Ad hoc attendees**

Taking account of feedback from LRAP members, civil society organisations will not be invited to attend as full members of LAAP at this time, however it is proposed their possible inclusion should be reviewed in March 2012 (or sooner if required).

During the period from April 2011-March 2012, key civil society organisations may be invited to attend on an ad hoc basis, in particular as part of discussions on themes where they may be particularly active. It is envisaged that as part of the planning process for selecting themes for discussion, members could put forward suggestions for relevant organisations. Ad hoc attendance from other bodies such as specific government agencies (e.g. Homes and Communities Agency), or Professional Bodies (e.g. RTPI; Emergency Planning Society) may be appropriate for some of the theme-based discussions.

**Virtual group**

Many LRAP members emphasised the risk of meetings becoming unwieldy if large numbers attended the meetings. A virtual group was suggested to allow greater numbers to engage, particularly to enable smaller local authorities to provide their views. This could be managed through the Communities of Practice website that is currently hosted by Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID). This can be discussed by LAAP members at the first meeting. If members are convinced that a virtual group will add value a proposal will be worked up and circulated after the meeting.

**Meeting format**

Central government policy update provided in advance

A policy update will be collated from central government and circulated as a summary paper well in advance of the meetings, to allow time to discuss any issues more widely with colleagues before bringing questions or comments to the meeting. The update is an important tool to enable members to engage at senior level and with other internal departments and bring to the group

any questions for discussion at the meeting and any priority themes or issues to address at future meetings.

Member update also provided in advance

Other members of the group may wish to provide updates and these will be collated and circulated along with the central government policy update and other meeting paper.

Theme-based approach

Members of LAAP will agree in advance the themes for discussion to ensure that relevant representatives and ad hoc attendees have been invited. For example, if the theme selected was how the impacts of climate change affects public health and how local authorities could mitigate the impacts, the local authority members may choose to send a representative from their health department, and a representative from Department of Health and other local health partners could be invited as ad hoc attendees.

Themes for discussion would be suggested and agreed by members and could include for example:

- the five Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) priority areas where local government plays the lead role (land use planning, adapting national infrastructure, building design, sustainable management of natural resources and effective emergency planning),
- issues and evidence needs identified by local government itself, in particular where central government (the ACC programme) and its delivery Arms Length Bodies can help resolve them.
- local government input into the adaptation milestones required under the Climate Change Act (2008): namely the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and the National Adaptation Programme (NAP).
- how the ACC work programme can continue to support local adaptation efforts (policy framework, evidence provision, delivery of support).

The agenda for the meetings will need to be determined by members of LAAP but it is proposed the general structure set out in Table 1 at **Annex 1** is used for the first meeting in **June 2011**. Table 2 shows key ACC programme milestones over the next 12 months and suggests areas of the ACC Programme that may be important to discuss and Table 3 suggests topics on more cross-cutting or thematic issues. **Annex 2** sets out an overview of how key CCRA milestones feed into the wider policy landscape.

**Annex 1: Meeting format**

**Table 1 - Example agenda:**

Note that timings, ordering and suggestions are indicative and can be varied as needed.

15 mins	Welcome and introductions	
90	ACC Programme	Activities such as:

mins	policy and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q&amp;A session on policy update – questions from members to central government and its agencies.</li> <li>• Presentations or updates (from members or from central govt) on specific ACC projects, case studies or projects of interest.</li> <li>• Breakout session to discuss topics or projects in small groups, then outputs fed back to the wider group.</li> </ul> <p><b>See Table 2 for details of possible topic and timings.</b></p>
30 min break		
90 mins	Thematic or cross-cutting issues	<p>This time would focus specifically on a topic that had been agreed in advance (see Table 1 below). This may be broken down into activities in a similar way to those suggested within the ACC Programme session above.</p> <p><b>See Table 3 for details.</b></p>
15 mins	Forward planning for next themes	<p>In order to plan in advance for the next three meetings, members should come to the meeting with suggestions for topics or projects of interest and put forward their suggestions to the group. These can be developed afterwards via email correspondence.</p>



Table 2 – ACC Programme policy and delivery

Date of meeting	Topics and milestones over the next 12 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ By January 2011, the second infrastructure report will be published; also the international impacts of climate change.</li> <li>➤ Spring 2011 - final decisions on shape of ACC Programme (following Programme Refresh)</li> <li>➤ Spring 2011 - findings of LRAP (led by LGIU) Big Society project</li> </ul>	
<p>June 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the role of the ACC Programme in supporting Local Government?</li> <li>• What outputs from the CCRA will be relevant for Local Government and how can they be improved?</li> <li>• What is the role of local government in the National Adaptation Programme?</li> <li>• Developing the economic case for adaptation and the role of LEPs</li> <li>• How can the new delivery body best support local adaptation?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ By July 2011, ASC will have given their view on emerging CCRA findings</li> <li>➤ In September 2011, start of new contract for adaptation delivery body</li> <li>➤ By November 2011, the reporting power reports will all be published (providing detailed information on impact of CC on critical infrastructure for transport, energy generation and transmission, water and electronic communications sectors)</li> </ul>	
<p>September 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big society and local government – models and case studies of efficient partnerships</li> <li>• How do CCRA findings affect local delivery?</li> <li>• Developing the AEA – key priorities from a local government perspective</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ By January 2012, the CCRA report to Parliament will be published, including the AEA (which attempts to outline the costs of adaptation)</li> </ul> <p>January/February 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How local government and its services can use the findings of the Adaptation Economic Analysis</li> <li>• How local communities are responding to the findings of the CCRA</li> <li>• Local government input into NAP</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ By December 2012, the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) is submitted to UK Parliament</li> </ul>	

**Table 3 – Thematic or cross-cutting issues**

*The ASC priorities were chosen to illustrate on one possible approach but members may wish to suggest alternative approaches or specific topics, such as how to self-assess progress on local adaptation or look in detail at how localism and the big society agendas are affecting local delivery. Whatever approach is agreed, forward planning will be decided by the new group at a later stage, including the selection of ad hoc attendees.*

Date of meeting	Topics or themes	Potential ad hoc attendees	Examples of potential civil society ad hoc attendees
June 2011	<p><b>Land use planning and the built environment</b></p> <p>Options for specific discussions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the localism bill can support local adaptation</li> <li>• how will the review of the building regulations affect adaptation</li> </ul>	<p>LA land use planners + building regs; Built Environment team in ACC; Green infrastructure team in Defra,</p>	<p>Climate Change Planning Coalition; Transition Towns; Greening Campaign; National Landlords Association;</p>
Sept 2011	<p><b>Emergency planning</b> (specific focus on protecting vulnerable groups and long-term business continuity plans; or could take a specific focus on flooding and heatwaves)</p>	<p>LA emergency planning team; Cabinet Office's Natural Hazards and community resilience teams; Defra's flooding team,</p>	<p>Emergency Planning Society; National Flooding Forum; reps from local resilience fora</p>
Jan/Feb 2012	<p><b>Management of natural resources:</b></p> <p>Options for specific discussions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural environment white paper</li> <li>• Water white paper</li> <li>• Lawton review on how we manage wildlife corridors</li> </ul>	<p>Specific policy owners;</p>	<p>Wildlife and Countryside Link RSPB;</p>

**Item 5**

**Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats Project  
Update**

**Purpose**

To note

**Summary**

The Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats project is funded by DCLG (with a contribution from the Electrical Safety Council), project managed by LG Group and CS Todd and Associates Ltd were commissioned to draft the guidance working to a stakeholder Reference Group.

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

**Action**

As directed by Members

**Contact officer:**

Amanda Whittaker-Brown

**Position:**

Programme Manager (Productivity)

**Phone no:**

07879 640 814

**E-mail:**

[amanda.whittaker-brown@local.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.whittaker-brown@local.gov.uk)





**Item 5**

**Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats Project Update**

**Background**

1. The Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats project is funded by DCLG (with a contribution from the Electrical Safety Council), project managed by LG Group and CS Todd and Associates Ltd were commissioned to draft the guidance working to a stakeholder Reference Group.
2. The key principles behind the guidance are:
  - 2.1 It is sector developed guidance
  - 2.2 It compliments existing DCLG guidance and the LACoRS guide
  - 2.3 It addresses the gap in guidance for purpose built blocks of flats specifically
  - 2.4 It is one document aimed at Responsible Persons, enforcing authorities and fire risk assessors
  - 2.5 It does not introduce any new standards or regulations but seeks to clarify complex issues around risk assessment and fire safety management
  - 2.6 It is non-prescriptive and provides alternatives
  - 2.7 It gives practical and proportionate advice on ensuring adequate fire safety thereby supporting compliance
3. The consultation phase of the project included three regional events in London, Manchester and Birmingham chaired by Cllr. Dorothy Thornhill of LG Group, the Chief Fire Officer's Association and the Private Sector Housing Forum. The project group also supported consultation events for the South East ALMO Group and the London HMO and Regulatory Group hosted by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. These events reached over 200 stakeholders. In addition the draft guidance was published on the LG website and individuals and groups encouraged to respond on-line. Detailed written comments on the document were received from over 60 organisations including local authorities, fire and rescue services, ALMOs and other public sector housing providers, private sector housing trade associations, professional bodies, private consultancies and the fire industry.
4. Stakeholder interest in the project is high and guidance will be promoted in a number of national conferences including; Chartered Institute of Housing, National Federation of ALMOs and Fire Protection Association Housing Sector National Forum.
5. The final guidance will be published at the end of July 2011 on the LG Group website. The project will be evaluated both in terms of short term outputs and longer term outcomes to influence the behaviour of those responsible for fire safety in purpose built blocks of flats and improved fire safety for those living there. It is proposed that an on-line survey will be undertaken a year after publication of the

27 June 2011

**Item 5**

guidance with a sample of stakeholders that engaged with the consultation process. Other ongoing qualitative feedback will be obtained through on-line communities of practice.

**Contact officer:** Amanda Whittaker-Brown  
**Position:** Programme Manager (Productivity)  
**Phone no:** 07879 640 814  
**E-mail:** [amanda.whittaker-brown@local.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.whittaker-brown@local.gov.uk)

## **Getting Closer**

### **Purpose of report**

For information

### **Summary**

This report, summarises the outcomes of the Getting Closer programme, was considered by the LG Group Executive on 19 May 2011. The Executive agreed that the Getting Closer programme had now delivered what it had set out to do, and invited the LGA Leadership Board to make recommendations to the September Group Executive meeting on how the Group continually improves its performance to provide effective national added value to the sector.

### **Recommendations**

The Environment & Housing Programme Board:

1. Note the outcomes of the Getting Closer programme
2. Note that the new integrated organisation will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Contact officer:** Sandie Dunne  
**Position:** Head of Programmes  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3070  
**E-mail:** [sandie.dunne@local.gov.uk](mailto:sandie.dunne@local.gov.uk)



## **Getting Closer**

### **Background**

1. In January 2009, the former LGA Executive agreed to institute a Getting Closer programme, to succeed the development strategy which had been established the previous year to take forward the outcomes of the 2007 Best review. Getting Closer has always had two overarching aims:
  - 1.1 To ensure that the LG Group is more focussed on Councils and Councillors
  - 1.2 Further integrating the work of the organisations in the Group (known then as the Central Bodies) to create greater coherence, optimise efficiencies, reduce costs and improve the quality and flexibility of services.
2. Over the past two years all major milestones have been approved by the LGA Executive and subsequently the Group Executive. A schedule summarising the main achievements is attached at Appendix 1.
3. The requirement to create an integrated, streamlined and affordable organisation to deliver the Groups priorities has been based on two fundamental factors. The first is a drive to substantially reduce membership subscriptions for Councils and other local government bodies. The second is a substantial reduction in top-sliced funding from the RSG. Although the Secretary of State for CLG agreed far greater flexibility for use of top slice, so it could be directed at the sector's priorities, funding will be reduced by 38% over the next four years. Specific contract funding for particular projects is still available, but at a greatly reduced level. So the aim has been to create a sustainable and affordable core structure.
4. In terms of staffing numbers, the establishment of the LGA and former central bodies in 2010 was 447 full time employees (excluding staff working on specific contracts). The establishment of the new LG Group from 1<sup>st</sup> June will be 269 FTEs. To date there have been 90 voluntary and 87 compulsory redundancies. The rest of the reduction has been achieved by natural wastage eg vacancy management, short term contracts.
5. So as a result of Getting Closer:-
  - 5.1 There are new Group wide political governance arrangements (due to be reviewed by the Group Executive from September 2011)
  - 5.2 A new LG Group brand
  - 5.3 Harmonised pay and conditions for all Group staff

**Item 6**

- 5.4 An integrated organisation with staff costs reduced by 45%
- 5.5 All group staff located in Local Government House, or designated as remote workers, freeing up Layden house for commercial income as determined by the Resource Panel and Property Companies

**What next?**

- 6. At its meeting in March, the Group Executive agreed to commission an independent review of members' remuneration, convened by the President, Lord Best. The Independent Panel present its findings in July.
- 7. When the current political governance arrangements were introduced in 2010 it was decided to review their operation after 12 months. The review will commence in September.
- 8. Following a review of websites across the Group, a new LG Group website is due to be launched at the Annual Conference in Birmingham at the end of June.
- 9. In the medium term a decision will have to be made on whether the current pattern of an integrated organisation serving the LGA and its company structure is sustainable or whether full integration of the LG Group should be considered. This step would require constitutional amendment, so it seems sensible to establish how the current changes operate in practice before this is considered.
- 10. In one sense the Getting Closer programme is now complete. However, the twin objectives of ensuring that the Group is more focussed on Councils and Councillors and ensuring the Group operates in a coherent manner remain as important challenges. We must continually demonstrate that we offer and provide real national added value to the sector. The Leadership Board should determine how this is best achieved and report back to this Executive at the first meeting in the new 'LGA' year in September.
- 11. Meanwhile, the Getting Closer label should cease to be used from 31<sup>st</sup> May. That phase of our work is now complete.

**Financial Implications**

- 12. The LG Group now has a sustainable and affordable organisation to take forward its priority tasks. The budget for 2011/12 is presented to the Executive elsewhere on this agenda.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MILESTONE</b>
15 January 2009	Development Strategy relaunched as 'Getting Closer' Overall direction and aims of Getting Closer agreed by LGA Executive
19 March 2009	First integrated LG Group Business Plan and LG Group Financial Strategy approved by LGA Executive
21 May 2009	Initial review of branding across the Group complete Next steps agreed by LGA Executive
June 2009	LG Group pay harmonisation complete
19 November 2009	LGA Executive agree new LG Group branding
30 November 2009	Communications review complete and final proposals published
January 2010	LGA Executive agree new LG Group governance arrangements
1 April 2010	Launch of new integrated communications function
May 2010	Review of LG Group websites complete
July 2010	Review of Business Support complete
30 June 2010	CLG confirms outcome of RSG topslice bid
6 July 2010	New LGA Constitution approved by the General Assembly New branding launched at Annual Conference
1 September 2010	New LG Group governance arrangements come into effect
16 September 2010	New LG Group Executive agree principles for reshaping LG Group
30 November 2010	Launch of staff consultation on Getting Closer restructure
13 January 2011	LG Group Executive agree LG Group business plan 2011/12
4 March 2011	Staff consultation ends
11 March 2011	Final structure published
17 March 2011	LG Group Executive agree provisional LG Group budget 2011/12
w/c 18 April 2011	Job offers and redundancy notices issued to all affected staff
19 May 2011	Final LG Group budget presented to LG Group Executive
1 June 2011	New integrated LG Group comes into effect
28 June 2011	Launch of new LG Group website at Annual Conference 2011





**Item 7**

**Update on other Board Business**

**Purpose of report**

Members to note the following:

- Note of LGA Housing Seminar – 9 June 2011
- Update on National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Update on Local Standards Framework (LSF)
- Update on Draft Planning Policy Statement for Traveller Sites
- May and June Chair's Reports to Councillors Forum
- Meetings with Regional Associations
- Dates for 2011/12
- Members' Feedback
- Any other Business

**Recommendation**

Members to note the reports.

**Action**

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

**Contact officer:** Sarah Monaghan

**Position:** Member Support Officer

**Phone no:** 020 7664 3214

**E-mail:** [sarah.monaghan@local.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.monaghan@local.gov.uk)



**Item 7**

**Note of LGA Housing Seminar – 9 June 2011-06-17**

1. Cllr Gary Porter chaired a members housing seminar on 9 June. The seminar included a presentation and discussion with the housing Minister, Grant Shapps MP and political perspectives from Cllr Tony Newman, Cllr Chris Naylor and Cllr Mike Haines.
2. The Minister set out the key areas of the government's reform agenda, including:
  - 2.1 Reform of the planning system to shift control over development to local people and radically simplify the system.
  - 2.2 Social housing and tenancy reform to give more flexibility over tenure and housing allocation.
  - 2.3 Reform of council housing finance system to unlock more resources for social housing.
3. Issues discussed included:
  - 3.1 Giving councils a level playing field with housing associations in accessing funding for building social housing.
  - 3.2 Questions about long-term sustainability of the Affordable Rent model.
  - 3.3 Positive impact of past regeneration projects in turning around deprived urban areas.
  - 3.4 Importance of sustainability, social and environmental considerations in delivering housing – it's not just about the numbers.
4. Members then took part in detailed workshop discussions on four themes: housing finance, housing growth, housing regeneration and renewal, social housing reform.

**Update on National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

5. In late 2010, the Planning Minister Greg Clark MP announced a review of planning policy, designed to consolidate policy statements, circulars and guidance documents into a single concise National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
6. As part of this process, four experts from planning, local government, house-building and the environment sectors (including Cllr Gary Porter) were invited by the Minister to provide a practitioners' perspective on how national planning policy could be simplified.
7. The Practitioners Advisory Group (PAG) submitted its draft framework to the Minister for Decentralisation and Planning, together with a set of recommendations on the 20th May.
8. DCLG will not be publishing an official draft NPPF for consultation until end July, likely close to the parliamentary Summer Recess (19th July). The Minister has

**Item 7**

welcomed the PAG draft framework as positive continuation and is inviting reactions to the draft to inform CLG's consultation draft.

9. LG Group is consulting membership and stakeholders to feed into our own response. As part of this, officers have convened a breakout discussion amongst Environment and Housing planning portfolio holders on 27 June 2011 to discuss both the PAG's proposals and what the final NPPF should consist of. A short paper covering our early thoughts on the draft NPPF will be circulated beforehand. In advance of this the full draft NPPF can be downloaded from [www.nppfpractitionersadvisorygroup.org](http://www.nppfpractitionersadvisorygroup.org)

**Update on Local Standards Framework (LSF)**

10. LG Group alongside Planning Officers Society (POS) is working with House Builders Federation (HBF), Home Communities Agency (HCA) and DCLG to establish a time-limited steering group to drive LSF work forward. One strand of this will look at how best to ensure the viability and deliverability of local housing plans, and the other to review local standards. LG Group has agreed additional contextual points to guide the individual workstreams of this group.
  - 10.1 Local plans and specific planning conditions should be always be underpinned by a robust evidence base.
  - 10.2 We do not expect to see the final NPPF dictate that this robust evidence base can only be based on the methodology agreed by this steering group.
  - 10.3 The value of this steering body is that we have the right combination of sector and professional bodies collaborating to make sense of viability and standards, however we understand and accept that other ways of doing this might emerge.
  - 10.4 LG Group in particular cannot compel its membership to take one approach over another, and will always defer to the independent examination process to rule whether or not a local plan and the conditions therein are sound and viable. We can however showcase the outputs of this group if they demonstrate that they can save developers and LPAs time and effort in the long-term.
11. The terms of reference, timescales and outputs for this group are to be determined, and will be circulated once finalised.

**Update on Draft Planning Policy Statement for Traveller Sites**

12. On 13 April 2011, the Government published for consultation a draft new planning policy statement for traveller sites. The consultation ends on 6 July. Full details available here: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/travellers>

**Item 7**

13. This consultation follows a commitment made by the Secretary of State on 29 August 2010, to withdraw the existing traveller planning circulars (Circular 01/2006: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/2007: Planning for Travelling Showpeople) and replace them with a new, short, light-touch, single Planning Policy Statement for traveller sites.
14. The withdrawal and replacement of the circulars forms part of a broader set of policy announcements to provide a fair deal for traveller communities and settled communities and to reform the planning system by streamlining lengthy, cumbersome inaccessible and complex policy and guidance and decentralising the planning system to strengthen the role of elected councils and communities.
15. On 17 June 2011, Cllr Ed Turner chaired a meeting of CLG officials and LG Group Planning Portfolio Holders to explore some of key issues for local authorities stemming from the consultation. A full note of this meeting will be circulated to members shortly. LG Group officers will also use the outputs of this discussion to inform the LG Group response to this consultation, which will also be circulated to members for comment.



## **Report to May Councillors' Forum**

### **Environment & Housing Programme Board – report from Cllr Gary Porter**

#### **Waste**

On 31 March, Board Members Clare Whelan and Mike Haines accompanied Margaret Eaton to a meeting with Caroline Spelman and Bob Neill to discuss the Government's waste review. Among other things, they discussed how to promote excellence in local collection while maintaining local choice over methods, business waste, the need to minimise food and packaging waste, the range of approaches needed to ensure residents understand and work with local collection approaches, and tackling serious and organised waste crime. Ministers expressed their gratitude for political and professional input from the sector to the review process. There was press coverage on 10 April about alleged unlawful charging for collection, and speculating about what the review would conclude about sanctions against householders. [Cllr Clyde Loakes wrote round about this](#) at the time and Rob Whiteman will be meeting Defra's Permanent Secretary next week to discuss our concerns about this episode.

#### **Meeting with Lord Henley regarding vehicle seizure powers**

Cllr Clyde Loakes, vice chair of the LG Group's Environment and Housing Board met with Lord Henley, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at Defra in March to press for the implementation of vehicle seizure powers, created under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Alongside the Environment Agency, the LG Group highlighted the need for stronger powers to assist with investigating serious, persistent fly-tippers and called on the Government to commit to this as part of the forthcoming Waste Policy Review.

#### **Air quality meeting with Ministers**

Mayor Dorothy Thornhill, Deputy Chair of the Environment and Housing Board and Cllr Peter Box, Chair of the Economy and Transport Board met with Ministers Lord Henley (Defra) and Norman Baker (DfT) to discuss air quality. It was agreed at the meeting that a more coordinated, strategic approach across local and central government is needed to tackle the problem. Officials will now be working together more formally to coordinate evidence in order to create a better shared understanding of the problem and potential measures at local and national level.

This work will inform a further political meeting later in the year.

#### **Changing the way we do housing**

Environment & Housing Programme Board members recently chaired a seminar series exploring the nature of the recent housing reforms. The seminars were well attended and ran in five areas up and down the country alongside an online conference on the LG Group community of practice *Local Housing Knowledge*.

**Item 7**

The events which looked at issues such as meeting housing supply, reinvesting in existing homes and supporting vulnerable people through the housing agenda prompted a lively debate. Delegates discussed ways in which councils could be more creative about how they attract resources and achieve the greatest value for the local area; the importance of linking housing outcomes with the work with the new Health and Wellbeing boards and the crucial role of strong local leadership to bring partners together to work to local priorities to achieve local ambitions. A report on the events will shortly be made available on the LGA website and you can view the online discussion by logging in to Local Housing Knowledge at <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do> .

**Board Meeting**

Trudi Elliott (Royal Town Planning Institute) Tony Burton (Civic Voice) and Liz Peace (British Property Federation) attended the last board meeting on 16 March to discuss with Members their views on the opportunities and challenges that the large number of changes, proposals and initiatives to planning policy present both within the Localism Bill and outside it will present. There was much discussion with the Board about the role of elected councillors in delivering these reforms and agreed that it was necessary that CLG's specific funding for planning and the LG Group's member development programmes should focus on ensuring that appropriate support was available to enable all Members to deal with these radical changes and the ensuing cultural shift they will have in their communities.



**Item 7**

**Report to June Councillors' Forum**

**Environment & Housing Programme Board – report from  
Cllr Gary Porter**

**National Planning Policy Framework: discussion with the Practitioners  
Advisory Group**

As part of the government's review of planning policy, designed to consolidate policy statements, circulars and guidance documents into a single concise National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), I formed part of an advisory group to provide a practitioners perspective on what the NPPF should contain. The group submitted a proposed draft NPPF to Greg Clark on the 20 May, and Cllr Mike Haines and I attended a roundtable on 8 June to discuss its contents. The proposed NPPF can be downloaded from [www.nppfpractitionersadvisorygroup.org](http://www.nppfpractitionersadvisorygroup.org)

**Meeting with North East Councils**

Cllr Clyde Loakes, Cllr Peter Britcliffe and I attended a meeting of North East Councils' Leaders on 20 May to discuss the work of the Environment & Housing Programme Board and listen to members' comments and concerns about key issues which the Board is working on. We all agreed that this was an extremely useful meeting and Members from the Board will continue to get out into the regions to inform the wider membership on the issues we are currently working on and more importantly to seek views on what we should be working on in the future.

**CIWM Conference 2011**

Cllr Clyde Loakes and Cllr Mike Haines spoke in two sessions of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management's Annual Conference on 14 and 15 June. Cllr Haines discussed the implications of the Localism Bill, the Planning Review and the demise of the formal regional planning framework, and explored how local authorities can respond positively to the new planning landscape. Cllr Loakes spoke alongside Caroline Spelman on the Waste Review; in particular highlighting its implications for local authorities and what actions will be required to deliver the Government's objectives.

**Planning for growth: closer working between planning and economic  
development**

Lead Members of the Environment & Housing Programme Board co-chaired a one day conference on closer working between planning and economic development on 24 May. This conference was extremely successful and various key speakers explored the latest policy developments at national level and what they mean for local areas, heard from councils who are building strong and effective Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure they are well placed to attract investment and

**Item 7**

facilitate sustainable development, provided those working in planning and economic development with practical advice and the opportunity to share experience with public and private sector practitioners, and discussed the crucial role of elected members in facilitating engagement locally and working collaboratively across boundaries.

**Board to Board meeting with the National Housing Federation**

Cllrs Andrew Gravells, Mike Haines, Tony Newman and Mayor Dorothy Thornhill met with Board members from the National Housing Federation on 25 May to discuss areas of common interest and ways of working together. This includes the joint work on the Localism Bill relating to the new duty to produce a tenancy strategy on local authorities. This was followed up by a letter I sent to Grant Shapps MP, which suggested that rather than forcing councils to create a tenancy strategy, the Localism Bill places councils under a duty to work with registered providers to consider appropriate responses to tenancy issues locally and make these options transparent to local people in any manner it considers locally appropriate.

**Item 7**

**Meetings with regional associations**

Below is list of regional meetings which Board members have attended over the last meeting cycle to inform the wider membership on the issues the Board is currently working on and discuss what we should be working on in the future. These meetings have been extremely useful for both members attending and we have received good feedback from the regional associations, and it is proposed that Board members visit more regional meetings in 2011-12.

**South East England Councils Executive**

18 February 2011 Gary Porter – 10am

**East Midlands Councils**

18 February 2011, 10.00am – David Smith

**North East Councils**

20 May 2011 – Cllr Gary Porter, Cllr Peter Britcliffe and Cllr Clyde Loakes

**West Midlands Councils (Birmingham – location tbc)**

Confirmed: 12 July 2011, 10.30am –Andrew Gravells (tbc)



**Item 7**

**LG Group Environment & Housing Programme Board**

**Meeting Dates 2011-12**

<b>DAY (2011)</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>ROOM / VENUE</b>
Wednesday	14 September 2011	11.00	
Wednesday	16 November 2011	11.00	
<b>DAY (2012)</b>			
Wednesday	11 January 2012	awayday	
Wednesday	14 March 2012	11.00	
Wednesday	23 May 2012	awayday	
Monday	25 June 2012 (to coincide with LGA Conference – the day before)	11.00	



## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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**Title:** Environment & Housing Programme Board  
**Date and time:** Wednesday 16 March 2011, 11.00am  
**Venue:** Rathbone Rooms 1&2, Local Government House

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### Attendance

#### Cllr:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council</b>
Chairman	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Vice chair	Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest LB
Deputy chair	Dorothy Thornhill	Watford BC
Deputy chair	Mike Haines	Teignbridge DC
Members	Peter Britcliffe	Hyndburn BC
	Andrew Gravells	Gloucestershire CC/ Gloucester City
	Jason Stacey	Ealing LB
	Clare Whelan	Lambeth LB
	David Smith	Lichfield DC
	Derek Bateman	Cheshire West & Chester
	Tony Newman	Croydon LB
	Ed Turner	Oxford City
	Berni Turner	Liverpool City
	Paula Baker	Basingstoke & Deane BC
Substitutes	Tim Moore	Liverpool City
In attendance	Martin Wheatley	LGA
	Clive Harris	LGA
	Rob Whiteman	LGID
	Clarissa Corbisiero	LGA
	Sarah Monaghan	LGA

**1 Planning reform**

Trudi Elliott (Royal Town Planning Institute) Tony Burton (Civic Voice) and Liz Peace (British Property Federation) attended the meeting to set out their views on the opportunities and challenges that the large number of changes, proposals and initiatives to planning policy present both within the Localism Bill and outside it will present.

Trudi Elliott said that the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) welcomed the thrust of the Bill, but would be lobbying for the duty to cooperate to include a much firmer requirement to work together. The RTPI welcome the National Planning Policy Framework and would like to see reference to it on the face of the Localism Bill.

Tony Burton said that Civic Voice also welcomed the reforms which could lead to a real transfer of power to local people. However, it would be important to ensure communities gain access to the funds they require.

Liz Peace said that the British Property Federation supported the strong 'pro growth' message in the Localism Bill. The BPF accept that a rise in planning fees to cover costs is appropriate although would not support local authorities being able to do this in a wholly unregulated fashion.

In discussion, Members considered the role of elected councillors in delivering these reforms and agreed that it was necessary that CLG's specific funding for planning and the LG Group's member development programmes should focus on ensuring that appropriate support was available to enable all Members to deal with these radical changes and the ensuing cultural shift they will have in their communities. Where possible, training could be given in collaboration with the RTPI and best practice should be shared.

The Chair thanked the speakers for attending the meeting.

***Decision***

*Members noted the discussion.*



- Officers to take forward Members' comments in their influencing work and continue to maintain a productive dialogue with the other organisations represented.

Martin  
Wheatley/  
Clarissa  
Corbisiero

## 2 **The LG Group and the Department of Energy and Climate Change's agreement on climate change and the Stockport event**

Martin Wheatley updated the board on the LG Group's climate change offer and the LG Group and DECC's agreement on climate change, which was officially signed by both Cllr Richard Kemp and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 9 March.

Cllr Clyde Loakes said that the Board open event in Stockport, co-hosted with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities on 2 February looked at the low carbon economy, in particular how AGMA was using its Local Enterprise Partnership to drive this agenda. Cllr Loakes stressed that whilst this event was a great success, further work should be done to ensure wider member involvement in the next similar event.

Members expressed their thanks to all Members and officers involved in taking forward the climate change agenda and developing the Memorandum of Understanding with DECC.

### ***Decision***

*Members **noted** the new agreement between the LG Group and DECC on climate change.*

## 3 **Waste Review Progress Report**

Clive Harris introduced this report which updates Members on the progress of Defra's waste review following the LG Group's response to it, and the key recommendations expected in the final report when it is published in May. Clive informed members that their comments would be used as a steer for the meeting arranged between Baroness Eaton and Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for Environment, at the end of March.

Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers:

- Members stressed the importance of collection frequency continuing to be decided locally and noted that more should be done at both the national and local level to combat food waste. Members agreed that behaviour change was crucial in this to ensure food waste was moved up the hierarchy and that there was a role for central and local government and civil society in achieving this.
- Members agreed that more emphasis should be placed on tackling the problem of generating waste at source as well as dealing with the end product.

**Decision**

Members **noted** the contents of the report.

**Action**

- Officers to feed Members' comments into the meeting between Caroline Spelman and Baroness Eaton.

Clive Harris

**4 Environment & Housing Programme Board Improvement and Development Review Panel – Final Report**

Cllr Clyde Loakes introduced this item which provides a summary and list of recommendations which Members of the Review Panel put together in light of discussions around the Group's current improvement offer in relation to council priorities and the national policy landscape, and how the Environment & Housing Programme Board will need to work in relation to the improvement and development priorities of the sector in future.

In discussion Members commented that further work would be necessary to discern what information should be presented to the Board when dealing with performance of individual councils to ensure that the situation is represented accurately.

**Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

**Action**

- Officers to take forward the recommendations set out in the report, and do further work in light of Members'

Martin Wheatley

comments.

## 5 Compare Renewables Resource

Helen Pineo gave a presentation to Members on the new online resource and publication developed for councillors and senior officers on renewable energy. The resource is designed to help councils and community groups understand which low and zero carbon energy opportunities might be right for their area.

### ***Decision***

*Members noted the launch of this resource.*

## 6 Getting Closer – changes to the LG Group

Martin Wheatley updated Members on changes to the LG Group over the next two months and their likely implications for the work of the LG Group boards, panels and commissions.

The Chair on behalf of the board thanked the staff for their continuing hard work over the last few months in the face of these difficulties.

### ***Decision***

*Members noted the report.*

### **Action**

- Officers to circulate final staffing structures when available.

Officers

## 7 Local Government Group and Environment Agency working together to tackle waste crime

Cllr Clyde Loakes updated Members on the meeting of 11 January which he co-chaired with the Environment Agency on behalf of the LG Group which focused on tackling waste crime, and identifying opportunities to support each others' activities with duplicating efforts.

### ***Decision***

*Members noted the report.*

- Officers to take forward work in this area and provide progress reports to members.

**8 Update on other Board Business**

***Decision***

Members **noted** the report of the Inland Flood Risk Management Group and the Chairs' Reports.

**9 Note of previous meeting**

***Decision***

Members **agreed** the note of the last meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 25 May: open event with the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (details tbc)

Monday 27 June 2011: meeting in Crowne Plaza, Birmingham , to coincide with the LG Group Annual Conference



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BIRMINGHAM  
CITY CENTRE

**Crowne Plaza Birmingham City Centre**  
Central Square  
Birmingham B1 1HH England

tel +44 (0)870 400 91 50  
fax +44 (0)121 643 90 18  
www.birmingham.crowneplaza.com

