

Environment and Housing Programme Board

Agenda

Wednesday 16 November
11.00am

The Westminster Suite
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

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

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Environment and Housing Programme Board

16 November 2011

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

11.00 am on **Wednesday 16 November 2011** in the Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ. A sandwich lunch will be served after the meeting.

Please refer to your Political Group office (see contact details below) for group meeting timings.

Attendance Sheet

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

Apologies

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

Labour: Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative: Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: angela.page@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Location

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

LGA Contact:

Sarah Monaghan: Tel: 020 7664 3214, e-mail: sarah.monaghan@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance: As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.08 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.

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http://www.parkplaza.com/hotels/gbriver?s_cid=se.bmm2175

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-1785-novotel-london-waterloo/index/shtml>

Environment & Housing Programme Board

Environment & Housing Programme Board - Membership 2011/12

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
David Parsons CBE [Chairman]	Leicestershire CC
Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Andrew Gravells	Gloucestershire CC/Gloucester City
Clare Whelan	Lambeth LB
Frances Roden	Stroud DC
Eddy Poll	Lincolnshire CC
Substitutes:	
Chris Hayward	Three Rivers DC
Brian Hood MBE	Monmouthshire CC
Peter Hardy	South Bucks DC
Labour (5)	
Clyde Loakes [Vice Chair]	Waltham Forest LB
Tony Newman	Croydon LB
Ed Turner	Oxford City
Tim Moore	Liverpool City
Tracey Simpson-Laing	City of York
Substitute	
Richard Williams	Southampton City
TBC	
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Keith House [Deputy Chair]	Eastleigh BC
Terry Stacy JP MBE	Islington LB
Simon Galton	Leicestershire CC
Substitute	
Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse DC
Independent (1)	
Andrew Cooper [Deputy Chair]	Kirklees MBC
Substitute:	
John Taylor	Northumberland Council

LGA Environment & Housing Programme Board Attendance 2011-2012

Councillors	14.09.11	16.11.11	11.01.12	14.03.12	16.05.12	25.06.12
Conservative Group						
David Parsons CBE	Yes					
Mike Jones	Yes					
Andrew Gravells	No					
Clare Whelan	Yes					
Frances Roden	Yes					
Eddy Poll	Yes					
Labour Group						
Clyde Loakes	Yes					
Tony Newman	Yes					
Ed Turner	Yes					
Tim Moore	Yes					
Tracey Simpson-Laing	Yes					
Lib Dem Group						
Keith House	Yes					
Terry Stacy	No					
Simon Galton	Yes					
Independent						
Andrew Cooper	Yes					
Substitutes						
Peter Hardy	Yes					
Angela Lawrence	Yes					

Agenda

LGA Environment & Housing Programme Board

16 November 2011

11.00am

The Westminster Suite

	Item	Page	Time
Part 1			
1.	Meeting the Housing Challenge Angela Brady (President, The Royal Institute of British Architects), Steve Partridge (Director of Financial Policy and Development, Chartered Institute of Housing) and Liz Peace (Chief Executive, British Property Federation) will attend.	3	11.00am
2.	The National Planning Policy Framework in practice Phil Kirby (Chief Executive) and Cllr Andrew Proctor (Leader) of Broadland Council, and the Planning Advisory Service will attend.	9	12.00pm
3.	Update on the new Nottingham Declaration and the Green Deal	47	12.45pm
Part 2			
4.	Update on other Board Business	53	12.55pm
5.	Decisions and actions from previous meeting	81	1.00pm

Date of next meeting: 11.00am, Wednesday 11 January 2011

Meeting the Housing Challenge

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction

Summary

This report sets the background for discussion at the meeting on the opportunities and challenges councils are facing with the housing reform agenda.

Angela Brady (Royal Institute of British Architects), Steve Partridge (Chartered Institute of Housing), Liz Peace (British Property Federation) will be attending the meeting to briefly present their views, and participate in the discussion.

Recommendation

Members are asked to use the attached report to inform a discussion on recent reforms to housing.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Meeting the Housing Challenge

Background

1. There have been a large number of policy changes, proposals and initiatives both within the Localism Bill and outside which have a significant impact on the role of local authorities housing services and how they are delivered.

The issues

2. Key changes affecting councils include:
 - 2.1 Reform of the **Housing Finance System**, allowing councils which own housing stock to retain rental income, giving more freedom to manage, maintain and invest in housing. The LGA has been generally supportive of the reform which reflects a long term LGA campaign; however we have lobbied through the Localism Bill to remove the power for the Secretary of State to impose a borrowing cap on local authorities. The LGA is also working with others including The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) and Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) to develop support and advice for local authorities through the transition arrangements. An area of current concern is the impact of inflation on rents and the settlement which could significantly increase the debt that councils are required to take on. We expect the revised settlement will be published in draft in November.
 - 2.2 Proposals to increase the discount on **Right to Buy**; the recently announced proposals could significantly affect future sustainability of self financing if the number of sales increase and councils are not allowed to retain enough of the receipt to invest in replacement stock. The LGA is lobbying for councils to have discretion over setting the discount and for 100% local retention of proceeds from sales.
 - 2.3 The introduction of the **Affordable Rent** model, designed to generate additional financial capacity to support new supply. Registered Providers bid for funding to build homes to be made available at up to a maximum of 80% of market rent.
 - 2.4 **Changes to tenure** arrangements removing the requirement to offer lifetime tenancies to new tenants and flexibility to offer shorter terms.
 - 2.5 A new approach to regulation with the abolition of the **Tenant's Services Authority** and the transfer of its regulatory functions to the Homes and Communities Agency. The new regulatory framework will look at consumer issues only in relation to councils and will not undertake a proactive

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inspection programme; with powers of intervention limited to cases of serious detriment. The LGA is working to influence the shape of the new system.

- 2.6 A new duty requiring local authorities to draw up a **tenancy strategy** and for registered providers to have regard to the strategy. LGA in partnership with the National Housing Federation (NHF) pursued amendments to the localism bill on this issue.
- 2.7 The **Welfare Reform Bill** abolishes Housing Benefit and rolls housing costs into Universal Credit. The Government has announced its intention to introduce, through regulations, a reduction in the amount of financial support social housing tenants will receive if they are deemed to be “under-occupying” a property, such as where there is an empty bedroom. The LGA is focusing on the case for a locally-commissioned face to-face service with regard to Universal Credit.
- 2.8 Introducing the ability for councils to **discharge the main homelessness duty** to secure accommodation with an offer of suitable accommodation from a private landlord, without requiring the applicant’s agreement. The LGA is working with our private sector housing network to address issues including standards in the private rented sector.

Response to the reforms

Sector and professional bodies

3. The **National Housing Federation (NHF)** have questioned how the affordable rent reforms would tie in with housing benefit changes and how effective they would be in low value housing areas. They have however welcomed some elements of the scheme, particularly the key role of councils in agreeing investment plans.
4. The **NHF, Shelter** and the **CIH** launched a jointly authored Housing Report on 17th October 2011 highlighting that the reform agenda has not yet addressed the shortfall in housing supply and homelessness. The report does however cite positive results in reducing the number of empty homes.¹
5. The **CIH** have been broadly supportive of the reform agenda and recognise it has the potential to contribute to a modern and more flexible approach to social housing. However the **CIH** and the **British Property Federation (BPF)** have claimed government assumptions that cutting benefits will reduce private rents

¹ <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/tenancies/ministers-promise-to-improve-record-on-housing/6518451.article>

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could be flawed. They argue benefit payments have risen at a time when rents are falling because of changes in the make up of claimants.

Voluntary and Community sector

6. **Shelter** support the principles of the new Universal Credit, however also cite that the Welfare reform bill will introduce a second wave of cuts to housing benefit, undermining the housing safety net for people who lose their jobs and need temporary financial help to keep their homes, as well as affecting those who are in work but on very low incomes, or who are unable to work due to old age or disability².
7. **Civic Voice** welcomes the proposed changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure a “meaningful proportion” goes direct to communities³.

Media Reaction

8. Affordable homes project reaches £560m

A total of £102million has been awarded to eight different housing associations to deliver 4,999 new homes. These latest grants mean a total of £560million has been awarded so far for almost 28,000 new homes.⁴

9. Private rents unaffordable for families in most English boroughs

Shelter Rent Watch found that average private rents were unaffordable for ordinary working families in 55% of local authorities in England. Typical rents charged by private landlords were more than a third of median take-home pay, the widely accepted measure of affordability.⁵

10. Home Swap Scheme to get jobless moving

The planned house swap scheme could involve a national database of properties around the country. However, critics accused the Government of trying to blame rising unemployment solely on a lack of mobility⁶.

²

http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/policy_library/policy_library_folder/briefing_welfare_reform_bill_-_commons_report_stage_and_third_reading

³ http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/uploads/files/Localism_Bill_-_briefing_for_House_of_Lords_-_June_11.pdf

⁴ <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/development/affordable-homes-projects-reach-£560m/6518585.article>

⁵ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2011/oct/13/families-unable-to-afford-rents>

⁶ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8830112/House-swap-scheme-to-get-jobless-moving.html>

11. Economists call for more investment in housing

Housing experts and economists agreed that if the latest round of the government's move to inject cash into the economy - failed, there was a good case for achieving growth through direct investment in more affordable housing via the Homes and Communities Agency, housing associations and local authorities.⁷

⁷ <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/development/economists-call-for-more-investment-in-housing/6518520.article>

Item 2

The National Planning Policy Framework in practice

Purpose of Report

For discussion and direction

Summary

This paper provides a summary of the LGA's position on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and seeks Members' views on the approach to sector led planning guidance. The paper also provides a summary of support provided by the Planning Advisory Service to councils.

Members will receive a presentation from Broadland District Council, and the Planning Advisory Service will also be in attendance to discuss the impact of the planning reforms on the ground and the support on offer from the LGA.

Recommendations

1. That the Programme Board **notes** the LGA response to the NPPF and support offer to councils.
2. That the Programme Board provides a **steer** as to the LGA's approach to guidance and agree that the Chairman and Planning Portfolio Holders should develop a series of core principles to underpin our approach going forward, paragraph 5.

Action

As advised by the Programme Board.

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The National Planning Policy Framework in practice

Part 1

The LGA's response to the National Planning Policy Framework

1. The LGA has worked with councils to respond to the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The LGA has long lobbied for a streamlined and accessible planning system and has been supportive of the Government's efforts to simplify the planning system through the NPPF. A copy of the LGA consultation response is attached at **Appendix A**, and a summary of key issues are provided below.

Sustainable Development

2. We agree with the principle of sustainable development as defined in the NPPF. The LGA has argued through its response that sustainable development only makes sense at a local level and as such has called for a better balance between economic, environmental and social issues across the NPPF as a whole. This is important in allowing locally elected councillors the flexibility to make the necessary trade off's locally.

Transition arrangements

3. The LGA has put forward proposals to government that would ensure that local people and businesses remain in the driving seat in shaping their local area by providing a reasonable chance for local authorities to get their plans in place and update them in line with the new framework. The government has indicated that it will put in place 'appropriate' transition arrangements; representing a significant achievement for the programme board. Councillor Parsons, Chairman of the Programme Board has written to Greg Clark MP setting out our detailed proposals for a smooth and managed transition and offering the Association's support going forward. The LGA's proposals can be summarised as follows:
 - 3.1 For councils who have not yet adopted a local plan; we suggest that a reasonable timetable based on Local Development Schemes published by councils and the information the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) currently hold should be set. The LGA has offered our support to work with the government and PINs to determine an appropriate timescale for this. In the interim we suggest councils could publish a list of which pre-existing policies or evidence they will be using as a basis for decision making in advance of getting a local plan in place. This list could be updated as evidence is updated and new policies emerge.

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- 3.2 For those councils who have a local plan adopted or are at a late stage of preparation; we suggest that councils should have the opportunity to inform PINS that their plan is in conformity – the plan is therefore considered as a sound basis for decision making unless the inspectorate identify specific areas not in conformity and remedial actions to be carried out within a set period. In the interim councils should be able to adopt specific parts of national or regional evidence and adopt them as supplementary planning guidance – we would envisage this occurring on an exceptions basis.

Planning Guidance

4. The LGA has long lobbied for the simplification of the planning system and has argued that technical guidance to support councils should be led by appropriate sector groups and only in cases where there is a clear need. There is scope to use PAS survey mechanisms to measure a number of these issues. **Member's views would be welcomed on the following key issues:**
- 4.1 The basis on which the need for guidance should be determined. For example, this might include:
- 4.1.1 Where there is a clear (cross) sectoral call for guidance
 - 4.1.2 Where lack of guidance would lead to delay, confusion, challenge or increased costs
 - 4.1.3 Where the lack of guidance would bring the planning system into disrepute
- 4.2 The role of government (and specifically the planning inspectorate) in endorsing any guidance or advice produced by the sector or on a cross sector basis.
- 4.3 The balance between national sector led guidance and support for locally commissioned guidance (at authority or sub regional level for example).
- 4.4 The resource and risk implications for the LGA if it plays an active part in the creation or promotion of guidance.
5. It is proposed that based on Member's views officers should work with the Programme Board Chairman and Planning Portfolio Holders to develop a series of principles which will underpin the Programme Board's approach to planning guidance.

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Part 2

Planning support offer to Councils

6. The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) is a grant funded programme. The team works with local authorities (officers and councillors) to help them to respond to the planning reform agenda and improve the delivery of planning.
7. The four priority areas for support identified with and signed off by the Environment and Housing Board for the 2011-12 business plan are:
 - 7.1 Understanding and responding to planning reform
 - 7.2 Strong and strategic planning by local authorities for neighbourhoods and local areas
 - 7.3 Effective development management and good decision making
 - 7.4 Accountable and value for money planning services.

PAS 6 month review

8. The Planning Advisory Service's 6 month activity review is attached as **Appendix B** to this report. PAS has made good progress in delivering on its business plan. In summary, since April, 40 separate events have been held across four main themes of understanding planning reforms, benchmarking and improvement, community infrastructure levy and neighbourhood planning. Around 1,250 people came to at least one of these events. Overall, feedback from the evaluation form demonstrates over 90% delegates found the events to be good or very good.
9. Along with 'getting a local plan in place' these areas have been the focus of activity over the first 6 months of this year's programme. In addition, 14 councillor briefing sessions have been held covering 40 local authorities and over 60 councils who do not yet have a plan in place are receiving bespoke support. The benchmarking programme had over 216 authorities take part, and is the biggest collection of raw data on planning costs ever undertaken (to our knowledge).
10. Over the remainder of the year will continue work on these themes, as well as delivering and contributing to 13 leadership academies, running 6 planning peer reviews, delivering support on strategic planning and the duty to co-operate and looking at responding to planning reform.

Financial Implications

11. The planning support offer will be delivered within existing budgets. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

**LGA response to draft National Planning Policy
Framework consultation (17 October 2011)**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Local Government Association (LGA) is here to support, promote and improve local government. We will fight local government's corner and support councils through challenging times by making the case for greater devolution, helping councils tackle their challenges and assisting them to deliver better value for money services. www.local.gov.uk
- 1.2. This response has been agreed by the LGA's Environment and Housing Programme Board. The Environment and Housing Programme Board has responsibility for LGA activity in the area of the sustainability of the environment, including issues of planning, waste and housing.

2. Summary

- 2.1. We support the government in its aim to simplify the planning system. Removing unnecessary bureaucracy and prescription will allow local people and their directly elected representatives to plan effectively for the development of their area.
- 2.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) moves away from complex and sometimes contradictory national policy and swathes of guidance to focus on key principles. This approach will support councils to develop strong local plans which reflect local needs and priorities and support sustainable growth, wealth generation and employment. However, councils have two key recommendations:
- i. Sustainable Development only makes sense at a local level. We agree with the principle of sustainable development as defined at the beginning of the document. **The document as a whole must balance economic, environmental and social issues equally.** This is important in allowing locally elected councillors the flexibility to make the necessary trade off's locally.
 - ii. Councils must have **adequate time and resource** to get sensible plans and new evidence bases underpinning them in place.

3. Key asks:

- 3.1. **The NPPF needs to be balanced** - Whilst economic growth is very important, the NPPF must give greater clarification and reassurance that all three aspects

of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) are important and valid objectives of planning.

- 3.2. **Sustainable development can only be defined locally** - The NPPF should make clear that it will be for the local plan to set out what sustainable development means for the local area and the development required to deliver it.

- 3.3. **Robust local evidence underpins good planning and development** - Councils welcome the flexibility to be able to do this locally. It is important to get this right; this takes time and resources. It is therefore vitally important that appropriate transition mechanisms are put in place.
- 3.4. **The power of Planning Inspectorate (PINs) should not encroach upon matters which are, quite properly, the subject of local political decision.** Moves through the Localism Bill to restrict the power of the PINs to overturn local decisions are welcome. However this must be taken further. The role of PINs is not to second guess or undermine the judgement of democratic representatives as long as those judgements are based on robust evidence. All other issues must be left for local determination.
- 3.5. **Local determination of additional land supply for housing** - The requirement for local authorities to identify a 20% surplus allowance over and above the five year land supply should be removed. Uniformly requiring an additional 20% appears to be the imposition of an arbitrary national target. As such it is contrary to the general principles in the NPPF for local discretion and evidence based planning. It should be for local areas to decide based on past delivery against their 5-year supply if identification of additional surplus land will assist in bringing forward development and to determine what level of additional land is appropriate. In addition, councils should have the discretion to include windfall sites in allocations of surplus land.
- 3.6. **Good Design is essential to creating places people want to live.** The NPPF should recognise the importance of design in improving localities and enhancing people's quality of life and local areas should be able to pursue standards of design quality that are higher than the national minimum standards.
- 3.7. **Councils value and protect green space.** The new green spaces designation is a very helpful new tool to enable communities to protect and create valued green spaces. It is important however that this is done in the context of locally set strategic priorities.
- 3.8. **The way in which councils cooperate is best decided locally.** We agree with the way in which the Duty to Cooperate is expressed in the NPPF. Cooperation between partners and councils can not be meaningfully prescribed at a national level and it is helpful the government has recognised this.
- 3.9. **Technical guidance to support councils should be led by appropriate sector groups and only in cases where there is a clear need-** We welcome the removal of bureaucratic and prescriptive national guidance. Where there is a need for common approach amongst stakeholders, then appropriate sector groups working together

supported by government should define and lead on developing any technical guidance required.

3.10. Councils must be given time to put in place plans and new evidence bases.

- We agree that it is imperative that local plans are in place as soon as possible.

However, councils must have adequate time and resource to put in place sensible plans that conform to the NPPF and new evidence bases underpinning them in place to ensure that local needs are met and local people have a say in the development that affects them. This will require clear transition arrangements so that citizens, councils and developers have certainty about when and how the presumption of sustainable development will apply. Those areas who have invested a significant of time and resources in getting an up to date local plan in place prior to the changes should not be required to go through the process again or face further delays. It is important that any process for registering conformity is light touch and swift. LGA have developed proposals on arrangements for the transition as follows:

- i. Those areas with sound, up to date plans in place, or who have published a plan by 1st April 2012 to confirm to PINs that their plan conforms to the NPPF. It will then be for PINs to accept this confirmation or provide specific areas to be addressed if not accepted. Councils will then have a reasonable period of time to address these issues during which time PINs should engage and cooperate in a dialogue on the issues and actions required. Throughout that process (until the end of the agreed time for revision) the plan will be considered as a sound basis for decision making.
- ii. A phased programme for councils who do not yet have a plan in place which will require them to set out a simple timeline for completion of their plan at which point the presumption will apply.
- iii. We invite further discussion with government on what a realistic timeframe for the completion of all plans should be and on the detail behind these proposals.

SECTION B:

Main Consultation Response

i. About you

(i). Your details:

Name:	Russell Reefer
Position:	Policy and Development Programmes Adviser
Name of Org:	Local Government Association (LGA)
Address:	Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
Email	info@local.gov.uk
Telephone	0207 664 3131

(ii). Are the views expressed on this consultation an official response from the organisation you represent or your own personal views?

Organisational response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personal view	<input type="checkbox"/>

(ii). Are the views expressed on this consultation in connection with your membership or support of any group? If yes please state the name of the group.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(iv) Please tick the one box which best describes you or your organisation:

Other public body (please state)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

(V). Would you be happy for us to contact you again in relation to this consultation?

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1a The Framework has the right approach to establishing and defining the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

We agree with the principles for Sustainable Development set out in the document, but what constitutes sustainable development in an area can only be meaningfully defined at local level in the context of local circumstances and priorities. It is important that the NPPF as a whole provides a balance between economic, environmental and social issues so that elected councillors can decide weighting and trade offs between priorities at local level.

Whilst economic growth is very important, the NPPF must give greater clarification and reassurance that all three aspects of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) are important and valid objectives of planning.

To achieve this, the final sentence of **Paragraph 14** should be amended to read “*All of these policies should apply where practical and consistent with the policies in this framework taken as a whole*”. This will allow a more balanced application of the principles of sustainable development than the current draft which stipulates that development should be allowed unless the negative impacts “*significantly and demonstrably*” outweigh the benefits. The same phrasing should be reflected in **Paragraphs 20** and **110** on local plans.

LGA suggests three further issues to be addressed with regard the presumption:

- i. The presumption in favour of sustainable development cannot overrule the presumption in favour of the Development Plan that is already enshrined in law Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. We therefore need a clearer understanding of exactly how and when it comes into play.
- ii. LPAs must retain reasonable leverage to make decisions and secure multiple benefits based on “locally determined sustainable development priorities”.
- iii. Phasing “the presumption” over a period of time with clear and achievable timescale for councils and the PINS to work to

In the reference to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the draft NPPF says that CIL should support new development by “*placing control over a meaningful proportion of the funds raised with the neighbourhoods...*” The final NPPF must make it clear that decisions about what a meaningful proportion is and arrangements for devolving funding to neighbourhoods should be made locally by democratically elected representatives to ensure accountability.

PLAN-MAKING

2a. The Framework has clarified the tests of soundness, and introduces a useful additional test to ensure local plans are positively prepared to meet objectively assessed need and infrastructure requirements.

Local Plans

We agree with the principle that the number of local plans should be kept to a minimum; however there are occasions when supplementary planning documents (SPDs), when creatively used, have proved to be helpful to both planning authorities and the development industry. LGA suggests NPPF recognise the value of SPDs as tools in a localised planning system [ref **Paragraph 21**] [See also our response to Question 12a on Design].

Under current arrangements, they can be used to provide clarity to developers of how Councils intend to tackle complex local issues such as potentially controlling betting shops, takeaways, HMOs and moneylenders. Attempting to tackle such issues comprehensively in local plans, given the lack of prescription at the national level, will result in lengthy complex documents

Paragraph 26 – Suggest including reference to the role of locally agreed timescales for delivering up to date local plans (perhaps using simplified Local Development Schemes (LDS)). The LGA believes that they are useful in providing general trajectory of when plans are expected to be delivered and could be used to assist transitional arrangements.

Paragraph 26 cont'd- 'It will be open to local planning authorities to seek a certificate of conformity with the Framework'. We suggest that where a sound plan is already or is soon to be in place, it should be for LPAs to confirm to PINS that their plan conforms with the NPPF. The plan will be considered as sound unless challenged by PINs. LGA have developed proposals on arrangements for this transition which we are happy to discuss in further detail.

Paragraph 27 Whilst it would clearly be inappropriate for a plan wilfully to ignore market signals, one of the responsibilities of the planning system is to look beyond the immediate present. A fifteen-year plan will span a number of economic cycles. LGA recommends government qualify this last sentence by adding the following "particularly where these are indicative of longer-term issues for the local community".

Paragraph 28 – We support the inclusion of strong levers to facilitate affordable housing and to meet people's special housing needs. For example, housing which is specially designed or designated for older people.

Ensuring viability and deliverability

Paragraph 39. LGA are keen to ensure that the drafting of the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the viability sections gives clear and unambiguous protection for local discretion by local decision makers.

The current approach to economic 'viability' (which requires developers to be able to make an 'acceptable' return on investment 'throughout the economic cycle') gives too much scope for developers to avoid meeting necessary infrastructure costs or building to the quality desired by many local communities.

This is not consistent with the principles of the previous section Delivering Sustainable Development 'guiding development to sustainable environmental, social, economic solutions' (**Paragraph 10**). It will also make it very difficult to implement other elements of the NPPF, for example the way in which "incentives and relevant (CIL?) "charges" and "revenue generated from development will help sustain local services, fund infrastructure and deliver

environmental enhancement” (see **Paragraph 18**) or deliver the strategic priorities of key infrastructure in the local plan as defined under **Paragraph 23**.

Paragraph 41 states “*Local planning authorities...should assess the likely cumulative impacts on development in their area of all existing and proposed local standards, SPDs and policies that support the development plan, when added to nationally required standards*”.

LGA believes the NPPF should not restrict local authorities from setting local standards that exceed minimum national standards where these would be supported by evidence to demonstrate that they are achievable and viable.

We therefore suggest full replacement wording for **Paragraph 41** as follows:

“Local planning authorities should ensure that proposed local standards, SPDs and policies that support the development plan are appropriate to their locality and do not unreasonably threaten the viability of development which accords with local plan policies.”

Paragraph 50 states that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan. However **Paragraph 51** states when a neighbourhood plan is made, the policies it contains “take precedence over the existing policies in the local plan for that neighbourhood”. There is scope for confusion between these two paragraphs and we would recommend the final NPPF clarifies this.

JOINT WORKING

2c & 2d The policies for planning strategically across local boundaries provide a clear framework and enough flexibility for councils and other bodies to work together effectively.

The LGA acknowledges that some issues – waste, energy, infrastructure, housing, flooding – are just too big to be dealt with by an individual authority. We therefore support the emphasis placed on LPAs collaborating, with each other, and with other public bodies including county councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), to understand and plan for the wider economic and housing market areas of which they are a part.

We agree with the way in which the Duty to Cooperate is expressed in the NPPF and that the way in which councils cooperate is best decided locally.

We have numerous examples of councils working together across areas to plan for strategic priorities and we are keen to play a leading role in spreading innovation and best practice across the sector.

For this reason we believe that the NPPF should not be prescriptive about how LPAs cooperate and suggest that the 2nd sentence in **Paragraph 46** should be amended to read: *“This could be by way of plans of policies prepared as part of a joint committee, a memorandum of understanding, a jointly prepared strategy or any other means deemed locally appropriate which can be presented as evidence of an agreed position.”*

As an additional point, LGA would recommend government reflect on this drafting in **Paragraph 44** to underscore the importance of the duty to cooperate by encouraging robust and timely co-operation from non-council public authorities.

Non-council public authorities could include for example organisations with functions of a public nature and statutory undertakers, e.g. former public utilities such as water companies, electricity and gas supply companies, who have a key impact on the lives of local communities and residents). We do not propose that these bodies should be identified in the NPPF as the need for their involvement will vary in different areas. However, it is essential

that the different bodies with responsibilities for the relevant assets are encouraged to proactively collaborate with LPAs.

DECISION TAKING

3a. In the policies on development management, the level of detail is appropriate.

LGA would recommend the final version of the section relating to Development Management contain an explicit reference to enforcement and the role of the local authority in this respect.

Paragraph 54 advises that local authorities should attach significant weight to the 'benefits of economic and housing growth'. We agree that it is right that LPAs attach importance to these outcomes (and would argue that they already do), however it is also important that they are also able to factor environmental and social considerations into development management decisions. We therefore suggest the following amendments:

Paragraph 54: Add additional principle that makes it clear that LPAs are "*able to refusal a proposal for development which is not sustainable as defined by the local plan*"

Paragraph 54: Add additional principle "*These principles should be applied on the basis of delivering development that respects the vision and aspirations of the local community as defined by the local plan*".

Paragraph 56 to 61: We strongly agree that pre-application engagement and front-loading has an important part to play in making the planning system more efficient and agree that developers should be encouraged to engage in pre-application processes. These principles should be reflected throughout the final draft.

We would also recommend that the NPPF should allow for incentives to encourage developers to promptly implement their planning permissions.

Paragraph 64: Article 4 and local development orders. We agree that these tools can be an affective means of localising the planning system and tailoring it to local circumstances. However this should be a matter of local discretion and the NPPF should not impose rigidity or seek to prescribe the circumstances in which they are used.

Paragraph 70: We agree that planning obligations and conditions should not be "unnecessary", however it is important that what constitutes "necessary" should be determined locally by LPAs.

4a Any guidance needed to support the new Framework should be light-touch and could be provided by organisations outside Government.

We believe that where there is strong and specific consensus around the need for common approach amongst stakeholders, then appropriate sector groups working together should define and lead any technical guidance on that approach. The LGA is already involved in various working groups on common approaches and sector assistance.

There are opportunities for councils themselves to generate guidance that is more meaningful than previous government guidance and addresses the issues that are most pertinent to councils.

The final aim of such programmes is to look for particular collaborative approaches and/or methodologies that could be acknowledged (but not explicitly insisted on) by central government as good practice because of the way it has been produced.

4b What should any separate guidance cover and who is best placed to provide it?

Where there is strong consensus around the need for some common approach amongst stakeholders, then we believe the appropriate sector groups working together can help decide what appropriate "guidance" is.

To successfully take this agenda forward, the LGA recommends that that central government clarifies the following:

What remains in terms of statutory guidance or regulation, including circulars, guidance notes and statements and;

Where –if anywhere- they will maintain an interest in resourcing or quality-assuring.

The Planning Inspectorate will need to work closely with the sector to ensure that advice and good practice will be reflected in the assessment of plans and appeal decisions.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5a. The 'planning for business' policies will encourage economic activity and give business the certainty and confidence to invest.

The requirement not to protect employment land or floor space is supported where it is no longer able to fulfil a useful economic function. However, there may be occasions when it is necessary to protect good employment sites that fulfil a useful economic function from other competing, higher-value land uses. It is therefore recommended that the NPPF allow local authorities to maintain maximum discretion for well evidenced land designations throughout the economic cycle. It should also be recognised that undeveloped land can have a sustained lasting economic value in terms of agriculture, tourism and amenity and can be strongly related to the quality of life of the people in the area.

Paragraph 19 The second bullet point should be amended to read “...Every effort should be made to identify and meet the housing business and other development needs of an area and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth, except where this would compromise key sustainability principles.”

Councils need the levers to make connections between spatial planning and other “people-based” regeneration and growth initiatives, such as the work programme. This will require a joined up approach and buy-in to the NPPF from all government departments.

Paragraph 74 makes a direct reference to councils utilising “the presumption” in considering applications for planning permission. As outlined in our opening comments, NPPF must give greater clarification and reassurance that all three aspects of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) are important and valid objectives of planning.

Paragraph 75: “Planning policies should avoid the long term protection of employment land...” There is a potential conflict between Paragraph 24, which seems to encourage LPAs making long-term designations of land and Paragraph 75, which states that the long term protection of employment land should be avoided.

We recommend **Paragraph 75** is amended as follows “local authorities should seek to avoid protecting historic allocations of employment land in situations where there is no evidence of it ever being taken up, but where there is evidence of a demand for some other use of it which would be appropriate.”

5c What market signals could be most useful in plan making and decisions, and how could such information be best used to inform decisions?

Whilst it would clearly be inappropriate for a plan wilfully to ignore market signals, one of the responsibilities of the planning system is to look beyond the immediate present. A fifteen-year plan will span a number of economic cycles.

LGA suggest government qualify the in **Paragraph 19 third bullet point** to say “...to take into account local circumstances and market signals...particularly where these are indicative of longer-term issues for the local community”.

6a The town centre policies will enable communities to encourage retail, business and leisure development in the right locations and protect the vitality and viability of town centres.

The draft NPPF requires local planning policies to be positive and promote competitive town centre environment **Paragraph 76** retains the sequential test for retail and leisure use. The NPPF should reflect the importance of enabling local authorities to protect the diversity and of our local high streets to achieve the right balance for example between independent and multiple traders, unit sizes and local use classes.

LGA are keen to ensure that that taken as a whole final framework does not water down LPAs' discretion on this issue, as this could lead to an increase in stand-alone retail developments at the expense of our shopping parades, high streets and district town centres.

We also recommend the NPPF makes direct reference to town centres, out of centre sites and rural sites, the policy fails to consider smaller shopping parades sufficiently (these are often relied upon by communities to fulfil their everyday retail needs).

LGA propose that the first bullet point under **Paragraph 76** is amended to read: “*Planning policies should be positive, promote and support the viability, vitality of town centres, shopping parades and local retail and leisure facilities and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period...*”

The third bullet point of Paragraph 76 should reworded as follows: “*define the extend of the town centre and primary shopping area, based on a clear definition of primary and secondary frontages in designated centres, and set policies that make clear which uses will and will not be permitted in such locations*”

TRANSPORT

7a The policy on planning for transport takes the right approach.

Paragraph 83 should be more positive about sustainable transport outcomes and amended to read *“The planning system should therefore support a pattern of development which aims to facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport.”*

The objectives of transport policy **Paragraphs 84** miss the important social objective of transport policy, of giving people access to essential services. This needs to be fully reflected in an additional bullet point in the final version.

The last part of **Paragraph 86**: *‘...development should not be prevented or refused on transport grounds unless the residual impacts of development are severe...’* should be deleted.

Traffic generation is one of the major concerns stated by local communities in opposition to new development. Whilst it may be un-realistic for new development to improve existing traffic problems, it is surely reasonable to expect future conditions not to be significantly worse once mitigation measures have been implemented.

COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

8a Policy on communications infrastructure is adequate to allow effective communications development and technological advances.

It is important that the planning system supports the identification and focus on local communication priorities. For example, in rural areas without universal broadband coverage, LPAs may wish to prioritise investment in communication blackspot areas.

LGA therefore suggests that the words *‘ to meet the needs of their local communities’* are added at the end of the first sentence in **Paragraph 96**.

This would necessarily include identification of communication black spots.

MINERALS

9a The policies on minerals planning adopt the right approach.

Paragraph 101 We welcome the fact that the NPPF retains the system of a managed supply of aggregates through aggregate working parties (AWPs). To maintain this approach AWPs will need to continue being funded as they are presently by DCLG.

Paragraph 102 should confirm that the NPPF offers the same level of protection for landscapes in National Parks and AONBs as is set out in Circular 2010.

The section refers to "local planning authorities". In two-tier areas, the local planning authority and the minerals planning authority are not one and the same. It would be helpful therefore for the NPPF to use the term "minerals planning authority" for this section.

HOUSING

10a The policies on housing will enable communities to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, in the right location, to meet local demand.

There is clearly a case for an effective policy framework to be put into place to deliver high quality development (and associated infrastructure) in the right location, at the right time, to meet local demand.

The requirement for local authorities to identify a 20% surplus allowance over and above the five year land supply should be removed. Uniformly requiring an additional 20% appears to be the imposition of an arbitrary national target. As such it is contrary to the general principles in the NPPF for local discretion and evidence based planning. It should be for local areas to decide if identification of additional surplus land will assist in bringing forward development and to determine what level of additional land is appropriate. In addition, councils should have the discretion to include windfall sites in allocations of surplus land provided this is based on a robust evidenced view on the likelihood of future windfall sites coming forward.

The first bullet point of **Paragraph 109** should be amended to read "*use an evidence base to identify the full requirements for market and affordable housing in the housing market areas and use their local plan to meet local needs as far as is consistent with the sustainability principles set out in the local plan/framework....*"

Paragraph 110 should be amended to read "*...Local Plans should be prepared on the basis that objectively assessed development needs should be met, where practical and consistent with the principles and policies in this framework as a whole*".

PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS

11a The policy on planning for schools takes the right approach.

We strongly welcome the Government's decision not to pursue the idea of taking large parts of school-related development out of planning control.

This is in line with our earlier suggestions to government. See LGA & Planning Officers Society (POS) response to Consultation on "Planning for Schools Development" (December 2010) www.lga.gov.uk/planning

DESIGN

12a The policy on planning and design is appropriate and useful.

Good Design is essential to creating places people want to live. The NPPF should recognise the importance of design in improving localities and enhancing people's quality of life and local areas should be able to pursue standards of design quality that are higher than the national minimum standards.

LGA would support the inclusion of the following at the end of **Paragraph 114** "*there should be no acceptance of schemes that do not enhance their locality and improve people's quality of life.*"

Local Authority Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) may cover a range of issues, both thematic and site specific, and may expand policy or provide further detail to policies in a Local Plan. SPDs may take the form of design guides, area development briefs, master plan or issue-based documents, which supplement policies in a DPD.

As stated earlier, there are occasions when supplementary planning documents (SPDs), when creatively used, have proved to be helpful to both planning authorities and the development industry. LGA suggests NPPF recognise the value of SPDs as tools in a localised planning system [ref **Paragraph 21**]

GREEN BELT

13a The policy on planning and the Green Belt give a strong clear message on Green Belt protection?

The continuation of Green Belt policy in **Paragraph 137** "*Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances*" is supported.

The new green spaces designation is a very helpful new tool to enable communities to protect and create valued green spaces. It is important however that this is done in the context of locally set strategic priorities

Paragraph 145 sets out a list of development 'not inappropriate in Green Belt provided they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in Green Belt.' The last bullet point refers to development brought forward under a Community Right to Build Order. This suggests to some of our members that such Orders will override Green Belt policy. However, **Paragraph 50** states that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan. It would be useful to clarify precedence in this matter.

Some of our members felt that there was an inconsistency between the Framework policy for Green Belt and the draft PPS for traveller sites, leaving it unclear as to whether or not traveller sites can be allowed exceptionally within the Green Belt. They suggested the inclusion of a new paragraph between **Paragraphs 138** and **Paragraphs 139** along the following lines:

"Once the general extent of a Green Belt has been approved it should only be altered in exceptional circumstances and only after the local authority has fully considered opportunities for development within the urban areas contained by and beyond the Green Belt".

CLIMATE CHANGE, FLOODING AND COASTAL CHANGE

14a 14b The policy relating to climate change takes the right approach.

The climate change policies are currently located in the 'environmental section' of the NPPF. The text should make clear that they are equally relevant to the 'places' and 'prosperity' sections which would reflect Government's stated priority of moving to a "low carbon" economy. Climate Change mitigation and adaptation should also be given higher profile in the front section (pages 1-18) of the document to underline its importance as an objective of the planning system.

We recommend the role of council is promoted here, as recognised in the recent agreement between LGA and DECC. The LGA DECC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in particular acknowledges: "...*the pivotal role councils have in tackling climate change: by reducing carbon emissions from their own estate and operations; encouraging and enabling their residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their carbon emissions; and by achieving national priorities such as the Green Deal and renewable energy deployment in a locally appropriate way*".

Paragraph 148 - Water efficiency should be given equal promotion in the NPPF along side energy efficiency

Paragraph 150 states that when setting local requirements for a buildings' sustainability, local authorities should do so in a way consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards. Whilst we support this, LGA also believes that the NPPF should not discourage local authorities to setting local standards that exceed minimum national standards where these would be supported by evidence to demonstrate that they are achievable and viable.

14c The policy on renewable energy will support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy.

We agree that the policy will support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy projects. However the language used in **Paragraph 152** should be strengthened in order to clarify the central role LPAs have on deployment of renewable and low carbon energy. With this in mind we suggest the following:

Paragraph 152, Bullet one should start "*develop and seek the implementation of a positive strategy...*"

Paragraph 152, Bullet three should remove "*consider*" and start "*identify suitable areas...*"

Paragraph 152, Bullet three should replace "*maximise*" with "*optimise*" – this is will help emphasis quality of development not quantity'

Paragraph 153 "*does not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low-carbon energy*" - this will clearly increase the number of applications a LPA will need to deal with.

LGA recommend the NPPF includes consideration of the expectations on and responsibilities on developers or potential applicants in submitting planning applications which deal with delivery of renewable and low carbon energy.

Applications for renewable and low carbon energy development will often take longer to determine because of the complexity/sensitivity of the issues or the protracted nature of

negotiations. This is in an ideal opportunity for government to lay down some high level principles that set out expectations and responsibilities..

14e The draft Framework sets out clear and workable proposals for plan-making and development management for renewable and low carbon energy, including the test for developments proposed outside of opportunity areas identified by local authorities

Paragraph 153 advises on the approach local authorities should use in determining applications for renewable energy developments and sets out the test for developments proposed outside of opportunity areas.

We note that **Paragraph 153** “does not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low-carbon energy” it does require applicants to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the same criteria used by the authority for identifying opportunity areas.

LGA strongly welcomes this latter emphasis and we suggest that this principle is adopted across the whole NPPF document.

For example, we call for a shift of emphasis in the final framework, where if technical feasibility and “acceptable returns” are genuine obstacles, then the onus should be on the development applicant to provide evidence in a form that can be tested by the LPA. The key point is that the sustainability of any new development should not be subject to being ‘negotiated away’. In this sense viability must work both ways.

14g The policy on flooding and coastal change provides the right level of protection.

We agree it will be for individual local authorities in England to make their own decisions about policies for controlling flood risks, balanced against economic, social and environmental factors. As we have mentioned earlier in the briefing, where there is strong and specific consensus around the need for common approach amongst stakeholders, then appropriate sector groups working together should define and lead any technical guidance on that approach. The LGA is already involved in various working groups on common approaches and sector assistance.

Although not directly related to flooding but an important aspect of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) is the issue of Sustainable Drainage systems (SUDs) and the role of the proposed new SuDs Approval Bodies (SABs). The read across between NPPF and FWMA is not clear. SABs potentially add a further level of control into the planning system and goes against the aims of the NPPF to streamline the planning process. We recommend government clarifies this situation, as councils are currently expected to commence their new responsibilities from 1st April 2012.

NATURAL AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

15a Policy relating to the natural and local environment provides the appropriate framework to protect and enhance the environment.

It is important that any future the NPPF contain proposals fully take into account the Government’s national environmental priorities, if the positive ambition of the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) is to be realised.

Paragraph 130 – 132 The new green spaces designation is a very helpful new tool to enable communities to protect and create valued green spaces. It is important however that this is done in the context of locally set strategic priorities.

16 November 2011

Item 2

Appendix A

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

16a **This policy provides the right level of protection for heritage assets.**

No major comments - These sections seem broadly consistent with PPS 5

SECTION C: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. PLANNING FOR TRAVELLERS

- 1.1. Do you have views on the consistency of the draft Framework with the draft planning policy for traveller sites, or any other comments about the Government's plans to incorporate planning policy on traveller sites into the final National Planning Policy Framework?**
- 1.2. The LGA welcomes the incorporation of planning policy on traveller sites into the NPPF. We note however that the draft planning policy statement for traveller sites contained significantly more detail and policies than other policy areas covered in the draft NPPF and the format of the two documents are very different. We are keen to ensure there is sufficient scope for stakeholders to consult on this.
- 1.3. The LGA submitted a comprehensive response to the Planning for Traveller Sites Consultation (August 2011) www.lga.gov.uk/planning
- 1.4. The local plan remains the logical mechanism for any targets to be set. In public examination of the local plan local authorities must be prepared to defend the evidence base and reasoning that led to their proposed targets
- 1.5. We highlighted an issue with the use of historical rates to assess need. Planning for local need should not simply be a measure of demand – it should also be a measure of opportunity. Care therefore needs to be taken in the interpretation of historical trend data to avoid simply imposing higher targets on areas of past high incidence of traveller encampments, leaving those areas with a low incidence of traveller encampments avoiding their responsibilities to provide an equitable share of sites.
- 1.6. Currently there are policies in Planning for Traveller Sites that are, quite correctly, not consistent with the policies in the housing chapter of the NPPF. Whilst the NPPF states that planning permission for housing should be granted where a local authority can not currently demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing (**Paragraph 110**), Planning for Traveller Sites" states that where a 5 year supply can not be identified, temporary permissions should be favourably considered (Paragraph 26).
- 1.7. The LGA for example did not support the proposal that local authorities should be required to identify and maintain a 5 year supply of deliverable gypsy and traveller pitches to meet identified need.
- 1.8. Overall, **a five year target for meeting outstanding evidenced need is reasonable for the first round of plan-making** following the coming into effect of the NPPF, but the concept of a rolling 5 year supply thereafter is not necessarily appropriate to this very specialist form of residential accommodation. A **commitment to monitor outstanding need on a reasonable frequency** - along with an indication as to what the government considers to be a reasonable frequency - would be more useful.

2. SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 2.1. There is an important overall issue here in that the impact assessment only focuses on the acknowledged changes to policy, not on the collective impact of the NPPF as a whole.
- 2.2. At the very least the Government should undertake a 'light touch' appraisal of sustainability of the document (similar to that undertaken for National Policy Statements on Infrastructure)
- 2.3. The NPPF Impact Assessment recognises that local authorities will incur additional costs as a result of the proposals in the NPPF. These include the costs associated with the need to provide information to other local authorities and partner organisations under the 'Duty to Cooperate' and those arising from the need to fill policy gaps e.g. parking standards for major non-residential developments and developing an evidence base to justify a community facilities policy. Under the new burdens policy, additional cost incurred by local authorities as a result of revised national policy should be funded by central government.

3. SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON NATIONAL PARK PLANNING POLICY .

- 3.1. The NPPF should recognise National Park Authorities (NPAs) undertake planning within protected landscapes to deliver national park statutory purposes. NPAs should be given local flexibility within the NPPF to be able to achieve this in a way which reflects local circumstance.

3.2. Sustainable Development in National Parks.

We are looking for clarity in the NPPF that development that is likely to have a significant adverse effect on national parks statutory purposes would not be sustainable under the presumption in favour of development (as SAC and SPA sites are).

- 3.3. This does not mean that development will not necessarily go ahead, but it would recognise that if significant adverse effects are likely then to apply the presumption would be inappropriate.

3.4. Supporting established planning principles.

- 3.5. We look to Government to include the sentence from PPS7 on National Parks/AONBs and Broads as having the highest level of protection. This is omitted at present, and represents a weakening of protection for these places.

3.6. Meeting local needs housing.

- 3.7. It is important to clarify that NPAs need to respond to meeting local needs housing rather than housing demand. It is not appropriate for a National Park to have a 5 year housing supply, or to have policies based on market demand. Instead we look for continuing support for the rural exceptions policies that are used in NPs. Without this provision, affordable housing in NPs will simply dry up, and values will increase significantly – exacerbating the problems of affordability.

3.8. Supporting rural economic development.

- 3.9. We would like to see recognition that a high quality environment is the underpinning for much economic prosperity, rather than to see the environment simply as a constraint on development.

Planning Advisory Service – Mid year update October 2011

Theme	We Said.....	We Did....	Spend £/k *	Notes and forward look
<p>A1. Understanding and responding to planning reforms</p>	<p>3 x Leadership academy (planning) plus contribution to 10 x mainstream leadership academy</p> <p>3 x Ward councillor academy</p> <p>4 x events "Understanding planning reform agenda"</p>	<p>Leadership academies (strategic, local and contribution to main) programmed and designed for delivery Q3-4.</p> <p>Planning session at 7 of the mainstream leadership academies arranged</p> <p>6 events, attended by 250 people from 154 authorities. 97% rated them good or very good.</p> <p>1 event run with LGA on NPPF for councillors</p> <p>8 authority based councillor briefing sessions, for 34 authorities delivered (Epping Forest, Gloucestershire & Districts, LBHF, Leeds & Bradford, Mid-Sussex, West Midlands Councils, Cherwell).</p> <p>Localism and the NPPF – a guide for local government published</p>	<p>£100</p>	<p>Events nearly full (150/175 places booked) Early bookings for leadership academy indicate appetite for understanding.</p> <p>Material (other than the presentations) still to be produced as an output. Events included a wide range of speakers, from Chief Execs to Leaders, plus local authorities sharing experiences</p> <p>Councillor briefings delivered by councillor peers and PAS. A further 4 sessions booked (Craven, Hertsmere, Shepway, Teignbridge)</p>
	<p>Understanding and responding to planning reform</p>			

Strong planning				
Theme	We Said	We Did	Spend	Notes
B1. Plans for neighbourhoods	Supporting CLG's front-runners project for 70 neighbourhood plans in 55 local authorities. 8 x events on skills for neighbourhood planning	8 x events with the front runners (waves 1-4), 70 authorities with 125 plans. Events attended by 140 delegates, mostly officers; 98% respondents said good/very good events Publications etc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward councillor guide to N Planning • Case study Bookham, Mole Valley • FAQs • Neighbourhood Planning – early practice 	£190	2 x events for councillors being set up Nov/Dec 4 national events planned Q4 on progress from front runners and next steps for everyone
				Future work needs to focus more on 'responding' rather than 'understanding'. 2 nd round of events being scheduled.

B2. Plans for Local Authorities	<p>Direct support to 100 local authorities to support getting plan in place</p> <p>Revised on line materials and self-assessment toolkit, post NPPF</p>	<p>150 authorities who do not have a plan in place contacted; active engagement going on with 60 authorities, discussions on support with a further 70. Support being well received.</p> <p>Revised materials still in drafting stage</p>	£1,000	<p>Work being scoped up on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPPF conformity health check Core strategy/local plan Strategic policies within local plan
B3. Planning for strategic issues	<p>Event series on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning in the larger than local world/duty to co-operate Technical and procedural issues eg evidence base 	<p>Details of support package scoped up for delivery Q3-4. Agreement from DCLG secured</p>	£60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple guide to strategic planning Technical guide/toolkit Events – strategic planning practicalities/duty to co-operate (including working with LEPs) Case study write ups Contribution to LGA work on planning for Gypsy and Travelers
B4. Managing growth and assets	<p>CiL – 10 x events to understand charging schedule, monitoring and enforcing</p> <p>Viability for planning councillors briefing</p> <p>Support for CiL front runners</p> <p>Tax Increment Funding for planners pamphlet</p>	<p>10 CiL to events delivered to 458 delegates from 226 councils with 98% good or very good satisfaction rating</p> <p>Support to 20 CiL front runner authorities delivered and learning incorporated into FAQs; active CoP for the front runners. All except one of the front runners likely to meet their timetable, partly because of PAS support.</p> <p>PAS expertise contributing to various working groups.</p>	£200	<p>Direct support (similar to front runners) to be offered to other authorities</p>

Environment and Housing Programme Board

16 November 2011

Item 2

Appendix B

	Moving from S106 to CiL (technical and procedural) Working with LEPs and Enterprise Zones	TIF for planners – not progressed Moving from S106 to CiL – not progressed Working with LEPs/Enterprise Zones – in part moved to planning for strategic issues		
Making good decisions				
C1. Supporting development	2 x Councillor briefings – publication and delivery of updates and training on site (including shaping development at early stage, negotiating incentives transparently) (x25) Planning performance agreements – refresh and event	2 new councillor modules made and delivered to 2 Councils (Blackburn & Wyre) Compare renewables document published Case study on Stockport published	£40	Sessions arranged for Purbeck and the rest of Dorset PPA event linked to fees and will have own launch event 4 housing and planning masterclasses as collaboration with LGA
C2. Operating the system	3 x councillor briefings – publication and delivery of updates and training on site (including good decision making and probity) Planning for new councillors publication	6 on-site sessions delivered to Cambridge, Forest of Dean, Lambeth, Thurrock, Rotherham, Warwick Introductory guide to planning for new councillors published	£30	4 further sessions arranged for Q3-4. 5 x planning sessions at new councillor roadshow events planned Nov-Dec (with Leadership team)

<p>C3. Enforcing the system</p>	<p>6 x events on enforcement and managing the cost of non-compliance and conditions</p> <p>Refresh enforcement good practice publication</p>	<p>Enforcement and Planning Reform – thoughts of an officer – article by Vice Chair of NAPE published</p>	<p>£30</p>	<p>4 events Q4</p>
<p>Accountable and value for money planning</p>				

Environment and Housing Programme Board

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Appendix B

<p>D1. Being accountable and locally relevant</p>	<p>Support to LG Group work on peer challenge and review. New guide to annual performance review and publication. Replacing the AMR (annual monitoring report) with something locally relevant.</p>	<p>1 planning peer challenged completed (Wiltshire) AMR report published</p>	<p>£50</p>	<p>5 peer reviews scheduled (Sandwell, Warrington, Islington, Derby, Cornwall)</p>
<p>D2. Value for money in planning</p>	<p>250 x authorities in local fee setting using national benchmark 4 x events on new models of delivery for planning, including outsourcing and sharing services</p>	<p>One round of benchmarking completed (in association with CIPFA); 216 authorities took part. 13 benchmarking events held. Planning Portal engaged Improvement support (with Local Partnerships) scoped up based on benchmarking work.</p>	<p>£100</p>	<p>November benchmarking round with additional 40 councils; support events. Final reports to be issued December. Improvement support to be piloted with 4 authorities (Warrington, Swindon, Tamworth, Wycombe) to enable development of support and delivery at scale.</p>
<p>*** Contingency **</p>	<p>Contingency at 10% to allow for new work or extensions to existing projects, depending on demand and utility.</p>		<p>£200</p>	

Total			£2,000	
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* Spend includes VAT, but excludes core salary cost and contribution to LG Group overheads.

Update on the new Nottingham Declaration and the Green Deal

Purpose of report

For discussion

Summary

The Board requested that an update report be provided at their next meeting on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the development of a new Nottingham Declaration and the progress on the Green Deal.

Recommendations

1. That the LGA responds corporately to the Green Deal consultation.
2. Officers to continue to keep the board updated on progress against the MoU.

Action

Officers will take forward any actions agreed by the Board.

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Update: the Memorandum of Understanding, the new Nottingham Declaration and the Green Deal

Background

1. At the Environment and Housing Board meeting held on 14 September 2011, the issue of the Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change was discussed, as well as the new Nottingham Declaration and the Green Deal. Members of the Board requested that officers update them on progress at the next meeting.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Local Government Association and the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on 15 March 2011. The aim of the MOU is to enable a better working relationship between the LGA and DECC, to enable better policy decisions that work for the sector, and to create a voluntary framework for councils to express their ambition on tackling climate change.
3. The MOU includes a commitment to refresh the Nottingham Declaration. The Nottingham Declaration was launched by Nottingham City Council in 2000, and has been signed by over 90% of councils. It is an example of a sector-led approach to committing to an issue that has been identified as a local priority for the council, without the need for central government targets or duties. The aim is to build on this sector-led voluntary approach to make it relevant for councils acting on climate change in 2011 and beyond.
4. Part of the proposed content of the Nottingham Declaration includes local action on the 'Green Deal'. The Green Deal is the Government's flagship environmental programme, designed to enable them to meet the Climate Change Act 2008. It is a new funding mechanism whereby the energy bill payer of a domestic or commercial property agrees to a long-term payment on their energy bill in exchange for improvement works to their home or property to reduce the amount of energy the property wastes. The improvement work should result in an energy bill saving that is greater than the payment, resulting in an overall reduction in cost for the bill-payer.

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The issues

5. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- 5.1 The MoU continues to have ministerial and senior official level support.
- 5.2 However, the recent announcements on the feed-in tariffs demonstrate that we still have some work to do to hold DECC to account on their contribution to the MoU. More information the changes to the feed-in tariffs is attached.
- 5.3 We are gaining more traction on securing funding to assist with the delivery of the MOU, particularly the new Nottingham Declaration.
- 5.4 DECC have indicated that they are willing to negotiate with members of the energy industry to create a fund to help create and maintain the improvement and supporting structures for the new Nottingham Declaration. Negotiations on this are continuing.
- 5.5 We have written to the Secretary of State for the DECC to secure a meeting with the Chairman of the Environment and Housing Board, and are still awaiting a confirmed date. Officers have been chasing for a date for this meeting.

6. The new Nottingham Declaration

- 6.1 The consultation on the new Nottingham Declaration has closed, with around 50% of councils responding either individually or as part of a consortium. The results show that councils are supportive of a new 'declaration'. In particular:
 - 6.1.1 Councils want the declaration to be coupled with benchmarking, sharing good practice, information and data.
 - 6.1.2 Councils want flexibility and the ability to pick and choose targets and actions that are locally relevant.
 - 6.1.3 Councils are willing to share their progress with other councils, their communities and central government.
- 6.2 A special meeting was held on 1 November 2011 to review the results of the Nottingham Declaration Consultation. A number of key decisions were discussed and taken forward. This includes rebranding the declaration to be more locally relevant.

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- 6.3 A working group of the LGA and councils will be developing the new declaration further for a meeting of the Declaration Board in January. The aim is to launch a full new declaration in March 2012.
- 6.4 The LGA is getting funding from the Environment Agency to enable it to begin developing the supporting framework for the Declaration, and we are in discussions with DECC about sourcing additional funding.

7. The Green Deal

- 7.1 We have continued to apply pressure to DECC, alongside the National Housing Federation, to allow social housing tenants to be eligible for the 'affordable warmth' element of the new Energy Company Obligation, helping to tackle fuel poverty.
- 7.2 As a result of this pressure, DECC are no longer asking for social housing providers to 'pledge' their housing stock in advance of the Green Deal consultation. It was clear that councils and social housing providers did not feel in a position to pledge to the Green Deal before they knew how the scheme would work for their tenants.
- 7.3 Cllr Parsons wrote to Greg Barker as agreed at the previous Board meeting, and the response is attached.
- 7.4 Unfortunately, the consultation on the Green Deal, which was due to be released before the end of October, has been delayed. Officials are not currently able to give us an indication of when it will be released. In the meantime, we are continuing to engage with officials on the design of the Green Deal and the accessibility of the Energy Company Obligation.
- 7.5 The minister Greg Barker has announced that councils will be required to set out how they are going to support the Green Deal, and will have to undertake some form of monitoring of uptake of the Green Deal in their local area. This is a result of the new Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) statutory guidance, which will be published for the new financial year.
- 7.6 We are working closely with DECC and DCLG to influence the development of the statutory guidance to minimise the burden on councils.

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Conclusion and next steps

8. The LGA will respond to the Green Deal consultation in due course and will continue to liaise closely with DECC, to help them develop a programme that is fit for purpose and that can be supported by councils. This includes minimising the burden on councils of any new reporting requirement on the Green Deal.
9. Officers will continue to develop the new Nottingham Declaration in association with councils and through the new Declaration Board.
10. Officers will continue to negotiate with DECC over the securing of funds to support the MOU and the new Nottingham Declaration.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Update on other Board Business

Purpose of report

Members to note the following:

- Board Programme Plan update (**Appendix A**)
- EU Draft Energy Efficiency Directive (**Appendix B**)
- Changes to financial incentives for solar power: consultation on the Feed-in Tariffs Scheme (**Appendix C**)
- Localism Bill achievements
- Metal Theft
- Waste Collection
- Any other Business

Recommendation

Members to **note** the reports.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Board Programme Plan update

1. **Appendix A** to this report outlines progress with the Board's programme of work. This in turn reflects the priorities agreed at the Board's first meeting in this cycle.

EU Draft Energy Efficiency Directive

2. The draft EU Energy Efficiency Directive has significant implications for local authorities concerning the establishment of a 3% annual target for the renovation of public buildings up to a high level of energy efficiency. It also contains an obligation on public bodies to purchase only products, services including rental of buildings with high energy efficient performance. The changes would apply from 2014.
3. The LGA have agreed a position statement (attached as **Appendix B**) which in summary asks that any requirement to meet renovation targets on council owned buildings is matched by equivalent financial resources. This could be drawn from structural funds (such as European Regional Development Funds), other public finance, or via specific targeting of revenue raised through the UK Energy Company Obligation. On the procurement item it suggests that the Directive be focussed on providing guidance for local authorities on the value of energy efficient products rather than imposing compulsory criteria.
4. The draft Directive is currently in its first reading in the European Parliament. The LGA Brussels office is working with MEPs in order to raise amendments to support our position. The LGA Westminster team have been liaising with DECC (the lead department), DCLG and DEFRA officials in advance of a Council of Ministers orientation debate in late November which will set the tone for the formal Council of Ministers debate in the new year. The second and third readings will take place subsequently in 2012.

Localism Bill achievements

5. The Localism Bill finished its formal parliamentary stages on 31 October with the Third Reading in the House of Lords. This brought to an end a long parliamentary campaign by the LGA to amend the legislation in line with the steer from Members. The broad focus of the Bill meant achievements were wide ranging in nature, although there were a number specifically related to environment and housing matters which are of particular interest.

EU Fines

6. Under the original drafting, the Bill gave Government the power to arbitrarily pass on EU fines, given to the UK as a whole, to individual councils which Ministers decided were responsible for some, or all, of the fine.

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7. After lobbying by the LGA, the EU fines section has been completely changed. A Minister will now have to lay before both Houses of Parliament, on a case-by-case basis, their intention in regard to every council they wish to pass on a fine to, which will then be subject to a vote in both Houses. An independent panel will also scrutinise and advise on any suggested fine, with some members of the panel nominated by local government. The Government has furthermore committed to a statutory statement of policy, a draft of which has been prepared by the LGA and DCLG, and which Government is due to consult on. Amongst other things, this draft statement gives councils a powerful role in the negotiation and transposition of EU laws, and officers are working to ensure the draft is not diluted.

Local Referendums and Community Right to Challenge

8. When introduced into Parliament, the Bill required local authorities to hold a non-binding referendum on any “local matter” if a petition of 5% of residents was submitted, with the Secretary of State given powers to set associated details. Following pressure from the LGA, Government committed, in the House of Lords, to remove provisions around local referendums.
9. The original Bill also permitted the Secretary of State to decree all the practicalities of how ‘Community Right to Challenge’ would work locally, including the timings for communities getting their submissions in and how. In the House of Lords stages the LGA successfully secured Government amendments to delete powers originally proposed for the Secretary of State in respect to timings, with authorities instead allowed to decide for themselves.

Assets of Community Value and Neighbourhood Planning

10. Under the original drafting, in respect to ‘Assets of Community Value’, the Secretary of State would dictate how a list of assets would look, how a council could amend it, and how they would contact people who owned assets that were, or were not, added to the list. Following LGA lobbying, the Government amended the definition of an “asset of community value” and deleted some of the regulation-making powers given to the Secretary of State (such as the power to detail further issues for local authorities to take into account when considering whether to accept a nomination).
11. The Bill also introduced new neighbourhood forums, made up of at least 3 local people, which would have the power to submit neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders designed to fast-track planning applications supported by the community. There were no powers for local authorities to ensure that forums operated fairly or to de-designate them if they didn’t fulfil their functions.
12. Following pressure from the LGA and supportive parliamentarians, neighbourhood forums will now incorporate a minimum of 21 people and can

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include representatives of local business interests. Councillors will have the right to sit on neighbourhood forums if they wish to and councils will have the power to de-designate neighbourhood forums if they no longer fulfil their function. Councils will also be able to take representativeness and transparency, amongst other things, into account when deciding on applications to become neighbourhood forums, and act as examiners for the purposes of assessing neighbourhood planning and orders.

Metal Theft

13. Metal theft has been increasing due to increases in global commodity prices. Thefts have been on the rise by as much as 50% and have been causing significant delays to train services, disruption to power and communication networks. The costs of these thefts have been estimated as anywhere between £220-260 million and £770 million a year based on research by Deloitte in 2011 and the Association of Chief Police Officers in 2010 respectively.
14. It is estimated that it costs councils £4.6 million a year to replace street furniture which is stolen for its metal content. Theft of lead from churches is now so frequent that the loss of metal from churches is becoming uninsurable, and plaques from war memorials have also been stolen.
15. Because the value of metal is only released once it is sold the focus of attention has been on scrap metal dealers, of which there are 3,600 in England and Wales.
16. Scrap metal dealers are currently subject to two different sets of legislation:
 - 15.1 The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 requires councils (which is the district council in two-tier areas) to license scrap metal dealers and requires dealers to keep a record of transactions with names and addresses. Councils enforce this regime but there were only 18 prosecutions for breach of the Act by councils in 2010.
 - 15.2 Environmental Permitting Regulations, which requires a permit or exemption for all scrap metal dealers sites via the Environment Agency. However many dealers are small enough to claim exemptions which are not as proactively inspected by the Environment Agency due to limited resources.
17. Deliberations in Government acknowledge the limitations of both regimes although the appetite for Government sponsored primary legislation is limited as no space can be found in the parliamentary schedule in this or the next session. Amongst the changes the Government could make would be a new licensing regime with similarities to that for alcohol licensing with powers to refuse or revoke licences, requirements on traders to satisfy themselves they are not buying stolen material, restrictions on trading, higher fines for breaches of the law

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and regulations, providing the police with powers of entry onto dealers yards, allowing the police to close down yards, and merging or streamlining legislation.

18. Discussions on the issue have taken place between the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board and members of the Environment and Housing Board and also between Cllr Parsons and Caroline Spelman. The current LGA strategy is to make the case for metal theft to be tackled at a local level on a multi-agency basis, with councils having a key role to play in this work. In bringing this about the LGA will continue to explore with the Home Office and DEFRA the most effective way of strengthening the licensing and regulatory regime.
19. Immediate next steps are to seek feedback from the sector about current recording and enforcement as part of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act and on to obtain further information on cost of the issue to councils. In addition articles are planned for the LGA's First magazine highlighting examples of the impact of the issue and what councils are doing to combat the problem. Later in November the Energy Networks Association will launch a private members bill on the subject which will provide the opportunity to test the views of wider stakeholders.

Waste Collection

20. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has announced that it is making a £250 million 'Weekly Collections Support Scheme' fund available for councils to apply for if they want to increase the frequency of their bin collection service. Initial information on the criteria is that bids should increase recycling rates, or provide other environmental benefits, or improve value for money.
21. The LGA carried out a feedback exercise to find out what councils are likely to bid for which had 55 responses. This indicated that the majority of respondees (51%) would bid for weekly food waste collection, with 22% indicating they would bid to support their current weekly residual collection. 53% indicated that they would bid for food waste collection instead of weekly residual collection if the fund allowed them to.
22. A paper will be prepared for submission to DCLG and DEFRA that summarises this feedback and provides additional sector views on how the criteria on the fund could be set. The aim is to seek a wide scope for the funding in advance of further announcements before Christmas and launch of the bidding process in January/ February.

Environment and Housing Programme Board

Key

Green – output has been delivered and the required outcome achieved

Amber – output has been progressed but is not yet complete , or output is complete but the outcome hasn't been achieved yet

Red – output has been heavily delayed or the results of the output are unlikely to lead to the desired outcome, now or in the immediate future

Business Plan Outcome: Campaigning for greater local decision making in planning and housing powers. Ensuring councils are supported and effective in Energy and Climate, Waste, Flood Risk Management and other environmental issues.

Project outcome Indicator - (benefit to sector)	Project	Project outputs (Could relate to policy, lobbying and/or improvement)	Timescales	Oct 2011 review (red Amber green)	March 2012 review (Red amber green)	Comments on progress
1. Campaigning for greater local decision making in planning and housing through the Localism Bill, the National	NPPF Local plans.	Lobbying, briefings, direct support on implementation Direct support to Councils through	June – Nov 2011 May 2011 onwards	Amber		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPPF consultation response submitted and evidence submitted to Select Committee Inquiry. Direct support via PAS to support councils get local plans in place ongoing.

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<p>Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and elsewhere.</p>	<p>PAS.</p>	<p>PAS.</p>	<p>Promote economic growth</p> <p>Neighbourhood planning</p>	<p>Mapping, research, case studies,</p> <p>Parliamentary influencing work, working with front runners to develop sector led support through PAS.</p>	<p>July onwards</p> <p>May – Dec 2011</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussion with government about the role of guidance. Significant lobbying win on the need for appropriate transition arrangements. Ongoing discussion with government concerning a reasonable process for this. <p>Lobbying through localism bill for a light touch approach to the duty to co-operate</p> <p>Amendments and lobbying throughout localism bill has influenced the shape of the neighbourhood planning proposals.</p> <p>PAS direct support, events and publications on neighborhood planning ongoing including leadership centres and</p>
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	<p>Gypsy and Traveller issues</p>	<p>Consultation response.</p> <p>Develop peer support programme</p> <p>Gypsy & Traveller support programme</p> <p>Local Housing Delivery Group (LHDG)</p>	<p>June – August 2011</p> <p>June – September 2011</p> <p>September 2011- March 2014</p> <p>June— December 2011</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p>		<p>planning peer reviews.</p> <p>Consultation response submitted, plus cross reference to NPPF.</p> <p>Phase 1 of Gypsy and Traveller Peer support programme successfully initiated</p> <p>Local Housing Delivery Group (LHDG). LGA, PAS and POS representation on Steering / Working Groups for Viability and Local Standards</p> <p>POS/LGA response submitted</p>
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		<p>Consultation responses and influencing work on handling of change of use.</p> <p>Influencing work to ensure a proportionate approach to the Planning guarantee</p> <p>Influencing work to develop a more effective approach to Town and Village Green issues.</p> <p>Support programme for Councils on leadership for strategic housing</p>	<p>March – December 2011</p> <p>September – December 2011</p> <p>September – December 2011</p> <p>September – March 2012</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p>		<p>to CLG consultation on use classes. Evidence provided to CMS select committee regarding the use classes system.</p> <p>LGA/POS response submitted to consultation.</p> <p>Amendments put forward through the localism bill and debate stimulated. LGA/POS response to CLG consultation.</p> <p>Members agreed a housing support programme at their last meeting and this is now being taken forward by officers.</p>
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	targeted at councilors					
Private Rented Sector	Response to consultations, lobbying, support to councils to raise standards, support to LG Group Private Housing Sector network	July 2011 onwards	Amber			Strong links established to PRS network.
Social housing	Advice and good practice.	July – March 2012	Amber			Briefings commissioned as part of housing support offer
Homelessness and rough sleeping	Roundtable, briefings, support for councils in using new powers	June – March 2012	Amber			Input into first Ministerial Working Group Report on Homelessness. Roundtable with councils and Housing Minister on a preventative approach to

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	Affordable rent	Work with partner organisations to understand the implications of the affordable rent model.	Until April 2012	Amber		homelessness. We are in early discussions with NHF regarding this area of work. We have continued to influence policy and implementation through CLG working groups. Wrote to PM and lobbied through official channels on RTB issues; organized conference and councillor's guide for Dec 14 th . Working with CIPFA / CIH on a voluntary code of practice to develop self regulation approach; LGA response to consultation on asset disposal.
Self Financing		Lobbying and influencing design of policy, briefings and communications, implementation.	September 2011 – March 2012	Amber		



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	<p>Support for councils to develop innovative delivery models</p>	<p>Good practice case studies, support and guidance. Making the case for LA new build, identifying new ways of funding and delivery.</p>	<p>July – Sept 2011</p>	<p>Amber</p>		<p>LGA lobbied for a Select Committee into housing supply which is currently taking place. LGA has submitted written evidence to this committee Inquiry.</p>
<p>Social Housing regulation</p>	<p>Development of sector led approach with Homes and Communities Agency.</p>		<p>June – March 2012</p>	<p>Amber</p>		<p>LGA response to CLG consultation on draft directions to the regulator. Continued discussions with TSA/HCA on the operation of the new model of social housing regulation and information sharing arrangements.</p>

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<p>2. Ensuring a strategic role with adequate resources for councils to act on local energy security, carbon reduction and the low carbon economy</p>	<p>The Green Deal and Fuel Poverty</p>	<p>Conference, Lobbying, Officer and Member Networks, Government Forums, Capacity building for new statutory duty, Improvement work, including guidance</p>	<p>Until January 2014</p>	<p>Amber / Green</p>		<p>Conference going ahead on 29 November – fully booked 3 months early, role for councils in green deal established. Lobbying on ECO continuing</p>
<p>Energy Bill</p>	<p>Energy Bill</p>	<p>Lobbying, Roundtable discussions, Improvement work on new statutory duty.</p>	<p>January 2012</p>	<p>Green</p>		<p>Energy Bill is now the Energy Act 2011</p>

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	<p>Financial incentives for renewables (FITs & RHI)</p>	<p>Lobbying, response to review and consultation, response to new legislation and finance mechanisms, improvement work.</p>	<p>FITs – April 2012</p> <p>RHI - April 2013</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Amber / Green</p>	<p>Lobbying on to avoid 50kW limit introduction in August not successful.</p> <p>New announcements on FITs reduction very serious for councils, no reference to community groups in consultation.</p> <p>Consultation completed, special meeting held, on schedule for launch of new declaration in March 2012. Local Carbon Framework evaluation report finished.</p>
<p>LG Group and DECC MOU</p>	<p>MOU Action Plan, New Nottingham Declaration and Board, Annual Report Council, Frameworks on Climate change, Lobbying, Performance Management.</p>	<p>For Review April 2012</p>	<p>March 2015</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>Continuing</p>
	<p>Zero Carbon Homes</p>	<p>Zero Carbon Hub, Forums,</p>			

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<p>3. Councils are supported in and better prepared for climate adaptation, including their new roles in flood risk management</p>	<p>Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)</p> <p>Large-scale renewables</p> <p>Ensure councils are properly financed to undertake new FRM responsibilities, including SUD's funding</p> <p>Sector led improvement including SUDs implementation</p>	<p>information and improvement work.</p> <p>Single data list lobbying, lobbying and improvement work, guidance.</p> <p>Energy opportunity mapping with PAS</p> <p>Lobbying Improvement</p> <p>Lobbying, Joint panel with Defra, Guidance and Advice, Funding sources.</p> <p>Members guide to flood risk management</p> <p>Influencing Defra</p> <p>Capacity building programme.</p>	<p>March 2012</p> <p>March 2012 (on-going)</p> <p>June 2011 onwards</p> <p>Start summer 2011 to Mar 2012</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Green</p>		<p>Consultation on inclusion of schools and academies underway.</p> <p>PAS no longer has the resources to support this piece of work. LGA-led improvement work early 2012.</p> <p>Discussion ongoing with Defra with regards to funding; planning a follow-up survey of councils to inform whether councils have been properly financed/ resourced.</p> <p>Defra have agreed to include member support in their capacity building programme following meeting with LGA members.</p>
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4. Powers and flexibility for	Relationship management	National Flood partners and encouraging regional representation.	Ongoing	Amber	Discussions are advanced for additional Defra and EA support for new 'flooding' portal based on new LGA website.
	Investigating and identifying drought and adaptation issues	Work with EAP partners, research, information sharing.	Ongoing	Amber	Role of National Partners Group being reviewed – unlikely to continue in current guise. High level meeting between chair of EA and LGA chair has taken place in October
	Enabling Councils to improve local air quality with local solutions: watching brief with limited lobbying.	Limited partnership working, lobbying. Input into possible national framework on low emission zones (LEZs)	Late summer to March 12	Amber	LGA to support EA in its new national delivery role in supporting sectors on climate adaptation (e.g. extreme weather etc) – this includes a funded secondee from the EA into the LGA (from January 2012 to March 2013).
	Sector support bodies working	Relationship management.	July – Sept 2011	Amber	Initial meetings carried out with IESE and WRAP and working

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councils to make local decisions on waste	well and effectively	Agreed governance guidelines.				relationship established. Further meetings with senior officers and members to come
Appropriate enforcement powers in place	Appropriate enforcement powers in place	Lobbying, communications, briefings, joint waste commitment, managing relations with external partners.	June 2011 onwards	Amber		Response to Waste Review completed with headline success that government respect local government decision making on waste collection frequency
EU lobbying programme	EU lobbying programme	Waste Simplification Review		Amber		At the outset of compilation of evidence to support a lobbying position
	Extension of producer responsibility through Waste Electrical and Equipment Directive recast	Extension of producer responsibility through Waste Electrical and Equipment Directive recast		Amber		Lobbying has been ongoing via MEPs to seek full implementation of producers paying for kerbside collection of WEEE. At second reading stage in the European Parliament.

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							Continuing to monitor the situation
				No mandatory separate collection of biowaste – through EU proposals		Amber	Ongoing work to compile sector feedback on sentencing.
				Sentencing council guidelines, data collection work with EA, specific lobbying following waste review (vehicle seizures and new civil sanction regime)		Amber	Publication planned for December on Waste Crime interventions.
						Amber	Continuing engagement with Defra on actions from the Waste Review

Local Government Association position statement on the EU draft Energy Efficiency Directive

14 October 2011

Introduction

1. The Local Government Association (LGA) is here to support, promote and improve local government. We will fight local government's corner and support councils through challenging times by making the case for greater devolution, helping councils tackle their challenges and assisting them to deliver better value for money services.¹
2. The purpose of the draft EU Energy Efficiency Directive² is to oblige Member States to take additional steps towards the achieving the 20 per cent energy saving target (i.e. a 20% reduction in energy use compared to projections) which the EU set itself to achieve by 2020. This is based on the European Commission estimate that the current level of measures being implemented by Member States will only meet half of the target.
3. The LGA welcomes in principle the priority given by the draft Directive to increasing energy efficiency and recognition of the important role local authorities have in helping to deliver this. Energy efficiency and energy saving represent the most cost effective means of addressing climate change and have a positive effect on local job creation.
4. However, the LGA is conscious of the implications for local authorities of the content of the draft Directive. **These principally concern targets for the renovation of public buildings and the promotion of energy efficiency through public procurement.** The LGA is also concerned at the **administrative burdens that are imposed by the Directive**, including regular statistical reports and evaluations, and the need to monitor the energy performance of contractors.
5. This position statement summarises the LGA policy position in response to the publication of the draft directive and has been agreed by the LGA's Environment and Housing Programme Board. The Environment and Housing Programme Board has responsibility for LGA activity concerning energy and climate change.

Renovation target for public buildings

6. Article 4 of the draft Directive requires public bodies including local authorities, from 1 January 2014, to renovate 3 per cent of the total floor area of the buildings they own over 250m² annually. Renovation must meet at least the minimum energy performance requirements set in current building regulations. Local authorities would also have to contribute towards a publicly available inventory of buildings owned by public bodies detailing the energy performance of each building.
7. The LGA recognises that improvements in the energy efficiency of buildings through renovation represent a cost effective means of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. However a mandatory annual target as currently defined on all publicly owned buildings

¹ Visit www.local.gov.uk

² http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/doc/2011_directive/com_2011_0370_en.pdf

represents an inflexible and impractical means of achieving the ends sought. **The achievement of such a target by local authorities will only be possible if the objective is matched by equivalent financial resources via structural funds (such as European Regional Development Funds), other public finance, or via specific targeting of revenue raised through the UK Energy Company Obligation (referred to at the EU scale in Article 6).**

8. In the UK a number of initiatives are already pushing local authorities to achieve improvements in energy efficiency in their existing building stock such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment and forthcoming Green Deal. In addition and through their own prioritisation many local authorities have been making considerable strides in increasing the energy efficiency of their buildings. Currently however none have a comprehensive programme of bringing all of their existing buildings up to the minimum level for energy efficiency in current Building Regulations.
9. Because the overarching measure for the achievement of the EU 20% energy saving target is the overall reduction of energy use by sector, a more flexible approach is suggested. **This should focus on energy use reduction rather than simply renovation.** This would recognise, for example, the value of improved heating and cooling plant configuration and maintenance, as well as the positive impact of energy awareness raising and behaviour change initiatives with building users.
- 10. The focus on publicly owned buildings should be clarified.** Because the ownership and operation of education establishments and social housing varies between local authority and other providers, thought should be given to a consistent application of targets to avoid a two tier outcome. In particular on social housing there are restrictions to the ability of local authorities to invest in social housing. Local authorities as with other providers in the UK don't have the power to raise local taxation for investment in social housing. While changes are forthcoming to the way social housing is financed a consistent principle remains that local taxpayers cannot foot the bill for renovation costs. **A binding target for renovation that includes education establishments and social housing should therefore only be applied if funds are made available to fully fund the expected work (as referred to in paragraph 7).**
11. Finally, **the draft Directive should seek to align its data input requirements for the publicly available inventory with those currently in use** (for example the revised National Indicator 185 and Carbon Reduction Commitment where applicable) in order to avoid new reporting burden on local authorities.

Promotion of energy efficiency through public procurement

12. Article 5 of the draft Directive would require public bodies to meet high energy efficiency standards when procuring energy-using works, products or services. These include IT equipment, tyres, and services from third-party providers, and the purchase or rent of buildings.
13. The LGA recognises the important role of public procurement in demonstrating leadership but does not support the imposition of mandatory requirements. The draft Directive will need to strike a balance between seeking ambitious levels of energy efficiency and value for money principles. **As a general position on equity, local taxpayers should not be expected to foot the bill for helping to develop the market in highly energy efficient**

works, products or services. Where possible an even hand should be demonstrated with equivalent expectations made of manufacturers as end users.

14. On a practical note the draft Directive should recognise that for local authorities a significant proportion of purchasing decisions are made by contractors. Local authorities can specify that energy efficiency expectations are met by contractors and their suppliers in future contracts. **However they may face limitations in their ability to change expectations within existing contracts.**
15. Local authorities use a number of criteria in the choice of buildings to rent beyond energy efficiency factors including location, configuration and capacity. With these considerations in mind **it will not always possible to find an appropriate building to fulfil all requirements in some places before the market in high energy efficiency rental buildings reaches sufficient maturity.**
16. The LGA suggests therefore that this part of **the draft Directive would be most appropriately focused on providing guidance for local authorities on the value of energy efficient products rather than imposing compulsory criteria.**

Key contact

For more information on this document, please contact:

Dan McCartney on dan.mccartney@local.gov.uk or 020 7664 3238

Links

Full draft Energy Efficiency Directive text from the European Commission:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0370:FIN:EN:PDF>

Changes to financial incentives for solar power: Consultation on the Feed-in Tariffs Scheme

04 November 2011

1. Summary

- 1.2 Feed-in tariffs are a financial incentive for renewable energy to make investment more attractive. A tariff is paid to the generator for the electricity used on-site, and another tariff is paid to the generator for the electricity they export.
- 1.3 The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have announced that the feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar energy (solar panels, photovoltaics or PV) are too attractive and have been, according to their statistics, bringing in returns on investment higher than 5%.
- 1.4 The popularity of the scheme has meant that the 'cap' on expenditure is in danger of being exceeded before the end of the financial year.
- 1.5 As a result, the Department for Energy and Climate Change are proposing:
- **To reduce the generation tariff for a single installation of solar panels on an average home by over 50% from 43.4p per kWh to 21p per kWh.**
 - **TO INTRODUCE THIS CHANGE BY 12 DECEMBER 2011. This would require any schemes in the pipeline to have confirmation of registration from Ofgem in the *next 5 weeks*. This date is also before the end of the consultation.**
 - **To make a further reduction where councils have schemes for social housing, on several of their own buildings or public buildings, of another 20%, bringing the tariff to 16.8p per kWh.**
 - **To require minimum energy efficiency standards for homes and buildings before the new reduced tariff can be claimed.**

2. LGA Position Statement

- 2.1 The LGA agrees that energy consumers should have safeguards on the amount of money that is raised from their bills to pay for schemes such as the feed-in tariffs.

- 2.2 As such we support the review of the FITs and understand that measures are needed to gradually reduce the size of the incentive as solar panels reduce in price.
- 2.3 However, to expect councils and the solar industry to not only deliver their projects, but also have them registered by Ofgem, in 6 weeks is not acceptable.
- 2.4 Councils have been encouraged by Government to roll out renewable energy and to take advantage of the feed-in tariffs, helping their poorer communities to benefit from an incentive that they are, in effect, paying for. As such, the LGA supports the safeguarding of schemes that are for local community benefit.
- 2.5 What is at risk now is millions of pounds of local taxpayers money as a single government department seeks to rectify its mistakes.
- 2.6 The LGA has had strong representation from councils of all political make-ups from around the country about the effect these changes will have on their finances, projects, and relationships with their communities. It will be extremely difficult for councils to explain to their local people about why local schemes cannot now go ahead.

3. Next Steps

3.1 The LGA is seeking information from councils on the following:

- Whether or not their local plans to roll out solar energy for their communities, own estate and on public buildings can go ahead, and are financially viable, with these proposed changes;
- The likelihood of achieving the 12 December 2011 deadline and any additional costs achieving this will incur;
- Whether councils were expecting a 5% or greater return on investment before the changes, and whether this figure will be achieved after the changes;
- The impact on local jobs and industry.

3.2 The deadline for the consultation is 23 December 2011, but given that the changes are due to be introduced by 12 December 2011, we are seeking feedback from councils by **25 November 2011**.

3.3 The LGA will then formally respond to the consultation.

3.4 The link to the consultation is:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fits_comp_rev1/fits_comp_rev1.aspx

4. More information

For more information please contact:
Abigail Burrridge
Senior Advisor – LGA
0207 664 3245
Abigail.burrridge@local.gov.uk

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Environment & Housing Programme Board
Date and time: 11am, Wednesday 14 September 2011
Venue: Local Government House, Smith Square, London

Attendance

Cllr:

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	David Parsons CBE	Leicestershire CC
Vice chair	Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest LB
Deputy chair	Keith House	Eastleigh BC
Deputy chair	Andrew Cooper	Kirklees MBC
Members	Clare Whelan	Lambeth LB
	Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Frances Roden	Stroud DC
	Eddy Poll	Lincolnshire CC
	Tony Newman	Croydon LB
	Ed Turner	Oxford City
	Tim Moore	Liverpool City
	Tracey Simpson-Laing	City of York
	Simon Galton	Leicestershire CC
Substitutes	Peter Hardy	South Bucks DC
	Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse DC
Apologies	Terry Stacy JP MBE	Islington LB
	Andrew Gravells	Gloucestershire CC/Gloucester City
In attendance	Richard Bennett	n/a
	Sandie Dunne	LG Group
	Abigail Burridge	LG Group
	Clarissa Corbisiero	LG Group
	Russell Reefer	LG Group
	Sarah Monaghan	LG Group

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	<p>Members held a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Derek Bateman, a longstanding member of the Environment Board who sadly passed away in August 2011.</p>	
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all Members to the Board, and in particular new Members.</p>	
2	<p>Environment and Housing Programme Board: Programme Plan for 2011-12</p> <p>Sandie Dunne introduced this item and outlined the Board Programme Plan priorities developed in line with the LG Group Business Plan for 2011/12 and identified the Programme Plan outcomes for approval by the Board.</p> <p>In discussion, Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LG Group should ensure that support is focussed on enabling councils to deal with the significant reforms to the Housing Revenue Account and the additional work this would bring with it. • The programme plan should more clearly flag up the work which the Group is doing on the Green Investment Bank and should also reflect the LG Group's strong line on ensuring that councils have appropriate enforcement powers in place to tackle 'anti-social' waste crime. • The programme plan should link issues with electric vehicles, particularly in rural areas, with the electricity infrastructure and grid upgrades workstream. • Members also asked that the plan includes the issue of stolen scrap metal– which in some cases is being sold to scrap metal merchants, and is causing a problem for some councils who regulate scrap metal merchants. 	

Decision

*Members **agreed** the Programme Plan outcomes and the workstreams underpinning each outcome.*

Action

- Incorporate Members' comments into the Programme Plan.

Sandie Dunne

3 Update on the LG Group Gypsy & Traveller Support Programme

Richard Bennett, former Chair of the LGA Gypsy and Traveller Task Group introduced the current plans for the LG Group Gypsy and Traveller Support Programme and outlined the history of the previous programme delivered by Local Government Improvement and Development and the Homes and Communities Agency.

In discussion, Members thanked Richard and the other councillors who have been involved in the training scheme for their work over the last few years. Members also raised the current situation at Dale Farm as a national situation and as an example of why training for councillors is extremely important. Members also emphasised the importance of identifying 'need' versus 'demand' in local authority site identification and implementation.

Decision

*Members **endorsed** the actions being taken to develop the LG Group Gypsy and Traveller Support Programme.*

Action

- Ensure that there is regular feed back to the Board on the progress of this programme by setting up quarterly meetings with planning portfolio holders.

**Russell Reefer/
Sarah
Monaghan**

4 LG Inform

Juliet Whitworth, Research and Information Manager, LG Group, gave a presentation to the Board on LG Inform – a free and open online service created by the LG Group which allows anyone in the sector to access, compare and analyse data and present their findings.

Juliet gave a live demonstration of how to use the service to

compare data, and explained that at this stage the information is only available to local authorities and fire and rescue authorities, but could be available more publically in future.

In discussion, Members highlighted the difficulties in comparing data between authorities and suggested that if the information should be made more publically available there should be a charge for non-members of the LGA.

Decision

Members noted the presentation.

Action

- Explore whether other databases relevant to environment and housing areas (such as flycatcher) could be incorporated into the LG Inform dataset.

**Juliet
Whitworth**

5 LG Group housing support offer

Clarissa Corbisiero, Senior Adviser, introduced this report which built on the discussion at the last Board meeting on developing a programme of support for local authorities to help them deliver an enhanced leadership role on the housing agenda.

In discussion, Members made a number of detailed comments which were noted by officers, including

- A publication on the LG Group housing offer should be circulated to member authorities.
- Board to Board meetings between housing portfolio holders and the National Housing Federation should be continued during this Board cycle.
- Members discussed the important role councils play in increasing the supply of housing. The Board noted the forthcoming CLG Select Committee on housing supply.
- Members noted the importance of close work with the finance team to ensure that work on housing finance is aligned and complementary.
- Members raised concerns with HMOs, the private rented sector and squatting, and recommended that in light of the recent media events, the LGA should ensure these issues fit within the Board's programme plan.

Decision

Members agreed the proposed support programme.

Action

- The Board will write to Grant Shapps MP to reinforce the role councils can play in increasing the supply of housing.
- Develop a housing support offer as detailed in the paper and develop materials to raise awareness of the support available from the LG Group.
- Prepare a report on changes to housing policy more generally to the next Board meeting.

**Clarissa
Corbisiero**

**Clarissa
Corbisiero**

6 Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and the Green Deal

Abigail Burridge introduced this report and updated the Board on the progress of the Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change, including the plans to refresh the Nottingham Declaration and the Green Deal. Abigail outlined the key issues since the Board had last been updated on these issues including:

- DECC has cut all of its funding for supporting councils and the public sector on tackling climate change;
- The Government has decided not to repeal the Home Energy Conservative Act;
- DECC is asking social housing providers to 'pledge' their properties to the Green Deal, but will not provide funding (in the form of an affordable warmth target under the Energy Company Obligation) to help them to do this.

Members expressed their continued commitment to the MoU but were concerned at the significant reduction in DECC's funding and support to the local government sector since it had been signed. Members also recommended that immediate action should be taken to discuss concerns regarding the social housing pledge with Government. Members made a number of further additional comments:

- The affordable warmth element of ECO funding should

be available to the social housing sector, particularly as providers are being asked to 'pledge' their properties (which would entail 25 year payment plans for their residents), as social housing is one of the sectors which would most benefit from the long-term economic and environmental impacts of the Green Deal.

- The word 'Nottingham' should be dropped from the Nottingham Declaration to make the phrase seem more universal for the whole sector.
- Although Members endorsed the concept of the Green Deal, there may be scope for establishing a relationship directly between local government and energy companies, as this could provide better value for money for residents.

Decision

Members:

1. **agreed** that there should be two local government representatives on the Declaration Board
2. **agreed** to write to the SoS on the MoU
3. **agreed** to write to the Minister on the ECO and social housing
4. **agreed** to defer an agreed position on the Social Housing Pledge until lead members had met with the Minister to discuss the issues.
5. **agreed** to write to the remaining 10% of councils who have not yet signed up to the Declaration.

Actions

- Request an additional place for local government on the Declaration Board.
- Draft a letter from the Chairman to the Secretary of State on the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Draft a joint letter from the Chairman of the Board and the National Housing Federation to the Energy Minister setting out the importance of ECO funding to the social housing sector.
- Seek a meeting between lead members of the Board and the Secretary of State at DECC.
- Prepare a report on the progress in these areas for the next meeting.
- Write to remaining 10% of councils who have not yet

**Abigail
Burridge**

signed up to the Declaration.

7 Membership and Terms of Reference 2011-12

Decision

Members **noted** the Membership and Terms of Reference for 2011-12.

8 Appointments to Outside Bodies and Portfolio Holders

Decision

Members **formally appointed** to outside bodies and portfolio holders as outlined in Appendix A

Actions

- Write to Members and Outside Bodies to confirm appointments.

**Sarah
Monaghan**

9 Update on other Board Business

Decision

Members **noted** the reports.

10 Note of last meeting

Cllr Clyde Loakes raised the accuracy of Item 2 'Waste Review' which should be reflected to incorporate his comments.

Decision

Members **noted** the minute of the last meeting.

Appendix A

Organisation	Background	Representatives
National Planning Forum	<p>The National Planning Forum (NPF) is the principal cross-sectoral voice on planning issues and aims to be recognised as a key agent for change in delivering a better planning service.</p> <p>Members are expected to attend four Forum events each year, each held at Local Government House.</p> <p>One member will also be appointed as the Vice Chair of Forum (representing the Local Government sector) and will be expected to additionally attend 5 Executive meetings in London.</p>	<p>Conservative: Eddy Poll</p> <p>Lib Dem: Keith House (Vice Chair (Local Government))</p> <p>Labour: Ed Turner</p> <p>Independent: Andrew Cooper</p>
HCA Rural Advisory Board	<p>The Board's aim is to advise Government on and seek ways to improve delivery of affordable rural housing, promoting joint working between key stakeholders through the provision of a forum for sharing good practice and encouraging innovation.</p> <p>3 meetings are held in London each year for 2-3 hours.</p>	Mike Jones
Local Housing Delivery and Standards Group*	<p>This group has been established to consider both the viability of local plans and the related issue of local standards. It will be chaired by the Homes and Communities Agency, which provides the secretariat, and the group brings together many sectors with an interest in the area.</p> <p>There are currently 3 meetings scheduled between September and December 2011.</p>	Ed Turner
Nottingham Declaration Board*	<p>This newly formed Board will oversee the implementation of the new Nottingham Declaration.</p> <p>The first meeting will take place on 1 November, where it will decide how many further times it will</p>	Tim Moore/ Andrew Cooper

	meet.	
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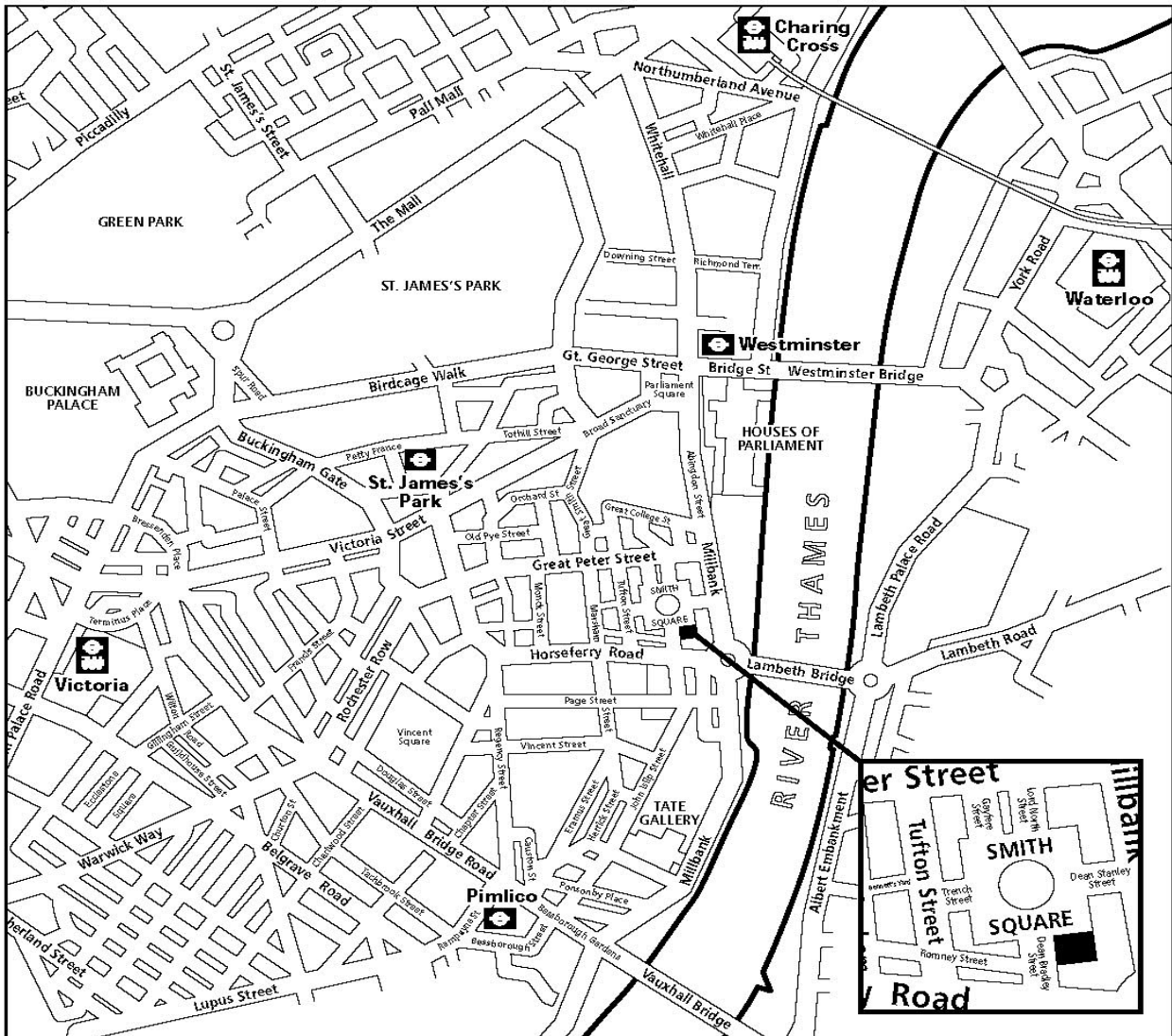
Appointments to LG Group bodies

LG Group body	Background	Representatives
Urban Commission Steering Committee	The Urban Commission provides a forum LGA for member authorities whose areas are wholly or partly urban. The Urban Commission will act in a way that complements the principals of the LGA as a whole.	Andrew Gravells
Inland Flood Risk Management Group	The group acts as a sounding group for the Environment and Housing Programme Board, and the four Members lead on flood risk management in their shaping of LG Group policy positions and improvement activities in relation to the lead role on managing inland flood risk, and the development of expertise, learning and progress in all local authorities. This group meets 3 times a year in Local Government House.	Conservative: Eddy Poll Labour: Tim Moore Lib Dem: Simon Galton Independent (and Chair): Andrew Cooper

Environment & Housing Programme Board portfolio holders 2011 – 12

Portfolio	Conservative	Labour	Lib Democrat	Independent
Housing	Frances Roden	Tony Newman	Terry Stacy	Andrew Cooper
Planning	Eddy Poll	Ed Turner	Simon Galton	Andrew Cooper
Waste and Material Resources	Clare Whelan	Clyde Loakes	Angela Lawrence	Andrew Cooper
Green and Green Issues	Andrew Gravells	Tim Moore	Keith House	Andrew Cooper

LGA Location Map



Local Government Association

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 Email: info@lga.gov.uk
 Website: www.lga.gov.uk

Public transport

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

Victoria

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

Bus routes - Millbank

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

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

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

Cycling Facilities

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

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone. For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car Parks

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