

Environment and Housing Programme Board

Agenda

Wednesday 14 September 2011
11.00am

Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4
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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LG Group Environment and Housing Programme Board

14 September 2011

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

11.00am on **14 September 2011** in Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4, 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.

LG Group Contact:

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

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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>

Agenda

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

Meeting date 14 September 2011

Meeting time 11.00am

Meeting venue Smith Square Rooms 3&4

	Item	Page	Time
Part 1			
1.	Welcome and Introductions		11.00am
2.	Environment & Housing Programme Board: Programme Plan for 2011-12	3	11.05am
3.	Update on LG Group Gypsy and Traveller Support Programme	19	11.30am
4.	LG inform presentation	25	11.50pm
5.	LG Group housing support offer	27	12.10pm
6.	Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and the Green Deal	35	12.30pm
Part 2			
7.	Membership and Terms of Reference 2011 – 12	53	12.40pm
8.	Appointments to Outside Bodies and Portfolio Holders	59	12.45pm
9.	Update on other Board Business	69	12.55pm
10.	Decisions and actions from previous meeting	81	1.00pm

Date of next meeting: 11.00am, Wednesday 16 November 2011, Local Government House

Item 2

Environment and Housing Programme Board: Programme Plan 2011/12

Purpose of report

This report informs Environment and Housing Programme Board Members of the Board Programme Plan priorities developed in line with the LG Group's Business Plan 2011/12 and identifies the Programme Plan outcomes for approval by the Board. It also details the work streams underpinning each outcome for further information.

Summary

The report updates members on the LG Group priorities and the aligned programme plan developed for the Environment and Housing Board. **Appendix A** sets out the work streams LG Group officers have underway which underpin the delivery of the programme plan for 2011/12.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. approve the Programme Plan outcomes, and
2. agree the work streams underpinning each outcome.

Action

Officers to incorporate Members' views on the Programme Plan into the final plan.

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**Environment and Housing Programme Board: Programme Plan
2011/12**

Background

1. During 2010 the LG Group asked councils for their views on our future direction through a variety of media and consultation. The messages from the sector in response were very consistent and are summarised in the Group's Business Plan as two top priorities:
 - 1.1 Representing and advocating for local government and making the case for greater devolution; and
 - 1.2 Helping councils tackle their challenges and take advantage of new opportunities to deliver better value for money services.
2. Our core work will therefore be delivered through programmes which bring together our policy work and our improvement support to councils. The Environment and Housing Programme Plan priorities were developed with Board members as follows:
 - 2.1 Achieving greater devolution for local government:
 - 2.1.1 Reformed planning system – Localism Bill, new National Planning Policy Framework, financial incentives.
 - 2.1.2 Provision, allocation and regulation of social housing including vulnerable people.
 - 2.1.3 Green Deal, Energy Company Obligations and Feed in Tariffs.
 - 2.1.4 Waste Review.
 - 2.2 Helping councils tackle their challenges:
 - 2.2.1 Improvement and self-regulation for energy and climate change.
 - 2.2.2 Support to enable councils to seize opportunities and manage the risks arising from the changes to planning, working through the Planning Advisory Service (grant-funded).
 - 2.2.3 Support and advice to ensure that councils are effective in flood risk management.
3. In developing a Programme Plan for the Board these priorities have been articulated into four outcomes, (that is, in terms of their benefit to the sector), as listed below and a range of work streams are underway to deliver these outcomes as outlined in **Appendix A**.

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4. Outcomes:

- 4.1 Campaigning for greater local decision making in planning and housing through the Localism Bill, the National Planning Policy Framework and elsewhere.
- 4.2 Ensuring a strategic role with adequate resources for councils to act on local energy security, carbon reduction and the low carbon economy.
- 4.3 Councils are supported in and better prepared for climate adaptation, including their new roles in flood risk management.
- 4.4 Powers and flexibility for councils to make local decisions on waste.

The issues

- 5. The Group continue to lobby and respond to consultation exercises in relation to both the Localism Bill and National Planning Policy Framework.
- 6. There is a Memorandum of Understanding with Department for Energy and Climate Change in relation to energy efficiency.
- 7. The Environment Agency have offered additional resources through a secondment to LG Group to support our work on adaptation (noted in Board papers).
- 8. The Waste Review concluded before the summer recess and the findings are still being worked through by and with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Conclusion and next steps

- 9. The draft programme plan is attached at Appendix A and Members are asked for their views on the outcomes and projects detailed.

Financial Implications

- 10. The programme plan will be delivered within existing budget and resource constraints.

Environment and Housing Programme Board							
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 Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and elsewhere.	NPPF	Lobbying, briefings, direct support on implementation	June – Nov 2011				
	Local plans.	Direct support to Councils through PAS.	May 2011 onwards				
	Promote economic growth	Mapping, research, case studies,	July onwards				

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Appendix A

Neighbourhood planning	Parliamentary influencing work, working with front runners to develop sector led support through PAS.	May – Dec 2011			
Gypsy and Traveller issues	Consultation response.	June – August 2011			
	Develop peer support programme	June – September 2011			
	Gypsy & Traveller support programme	September 2011- March 2014			
Deregulation of planning, greater local flexibility	Development of a Local standards framework/ local	June— December 2011			

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Appendix A

	housing delivery group	March – December 2011			
	Consultation responses and influencing work on handling of change of use.				
	Influencing work to ensure a proportionate approach to the Planning guarantee	September – December 2011			
	Influencing work to develop a more effective approach to Town and Village Green issues.	September – December 2011			
Strategic housing	Support programme for Councils on	September – March 2012			

Appendix A

Private Rented Sector	leadership for strategic housing targeted at councillors	Response to consultations, lobbying, support to councils to raise standards, support to LG Group Private Housing Sector network	July 2011 onwards		
Social housing	Advice and good practice.		July – March 2012		
Homelessness and rough sleeping	Roundtable, briefings, support for councils in using new powers		June – March 2012		
Affordable rent	Work with partner organisations to				

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Appendix A

		understand the implications of the affordable rent model.	Until April 2012		
Self Financing	Lobbying and influencing design of policy, briefings and communications, implementation.	September 2011 – March 2012			
Support for councils to develop innovative delivery models	Good practice case studies, support and guidance. Making the case for LA new build, identifying new ways of funding and delivery.	July – Sept 2011			
Social Housing regulation	Development of sector led approach with Homes and	June – March 2012			

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Appendix A

		Communities Agency.				
2. Ensuring a strategic role with adequate resources for councils to act on local energy security, carbon reduction and the low carbon economy	The Green Deal and Fuel Poverty	Conference, Lobbying, Officer and Member Networks, Government Forums, Capacity building for new statutory duty, Improvement work, including guidance	Until January 2014			
	Energy Bill	Lobbying, Roundtable discussions, Improvement work on new statutory duty.	January 2012			
	Financial incentives for	Lobbying, response to review	FITs – April 2012			

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Appendix A

renewables (FITs & RHI)	and consultation, response to new legislation and finance mechanisms, improvement work.	RHI - April 2013		
LG Group and DECC MOU	MOU Action Plan, New Nottingham Declaration and Board, Annual Report Council, Frameworks on Climate change, Lobbying, Performance Management.	For Review April 2012		
Zero Carbon Homes	Zero Carbon Hub, Forums, information and improvement work.	March 2015		
Carbon Reduction	Single data list lobbying, lobbying	March 2012		

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Appendix A

	Commitment (CRC)	and improvement work, guidance.			
	Large-scale renewables	Energy opportunity mapping with PAS Lobbying Improvement	March 2012 (on-going)		
3. Councils are supported in and better prepared for climate adaptation , including their new roles in flood risk management	Ensure councils are properly financed to undertake new FRM responsibilities, including SUD's funding Sector led improvement including SUDs implementation	Lobbying, Joint panel with Defra, Guidance and Advice, Funding sources. Members guide to flood risk management Influencing Defra Capacity building programme.	June 2011 onwards Start summer 2011 to Mar 2012		
	Relationship management	National Flood partners and encouraging regional representation.	Ongoing		

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Appendix A

	Investigating and identifying drought and adaptation issues	Work with EAP partners, research, information sharing.	Ongoing		
	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		
4. Powers and flexibility for councils to make local decisions on waste	Sector support bodies working well and effectively	Relationship management. Agreed governance guidelines.	July – Sept 2011		
	Appropriate enforcement	Lobbying, communications,	June 2011 onwards		

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Appendix A

	powers in place	briefings, joint waste commitment, managing relations with external partners.			
	EU lobbying programme	Waste Simplification Review			
		Extension of producer responsibility through Waste Electrical Equipment Directive recast			
		No mandatory separate collection of biowaste – through EU proposals			

Item 2

Appendix A

	Waste Crime	Sentencing council guidelines, data collection work with EA, specific lobbying following waste review (vehicle seizures and new civil sanction regime)				
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Item 3

Update on LG Group Gypsy and Traveller Support Programme

Purpose of report

For discussion

Summary

Richard Bennett, former Chair of LGA Gypsy and Traveller Task Group will lead a discussion at the board meeting on current plans for LG Group Gypsy and Traveller Support Programme.

In advance of this discussion, this paper gives Board Members a background overview on key issues and invites feedback at the meeting and outside it.

Recommendations

Members are invited to:

1. Endorse and support the actions being taken to develop the consider LG Group Gypsy and Traveller Support Programme.
2. Consider any further issues which should be given priority within the programme.

Action

Officers to take forward as appropriate.

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Update on LG Group Gypsy and Traveller support Programme

Background

1. Gypsies and Travellers have proved a current and very controversial issue for local government.
2. Over the last two years Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID) and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) have delivered a highly effective programme for local councillors seeking to address Gypsy and Traveller issues. This training has been undertaken by two experienced councillors (1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat) and a Romany Gypsy.
3. Councillors were targeted because they have to make the difficult decisions on planning applications for sites. The primary intention therefore was to make them aware of their statutory obligation to make an assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs and then to equip them to make the necessary provision. This would then help improve decision making that would withstand an appeal. In many instances the request for training came directly from elected members. Due to budgetary uncertainty the future of this programme had been at risk.
4. Following the change of government May 2010 and the publication of the Localism Bill 2010, the Coalition Government published new national policy guidance relating to site provision.¹
5. The Government committed to scrapping Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) (and therefore regional site allocation targets), however, there remains a legal requirement under the Housing Act 2004 (HA2004), for councils to assess Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople need for accommodation; and this must still form the basis of local plans and strategies.
6. The Government have offered councils incentives through the New Homes Bonus (NHB) in order for communities to see benefits from providing sites. In addition, the HCA has allocated £60m grant funding to local authorities under the National Affordable Homes Framework (NAHF) to assist them with the cost of public pitch provision.
7. Government have also committed to contribute £50k to LG Group to continue programme of work with elected members on traveller site provision over the

¹. This follows part of a broader set of policy announcements on reform the planning system by streamlining complex policy and guidance and decentralising the planning system to strengthen the role of elected councils and communities. See CLG Planning for traveller sites: Consultation (July 2011) at www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/travellers

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spending review period.² (See **Appendix A**: Emerging policy framework of particular relevance to Gypsies and Travellers).

8. Over the past three months officers from LG Group Programmes and Development, LG Group Peer Support and Planning Advisory Service alongside the original councillors from the training programme have been working to develop a new programme of support.
9. The Group considered a number of practical ways in which authorities could be better supported to effectively service the needs of the settled and non-settled communities alike and the LG Group could best play in helping to facilitate sharing of good practice, advice and learning.”
10. Agreement has been reached that this package should seek to deliver four phases of training over the spending review period. See Table 1.

Table 1: Structure of support

Phase	Description	
Phase 1	Awareness raising for Gypsy and Traveller issues	x 10 half-day events to help elected members understand G&T issues (free)
Phase 2	“Methods” and “duty to cooperate” for Gypsy and Traveller	x 6 follow-up half-day events to help members act sub-regionally on G&T issues (charged)
Phase 3	“Practical steps and delivering Gypsy and Traveller sites “	x5 follow-up half-day events to help members act on G&T issues (charged)
Phase 4	“Train the trainers “	x1 Training event to create new people able to deliver materials

Financial Implications

11. The LG Group has welcomed the offer to contribute funding to support their programme of work with elected members on traveller site provision. Where appropriate we will seek strategic opportunities to align this funding with other programmes to achieve maximum economies of scale.
12. For example by working with the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) on this programme, the impact, reach, and value for the sector will be enhanced. PAS will align this Programme where appropriate, with its current support offer on planning reform. The cost of this will be met by PAS and not from this grant allocation.

² The LG Group submitted a full response LG Group response to the Planning for Traveller Sites Consultation (August 2011) www.lga.gov.uk/planning

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13. However the existing resource base and limited budget for this programme restrict the number of projects and pieces of work that can be undertaken at any one time. Already we have received requests from councils new to the programme as well as from areas which have already participated in the earlier programme, who now have strategies in place and are ready to move ahead on site provision. It will extremely important going forward to publically manage the delivery expectations of this programme of support.

For discussion

14. Richard Bennett, former chair of LGA Gypsy and Traveller Task Group will lead a discussion at the board meeting on current plans for LG Group Gypsy and Traveller Support Programme. To help inform future priorities for this programme will be asked to reflect on:

- 14.1 Gypsies and Travellers 'need' versus 'demand' in local authority site identification and implementation.
- 14.2 The obligations falling to local authorities, particularly from the Housing Act 2004 (HA2004), including the role of enforcement.³
- 14.3 The importance of the councillor's role in making decisions to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- 14.4 Financial implications for this programme of support and future board governance arrangements

³ LG Group has been strongly petitioned by our member authorities highlight a particular issue in relation to illegal Traveller encampments and the difficulties utilising powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. In our response, we have called for a dialogue with government to revisit the suitability of enforcement legislation for LPAs who can demonstrate they have made every reasonable effort to identify transit site provision.

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**Appendix A: Emerging policy framework of particular relevance to LG Group
Gypsies and Travellers Support Programme**

Localism Bill (December 2010)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abolish RSS targets and therefore targets for Gypsy and Traveller sites; • restrict and further penalise unauthorised developments; • introduce a New Homes Bonus (NHB) • create a 'bottom up' planning process where neighbourhoods have greater say in planning processes; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); • promote the 'Big Society' and new powers, roles and ownership of assets for community groups; • a duty on local authorities to 'cooperate'.
Planning for traveller sites: Consultation' (April 2011 – August 2011)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable local planning authorities (LPAs) to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning; • enable LPAs to use their assessment of need to set their own targets for pitch/plot provision; • encourage LPAs to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale; • protect the Green Belt from development; • ensure that LPAs, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites; • promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites; • reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective if local planning authorities have had regard to this policy; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that the development plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies; • increase the number of traveller sites, in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under-provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply • reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in planning decisions • enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.
	<p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Consultation July 2011 – October 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gypsy and Traveller policy will be included in the final version of the NPPF once the results of Planning for traveller sites consultation have been assessed

Item 4

LG Inform presentation

Purpose of report

For discussion

Summary

Juliet Whitworth, Research & Information Manager, will attend the meeting to give the Board a presentation 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. Such intelligence will help councils and fire and rescue authorities make the right decisions about their local areas and the services they provide to their residents.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the presentation.

Action

Officers to take forward as appropriate.

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Item 5

LG Group housing support offer

Purpose of report

For decision

Summary

The Environment and Housing Programme Board agreed at their last meeting to develop a programme of support for Local Authorities in delivering an enhanced leadership role on the housing agenda. This builds on the work of the Environment and Housing Improvement and Development Review Panel which reported in March 2011.

This paper seeks views from members on the issues that such an approach should seek to address, the audience we should target and the outcomes sought. The paper also provides proposals on the role of the Programme Board in supporting a sector led approach to improvement in line with *Taking the Lead*.

Recommendations

1. Members discuss and agree the proposed focus for a support programme in paragraphs 4-10.
2. Members discuss and agree the priority focus areas for a support programme and the outcomes sought in paragraphs 11 and 12.
3. Members discuss and agree the proposed arrangements for sector led improvement in paragraph 17.

Action

Subject to the outcomes of the discussion, officers will develop a detailed programme of support to Local Authorities in delivering an enhanced leadership role in housing.

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Item 5

Housing support offer

Background

1. The Environment and Housing Programme Board agreed at their last meeting to develop a housing support programme for Local Authorities. This builds on the work of the Environment and Housing Improvement and Development Review Panel which reported in March 2011. This paper seeks views from Members on a draft support programme.
2. The basis on which the LG Group will support the local government sector to meet its challenges has changed considerably. There have been significant changes in the context in which Local Authorities operate. These include:
 - 2.1 Significant reductions in funding
 - 2.2 The abolition of Comprehensive Area Assessment, and the replacement of the National Indicator Set by a Single Data List
 - 2.3 Considerable reform of both the housing and planning system through the Localism Bill, the National Planning Policy Framework and elsewhere.
3. The LG Group's report *Taking the lead: self-regulation and improvement in local government*, set out a proposition of how sector self regulation should be taken forward. This was based on the underlying principles that local authorities are responsible for their own performance, stronger accountability to local people drives further improvement, collective responsibility for the performance of the sector as a whole and that the role of the LG Group is to provide support and assistance. This paper provides proposals as to the role of the Environment and Housing Programme Board in delivering this in relation to housing.

Focus of the support offer

4. Support will need to be focused on the key challenges that Local Authorities face. Drawing on conversations with partners and Local Authorities, we propose that these issues could be grouped into a small number of core themes and a number of cross-cutting issues as follows:
5. Increasing the supply of housing. Getting local plans in place will be essential to a robust understanding of local housing need and to ensure housing development serves the needs of the whole community. Councils will also need to work across boundaries to tackle strategic issues. Councillors will play a key role in developing a positive approach to appropriate growth locally and working with the community and attracting investment in affordable housing supply, through developer contributions, government funding programmes and the new council housing finance regime.

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6. Putting homes to good use. Understanding the changes to tenure, affordable rent and working with registered providers to develop a tenancy strategy for the area. Councils will also need to work with the private sector to bring under utilised or empty homes back into use and raise standards.
7. Improving existing homes. Driving up standards across social and private housing. For stock-owning authorities, developing a sustainable business model for self-financing of council housing.
8. Supporting vulnerable people and communities. Making the links between housing and health including close work with Health and Well-being Boards. Supporting residents in the transition to universal credit.
9. Decentralisation. Ensuring a genuinely local planning system; in particular working together as a sector to develop robust advice rather than a reliance on centrally set guidance and prescription.
10. Cross cutting issues. Linking housing to wider agendas such as economic development, engaging communities and health and well being.
11. **Members are asked for their views on the priority areas for focus. In particular Members may wish to consider the following questions:**
 - 11.1 Are these the key issues for Local Authorities in delivering a leadership role in housing?
 - 11.2 Where in particular should the LG Group focus its efforts?
12. In developing an LG Group offer, we need to ensure our resources are targeted to where we can most add value to the sector. **Members are asked for their views on the following proposals:**
 - 12.1 the main focus of LG Group support activity should be targeted to elected members, chiefly Local Authority leaders and housing and planning portfolio holders, and
 - 12.2 where technical support for officers is appropriate the LG Group looks for opportunities to work in partnership with other professional networks. For example, with the HCA building on the positive discussion at the last Programme Board meeting.

Outline of LG Group package of support

13. Drawing on conversations with Local Authorities we propose that support should be focused to deliver the following outcomes: **Members are asked for their views on the following proposals:**

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- 13.1 Elected Members and senior officers have a good understanding of the housing reform agenda and what it means for the choices they make locally.
- 13.2 Local Authorities share good practice and learn from each others experiences in an accessible way.
- 13.3 Local Authorities experiencing specific performance issues are able to access bespoke support and advice.
- 13.4 Local Authorities benchmark and assess their performance to drive improvement.
- 13.5 A more detailed breakdown of the type of support to be delivered is provided at **Appendix A**.

Sector led improvement

- 14. The LG Group Improvement Programme Board, working with other Programme Boards will maintain an overview of performance within the sector as a whole – drawing on existing data and intelligence in the sector to share good practice, spot those facing particular performance challenges and offer support. The focus of this activity is to offer support; the Group will not position itself as any form of Inspectorate. In order to contribute to the LG Group approach set out in *Taking the Lead* the Environment and Housing Programme Board will need to consider how it will maintain oversight of the performance of the sector in the areas within its remit.
- 15. LG Inform will provide a suite of information on housing related issues which could be used alongside intelligence in the sector to provide the Programme Board with periodic updates on performance challenges and good practice. Officers have developed a 'long list' of indicators and are working with the sector to further refine this.
- 16. The Local Government Development team through officers out in the field and via peer challenges will play a central role in developing a strong body of intelligence in the sector (through political, geographic and service-based networks) to share good practice, spot those facing particular performance challenges and offer support.
- 17. **Members are asked for their views on the following proposals:**
 - 17.1 The newly formed housing officer network consider the housing related performance information collected by LG Inform and work with LG Group officers to develop a suite of key indicators.
 - 17.2 LG Group development and peer challenges are utilised as a source of intelligence to identify good practice and performance challenges.

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- 17.3 Housing portfolio holders consider this information at twice yearly intervals and use this information to inform and develop the support offering provided by the LG Group to ensure it remains responsive and relevant to the needs of the sector.

Financial Implications

18. The support programme will be delivered within budgetary constraints and through developing partnerships with professional networks and partner organisations.

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Appendix A

LG Group housing support offer

Outcome	Audience	Tools and Outputs
Elected Members and senior officers have a good understanding of the housing reform agenda and what it means for the choices they make locally.	All Councillors, senior officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concise series of briefing notes on the reform agenda. • Chairman's monthly newsletter. • Programme of debates, master classes and conferences aimed at portfolio holders and leaders.
Local Authorities share good practice and learn from each others experiences in an accessible way.	All Councillors and practitioners	This would be delivered primarily through a refreshed online offer. This would include a one stop shop for good practice and guidance on the LG Group Knowledge Hub, a community of practice, online events, video case studies and blogs. Peer challenges will develop good practice case studies which will be shared via the knowledge hub.
Local Authorities experiencing specific performance issues are able to access bespoke support and advice.	Leaders and portfolio holders	<p>Bespoke and free of charge support to help councils get a local plan in place, planning peer challenges and training for members to support evidence based housing policies via the Planning Advisory Service.</p> <p>Housing peer challenge (paid for) will support councils to understand current performance and how this may be improved. Option to broker regional and sub regional peer challenges.</p>
Local Authorities benchmark and assess their performance to drive improvement.	Leaders, portfolio holders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a standard housing report through LG Inform. • Free housing self assessment tool. • Housing (paid for) and Planning (free) Peer challenges.
Technical advice and support is available through partnerships with professional bodies and others.	Senior Housing Officers	<p>This might include for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the Affordable rent framework. • Private Rented Sector standards. • The role of Councillors as a democratic filter. • Assessing housing need. • Sustainable funding model for self. financing of council housing. • Delivering infrastructure to support housing growth.

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Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and the Green Deal

Purpose of report

For discussion, direction and decision

Summary

This report updates the Board on the Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and the Green Deal.

Recommendations

The Board is ask to:

1. agree a representative for the Declaration Board
2. agree to write to the Secretary of State on the MOU
3. agree to write to the Minister on the ECO and social housing
4. agree a position on the Social Housing Pledge

Action

Officers will take forward actions based on the decisions made by the Board

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The Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and the Green Deal

Background

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (attached as **Appendix A**) was signed by the Local Government Group 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 LG Group 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

The issues

4. Whilst continued support for the MOU has been expressed by ministers and DECC is working more closely with us on climate change issues, DECC has cut all of its funding for supporting councils and the public sector. We had been working on a co-commissioning model for support to councils as part of the MOU, particularly in preparing for the Green Deal, but the removal of funding has meant there is currently no funding available to progress the MOU or the Nottingham Declaration.

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5. At the same time, Government has made the decision not to repeal the Home Energy Conservation Act, but to use it to ensure every council takes action on the Green Deal.
6. DECC is also looking to the social housing sector to pledge its properties to the Green Deal. DECC is seeking this pledge to demonstrate to the finance community that there is a market for the Green Deal, so that they will release their investment capital. However, social housing providers would be pledging their tenants to a 25 year charge on their energy bill, with no current indication of costs.
7. A potential new source of funding for energy efficiency improvements is the 'Energy Company Obligation' (ECO). Energy companies are legally required to meet carbon reduction targets and help the fuel poor, and the energy companies pay for this by placing a charge on all their customers' bills. This will be introduced within the new Energy Act 2011. We are continuing to lobby for these funds to be made directly available to councils to enable them to take appropriate local action.

8. The Memorandum of Understanding

- 8.1 We are currently consulting with the local government community on the proposed new Nottingham Declaration. The results of the consultation, alongside a report on the Local Carbon Framework Pilots, will be made available to a special meeting of the Nottingham Declaration Partnership, as a newly formed Board, on 1 November 2011. Decisions on the next steps for the Nottingham Declaration will be drafted at this meeting, and will be part of the Environment and Housing Board report on 16 November 2011. The new Nottingham Declaration will be launched at the LG Group's Annual Climate Change Conference on 29 November 2011.
- 8.2 In order to give the new 'Nottingham Declaration Board' momentum, status and a direct link to the Environment and Housing Board, **the Board is requested to nominate a representative to the Nottingham Declaration Board.**
- 8.3 Progress on the MOU has been affected by the restructure within DECC. A decision was made to remove their public sector team, who had been our point of contact, and their budget, which had been funding support to councils, shortly after the MOU was signed.
- 8.4 Whilst the signing of the MOU has enabled better working relations between us and DECC, we had been working towards a co-commissioning model of directing support to councils. There is now no funding to enable us to achieve this.

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- 8.5 DECC and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) are placing great emphasis on a new voluntary declaration for councils (the new Nottingham Declaration). They are currently monitoring the update of the new declaration and this will determine the nature of the new statutory guidance on HECA, and future decisions on statutory 'local carbon budgets'.
- 8.6 It is **recommended that the Board writes to the Secretary of State, Chris Huhne, to introduce the new Chairman and to underline DECC's commitment to the MOU** and set out that resources are also required to enable the agreement to progress.

9. The Green Deal

- 9.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA), which currently requires councils to submit information on the energy efficiency of properties within their area to Government, is being retained and updated to ensure every council acts on the Green Deal. We are arguing that funds should be made available to enable councils to achieve the requirements under the new guidance.
- 9.2 New funding could be available if the new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is designed to enable councils to have direct access to the resources available. Proposals are being considered by DECC to make the funding more widely available to all types of organisations. However, it is being argued that the social housing sector has already received the majority of funding from previous schemes (CERT and CESP) and that other resources are available to this sector (decent homes).
- 9.3 The Minister for Energy, Greg Barker, is asking social housing providers to 'pledge' their properties to taking up the Green Deal. This would mean social housing providers would commit their residents to the 25 year Green Deal payment plans with private companies to receive energy efficiency improvements.
- 9.4 It is **recommended that the Board agree to sign a joint letter to the Minister with the National Housing Federation and social housing providers that sets out the importance of ECO funding to the Social Housing Sector.**
- 9.5 It is **recommended that the Board agrees a position statement on the Social Housing Pledge.** Council advisors have stated that they support the concept of the Green Deal, and are willing to pledge to improve the energy efficiency of their social housing stock, but not to tie this exclusively to the Green Deal, since the cost to their residents would not

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be available until a Green Deal Assessment has taken place, and other options may provide better value for money.

Conclusion and next steps

10. DECC has withdrawn resources from supporting councils at a time when councils are being asked to voluntarily sign up to ambitious targets on climate change, with the threat of increasing statutory guidance if they choose not to. They are also being statutorily engaged in the Green Deal via the Home Energy Conservation Act, without the availability of funding via the new Energy Company Obligation being agreed.
11. At the same time, the crucial role of councils in realising the Government's ambitions on Green Deal are being made more apparent, which places the sector and the Local Government Group in a stronger position to negotiate with DCLG and DECC.
12. In addition to the recommendations set out in this paper, DECC are inviting members of the board to discuss these issues with Greg Barker during his visit to Manchester at the time of the Conservative Party Conference. We are also organising a high-level round table with Greg Barker, leading members and chief executives on the Green Deal and other energy issues, date to be confirmed.
13. The LG Group Annual Climate Change Conference, this year focusing on the Green Deal, is being held on 29 November at Local Government House, and the Minister has confirmed his attendance. The conference is currently over-subscribed, which demonstrates the interest in this issue within the local government sector. Depending on the increasing level of demand, we will consider a larger venue if required.

Financial Implications

14. Without the anticipated contributory funding from DECC, the LG Group is currently unable to provide an improvement offer related to the MOU, local carbon frameworks and the Nottingham Declaration.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the LG Group and the Department of Energy and Climate Change

9 March 2011



1. Introduction

1.1 This MOU has been created in acknowledgement of 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.

1.2 This MOU recognises how councils, through local governance, can ensure climate change policies and programmes protect and help the most vulnerable, particularly the fuel poor.

1.3 This MOU recognises that policies set at a national level affect the ability of councils to act at a local level, and that local action affects the ability of national government to meet its targets.

2. Purpose

2.1 To set out the partnership arrangements between the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Local Government Group (LG Group), including scope, governance, accountability and roles and responsibilities.

2.2 To set out how the DECC and the LG Group will progress the LG Offer on Climate Change starting with the milestones at Annex A.

3. Scope

Organisational

3.1 The subject matter of the MOU is the energy and climate change policies within DECC's remit.

3.2 The MOU is signed by the LG Group as the representative body for councils in England. In meeting the objectives of the MOU (as outlined in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 below), the LG Group will continue to reflect the insights and ambitions of their member councils.

3.3 The LG Group will work to build the individual commitment of councils to a high level of ambition on carbon reduction.

Policy

3.4 This MOU sets out the DECC and LG Group partnership approach to helping meet climate change mitigation and related objectives, notably including:

3.4.1 The 80% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in the Climate Change Act 2008 by 2050 against a 1990 baseline.

3.4.2 The fuel poverty targets arising from the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000.

3.4.3 The target to supply 15% of the UK's energy consumption from renewable energy by 2020 as set out in the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive.

3.5 The MOU sets out how DECC and the LG Group will work together to help and encourage all councils to take firm action – underpinned by locally ambitious targets and indicators - that enable councils to:

3.5.1 Reduce the carbon emissions from their own estate and operations;

3.5.2 Reduce carbon emissions from homes, businesses and transport infrastructure, creating more, appropriate renewable energy generation, using council influence and powers; and

3.5.3 Participate in national carbon reduction initiatives at the local level, particularly the roll out of the Green Deal, smart metering and renewable energy deployment.

Evaluation and review

3.6 The MOU will be reviewed annually and a report will be produced jointly by DECC and the LG Group by the end of May each year. The report will set out the achievements of DECC, the LG Group and councils with progress against the milestones set out in Annex A, as well as areas of concern, and any proposals to amend or update the MOU. As set out in 4.2 this will be reviewed and agreed by DECC and the LG Group and published.

3.7 In addition, the MOU will be reviewed at the end of each national five-year carbon budget period – starting in 2013 (for 2008-12). This review will evaluate the success of the MOU in making progress in meeting climate change mitigation and related objectives (in particular in helping to reduce emissions accordance with the Climate Change Act 2008 and any other relevant existing or future climate change legislation). The review will also seek to revise and refresh suitably stretching ambitions in line with new evidence and national targets.

3.8 In accordance with paragraph 4.2, the success of the MOU will be determined by evaluating:

3.8.1 Progress in meeting the MOU milestones (set out in Annex A);

3.8.2 The proportion of councils signing up to the New Nottingham Declaration (which will embody a significant step-up in ambition) as a demonstration of their commitment to continued action on climate change (see 4.5);

3.8.3 Council progress against their commitments set out in the New Nottingham Declaration (see 4.5).

3.8.4 The extent to which the MOU is successfully helping the UK to meet its national climate change target obligations (tonnes of GHG saved on own estate, and within influence – see data section in section 6).

3.8.5 The extent to which councils are playing an active role in delivering climate change mitigation and related policies, such as the Green Deal.

4. Governance and accountability

4.1 The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and senior political representatives from the LG Group will meet annually in the spring of each year to review the MOU, the Annual Report and council action on climate change.

4.2 The LG Group Environment and Housing Programme Board will take responsibility for the MOU within the LG Group. The Devolved, Sub-National Reform and Local Carbon Accountability (DSRLCA) Project Board will take responsibility for the MOU within DECC. Both boards will respectively review council and DECC action on climate change and agree a publicly available Annual Report.

4.3 The Secretary of State and a senior political representative from the LG Group will appoint appropriate Senior Civil Servants from DECC and senior responsible officers from the LG Group to work together to ensure that the milestones in Annex A are met.

4.4 The MOU establishes and supports a Nottingham Declaration Board or other appropriate representative board, consisting of senior and political representatives from the LG Group, councils and invited partner and delivery organisations, which will collaboratively oversee the Nottingham Declaration Board's Action Plan and council-led agreements and targets. DECC will be represented on the group and other government departments can observe where appropriate and when invited. The Nottingham Declaration Board's Action Plan will cover the policy areas in the LG Group offer and any other relevant policies that arise during the course of the MOU.

4.5 The Nottingham Declaration Board will design a mechanism for councils to demonstrate their commitment to continued action on climate change, and will enable them to sign up to locally appropriate targets and goals. This will be in the form of a 'New Nottingham Declaration' (which should be in place by October 2011, as set out in Annex A).

4.6 An officer-level delivery group consisting of DECC and LG Group officials will meet quarterly to review progress on the MOU, MOU Milestones and general council involvement in reducing carbon emissions.

5. The Milestones

5.1 The milestones set out in Annex A are for the first year of the MOU. These Milestones are designed to establish the Nottingham Declaration Board, the New Nottingham Declaration and the Nottingham Declaration Board's Action Plan, as well as the process and timescales for evaluating the success of the MOU through the development of the Annual Report. Annex A will be updated annually and will set out the strategic actions to be pursued over the subsequent 12 month period – these actions will be agreed as part of the Annual Report.

6. Energy and Emissions Data

6.1 DECC and the LG Group will work together to develop an approach to monitor energy and emissions reductions at the local level. This will cover both energy and emissions from:

6.1.1 councils' own estate and operations; and

6.1.2 local homes, businesses and transport within council control and influence.

6.2 Data from these two sources will help to underpin the evaluation of the success of the MOU in 3.8.4.

6.3 DECC and LG Group will work together to make data that is already published by DECC and by local councils more visible, transparent and that the opportunities available from the publication of data are fully realised.

7. Support from and responsibility of DECC

7.1 DECC will work together with the LG Group under this MOU to assist in the delivery of the LG Offer on Climate Change, Nottingham Declaration Board's Action Plan and to enable councils to reduce carbon emissions at the local level.

7.2 DECC will work with the LG Group to ensure the experience of councils are reflected in DECC's ongoing evaluation of policies, and that the Department's future policy positions take into account local ambition and delivery.

7.3 At the beginning of the policy formation process, DECC will consider any impacts of the policy on councils, any delivery role councils can take or contribute to, or where they can be active partners to achieving the objectives of the policy.

7.4 As policies are initiated or adapted, the role of councils and the impact of the policies on councils will be integral to DECC's approach.

7.5 DECC will facilitate meetings between the LG Group, other government departments, and local government, on energy and climate change issues as identified in the Nottingham Declaration Board's Action Plan.

7.6 Subject to legal and Ministerial advice, DECC will share with the LG Group information relevant to achieving the objectives set out in this MOU. Such information may include publications, consultations and press materials which may be disclosed to the LG Group on a confidential basis ahead of their publication.

8. Support from and responsibility of the LG Group

8.1 The LG Group will take a leadership role in encouraging all councils to demonstrate their ambition on climate change through the New Nottingham Declaration and other appropriate agreements or declarations.

8.2 The LG Group will encourage all councils to play their full and active part in reducing emissions through the three areas of focus set out in 3.5, and will develop and implement plans for reaching out to those councils that do not take a full and active part in reducing emissions.

8.3 The LG Group will actively seek their council members' views on the MOU, LG Offer on Climate Change, subsequent action plans and DECC policy. These views will form part of the Annual Report on the MOU. This does not exclude individual councils from expressing their views on DECC policy directly to DECC.

8.4 The LG Group will facilitate meetings between DECC, other government departments, local government on energy and climate change issues as identified in the Nottingham Declaration Board's Action Plan.

8.5 Subject to legal and any internal advice provided to the LG Group, the LG Group will share with DECC information relevant to achieving the objectives set out in this MOU. Such information may include publications, consultations and press materials which may be disclosed to the DECC on a confidential basis ahead of their publication.

9. Status of the Memorandum

9.1 This Memorandum is a statement of intent, and should not be interpreted as a binding agreement. It does not create legal obligations between the parties.

10. Signed

Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

Councillor Richard Kemp, Vice-Chair of the Local Government Association

Annex A Milestones

Timescale	Milestone
Mar-Apr 2011	Develop and agree approach for sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions from council own estate and operations
Apr-Jul 2011	DECC and the LGA to agree how support for councils to meet the objectives of this agreement can be aligned and delivered
May 2011	Set up the Nottingham Declaration Board (NDB)
Jul 2011	Set out an NDB Action Plan.
Oct 2011	<p>Develop and launch a New Nottingham Declaration for councils to commit to actions on climate change. This will cover actions to reduce emissions in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) councils' own estate and operations; (ii) within council control and influence in homes, businesses, transport infrastructure and procurement to support and remove barriers to the green economy; (iii) participating in national carbon reduction policies to be delivered at a local level such as the Green Deal, smart meters and renewable energy deployment. <p>and will be underpinned with targets and indicators.</p>
Apr-Nov 2011	Local government, central government and industry to develop and agree a collaborative approach to promoting locally appropriate and evidence-based renewable and low carbon energy deployment.
Dec 2011	Develop and agree approach for monitoring emissions reductions at a local level within council control and influence as well as other appropriate indicators to support evaluation
Apr-Dec 2011	Through the Green Deal standing panel work with local government to optimise council involvement with, and equitable delivery of, the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
Apr 2011-Mar 2012	Build on the Local Carbon Framework programme to develop a series of templates and case studies which can be used to build capacity in other councils. Evaluate the LCF pilots and contribute to the design of a Council Framework on Climate Change that would act as a local action plan on delivering carbon emissions, encapsulating the varying portfolios of carbon reduction measures relevant to individual or grouped councils.
Apr-May 2012	Evaluate outputs from the Nottingham Action Plan and include in Annual Reports to the LG Group Environment and Housing Board and DECC's DSRLCA Project Board (subject to Local Government purdah rules)



This document was produced in partnership with Department of Energy & Climate Change and the Local Government Group.

Department of Energy & Climate Change

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008, to bring together: energy policy and climate change mitigation policy.

Climate change is not only a massive threat to the global environment, it is also perhaps the greatest economic challenge facing us in the twenty-first century. It demands an urgent and radical response across the developed and developing world.

At the same time, the UK needs to secure clean, safe, affordable energy to heat and power our homes and businesses. Creating a low carbon and resource efficient world means making major structural changes to the way we work and live, including how we source, manage and use our energy.

DECC exists to take the lead in tackling these challenges, and reflects the fact that climate change and energy policies are inextricably linked – two thirds of our emissions come from the energy we use. Decisions in one field cannot be made without considering the impacts in the other.

The Local Government Group

The Local Government Group is made up of six organisations that work together to support, promote and improve local government.

- Local Government Leadership
- Local Government Association
- Local Government Improvement and Development
- Local Government Employers
- Local Government Regulation
- Local Partnerships.

Visit www.local.gov.uk for more information.

Membership and Terms of Reference 2011-12

Purpose of the report

For noting

Summary

This report sets out the membership and terms of reference for the Environment and Housing Programme Board for the 2011 / 12 meeting cycle.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to formally note the membership, terms of reference and dates for the LG Group Environment and Housing Programme Board (attached as **Appendix A** and **B** respectively)

Action

As agreed by the Board.

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Environment & Housing Programme Board

Date: 19.8.11

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
*Cllr Simon Galton	Leicestershire CC
Substitute	
*Cllr Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse DC
Independent (1)	
*Andrew Cooper [Deputy Chair]	Kirklees MBC
Substitute	

Note: * new member/substitute + substitute in 2010-2011

LG Group Environment and Housing Programme Board

Terms of Reference

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

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

The Environment and Housing Programme Board will be responsible for:

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

The Environment and Housing Programme Board may:

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

Appointments to Outside Bodies and Portfolio Holders 2011-12

Purpose of report

For decision

Summary

This report outlines outside bodies to which the Programme Board is asked to appoint for the 2011 / 12 meeting cycle.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to

1. formally appoint to outside bodies in accordance with the procedure outlined in **Appendix A**, ensuring that the bodies to which they wish to appoint accurately reflect LG Group priorities
2. formally appoint portfolio holders as outlined in **Appendix B**.

Action

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

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Appointments to Outside Bodies and Portfolio Holders 2011 - 12

Background

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

Programme Board appointments

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

Financial Implications

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

Procedure for LG Group appointments to outside bodies

6. It is the responsibility of the Boards to review the need for representation on outside bodies as part of their annual appointments process. Boards should:
 - 6.1 Ensure that the list of outside bodies reflects LG Group priorities, both by ending appointments where these are not felt to be of value and by actively seeking representation on new organisations;

- 6.2 Evaluate both the value of the LG Group's relationship with the organisation and the level of LG Group influence on that body; and
- 6.3 Have consideration of when it is necessary to appoint a member representative and when an officer appointment would be more appropriate.

Political Proportionality

- 7. As stated in the LGA Political Conventions:

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

- 8. While the Boards are responsible for ensuring appointments are made in accordance with the LG Group's political proportionality, the political group offices have oversight of this process through:
 - 8.1 Considering individual appointments in the context of all appointments to outside bodies across the organisation.
 - 8.2 Maintaining lists of members of Boards and other councillors willing to serve on outside bodies, together with details of their particular skills and experience.
 - 8.3 Discussing nominations to outside bodies with their members at the political group meetings preceding September Board meetings.
 - 8.4 Being kept informed of any additional appointments that arise during the course of the board cycle.
 - 8.5 Finding a representative if a Board is unable to secure an appointment.

Appointments

- 9. Appointments will be agreed by each Board at their September meeting and will be time limited – set according to the outside body's governance arrangements.
- 10. The Programme Support Officer (Member Services) will then write to each organisation notifying them of the appointment and requesting details of forthcoming meetings.

Recording information about appointments

11. A database of existing outside body appointments will be maintained centrally by the member support team.

LGA support for members appointed to Outside Bodies

12. Members appointed to outside bodies must receive support from LG Group officers in order to maximise their contributions to outside bodies, including being kept informed of key lobbying messages. Support will therefore be provided in line with the following:
- 12.1 For each Board making appointments to outside bodies, there should be a designated LGA member of staff to oversee the appointment process for that executive, including the provision of introductory briefing for new appointees.
 - 12.2 A named member of staff should be appointed as the liaison person for each outside body.
 - 12.3 Each Board should consider the need for induction support for appointees in relation to particular outside bodies.
 - 12.4 Where deputies or substitute representatives are appointed, they should also be made aware of arrangements for support and report back.
 - 12.5 Details of any financial support from either the LGA or the outside body should be provided for all appointees.
13. Member Support Officers will ensure that appointees receive a letter setting out the details of the appointment, term of office, future meeting dates, arrangements for expenses and the contact details of both the organisation's named contact and the LG Group's link officer.
14. New appointees will receive an initial briefing on the work of the outside body and relevant LG Group lobbying messages from the link officer and will also be kept informed of any arising policy issues and of other LG Group contact with the organisation.

Mechanisms for feedback

15. All appointees should be encouraged to provide updates to the link officer following meetings and when important issues arise.
16. All appointees, including non-board members, should be encouraged to feed into board 'other business' reports every 2 months. Appointees who are not board members may also wish to attend a board meeting to report back.

17. Towards the end of each year, all appointees will be contacted by the Member Support Officer and invited to feed back their views of the appointment, in preparation for the Boards' annual review of appointments. This should cover how many meetings they have attended, how useful they feel their role has been, whether they wish to continue and whether they have any additional support needs.
18. The named contact at the outside body should also be contacted annually to confirm details of attendance and provide an update on any changes.

Expenses

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

Environment and Housing Programme Board portfolio holders

20. In order to manage the breadth of its remit, the Environment and Housing Programme Board appoints 'portfolio holders' (one member from each political group on the Board) to take responsibility for the following areas: **housing, planning, waste and green issues**. Officers will use these members as key links for the work in the respective areas, although the Lead Members of the Board will continue to have oversight of these areas.
21. A table of portfolio holder roles is attached as **Appendix B**.

**LG Group Environment & Housing Board representatives to outside bodies
2011-12**

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. 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>	4 places (one per political group, including one Vice Chair for the Local Government sector)
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>	1 place
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>	1 place
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 meet.</p>	1 place

*new outside body

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.	1 place
Inland Flood Risk Management Group	<p>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.</p> <p>This group meets 3 times a year in Local Government House.</p>	4 places (one per political party including the appointment of a Chair of the Group)

Political Proportionality

The National Planning Forum and Inland Flood Risk Management Group require representation from all political groups (one from each party) so are not included in the political proportionality for outside bodies.

Of the 4 other places on outside bodies, political proportionality works as follows:

Conservative: 1.6
Labour: 1.3
Liberal Democrat: 0.8
Independent: 0.3

Based on these calculations, the suggestion is that the places are allocated as follows:

Conservative: 2
Labour: 1
Liberal Democrat: 1

Environment & Housing Programme Board portfolio holders 2010 – 11

Appendix B

Portfolio	Conservative	Labour	Lib Democrat	Independent
Housing				
Planning				
Waste and Material Resources				
Green and Green Issues				

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Update on other Board Business

Purpose of report

Members to note the following:

- Offer by Environment Agency (EA) for a funded secondment post to support councils on climate adaptation and invitation to be a partner of their adaptation delivery programme (attached as **Appendix A**)
- Update on Waste
- Update on EU Energy Efficiency Directive
- July and September's Chair's Reports to Councillors Forum
- Dates for 2011/12
- Any other Business

Recommendation

Members to note the reports.

Action

Members are invited to feedback on any issues they would like officers to raise with the EA.

Contact officer: Sarah Monaghan

Position: Member Support Officer

Phone no: 020 7664 3214

E-mail: sarah.monaghan@local.gov.uk

Item 9

Environment Agency Climate Adaptation Programme and offer to LG Group.

Introduction

1. The Environment Agency has written to the LG Group to request that we consider becoming a delivery partner to the EA's new climate adaptation advice programme. The letter also contains an offer of a funded secondment into the LG Group to support delivery.
2. LG Group officers intend to have further discussions with EA officers with a view to accepting their invitation. The benefits to councils and the LGG are several and risks are minimal and manageable.

Environment Agency's role on adaptation

3. The EA will take on a new, additional role as the Government's delivery body in England for advice on climate adaptation – the actions needed to build the nation's resilience to the changes and impacts projected such as hotter, drier summers; warmer, wetter winters; and an increased risk of severe weather and flooding.
4. Defra will provide EA with an additional £2million per year to deliver climate adaptation advice, an increase on the current £1.5million per year budget paid to the current delivery partners, the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) and the UK's regional climate change partnerships.
5. EA says it will use its existing structure and links with local communities and businesses to increase the reach of adaptation advice across the country. EA plan to focus on key sectors such as health, water, transport, engineering and finance.
6. In each sector EA will seek to work in partnership with the relevant trade or professional bodies and regulators to tap into relevant expertise and share knowledge on each sector's adaptation needs. The EA regard the LG Group as a key partner.

Recent work and recommendations

7. The role of local authorities in responding to climate change is widely acknowledged by central and local government, with virtually all (323) councils having signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change which includes commitments on both climate change adaptation as well as mitigation. The Nottingham Declaration is currently being reviewed as part of the Memorandum of Understanding on climate change between LG Group and Government.

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8. In June, board members received a report on the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP) which is a high level officer forum for central/ local dialogue, convened by Defra but chaired by a local authority. Members agreed that member input to the LAAP should be via the Inland Flood Risk Management Group.
9. LG Group policy work on adaptation to climate change has emphasised the need to embed adaptation within all service areas, to identify the economic, social and environmental risks to services and the benefits of planning for the expected impacts. Many authorities have assessed the risks to services of future climate change, taken steps to climate proof buildings and services and are working with vulnerable groups to reduce risk. An LG Group publication, Winning Solutions for Adaptation, published in June 2011, includes case studies of action by authorities.
10. Flood and erosion risk management are key adaptation issues and the LG Group's Inland Flood Risk Management Group and Coastal Issues SIG provide forums for members to develop LG Group policy and for the exchange of information, ideas and advice between local government and central government and its agencies.

Next steps

11. LG Group officers intend to have further discussions with EA officers with a view to accepting their invitation. Discussions will focus on developing a better understanding and agreement of the exact nature of the secondment offer as well as how we can work in partnership. The benefits to councils and the LGG are several and risks are minimal and manageable:
 - 11.1 the seconded person will be a welcome additional resource for local authorities, enabling greater access to expertise and know-how that is not currently possible with existing LGG resources;
 - 11.2 the seconded post will be 'locked' into the LG Group's relationships with councils and ways of engaging with them – thus maximising existing channels of engagement, including through services such as Planning Advisory Service, rather than duplicating methods through operating outside the local government 'family'
 - 11.3 it will further enable councils, beyond the LAAP, to shape the adaptation support programme to ensure it fits with their needs and priorities, and
 - 11.4 enable councils to have better access to Defra's policy team on climate change adaptation.
12. Whilst the LG Group's relationship with the EA is generally a positive one, officers will ensure that our acceptance of this offer does not compromise our ability to represent councils' views on the work of the Environment Agency.

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Update on Waste

13. Defra have been named as defendants in a Judicial Review brought by UK Recyclate Ltd and others in relation to Regulation 13 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. The claimants are challenging the interpretation in the UK that co-mingled waste collection can be considered a separate collection of waste (required as part of the 2008 EU Directive on Waste). The claimants are also challenging the consultation procedure. Success in this case would have significant implications and costs on waste collections for local authorities. As such the Board will need to decide whether the LG Group should be named as an interested party in order to provide evidence on behalf of the sector. Options paper to be circulated shortly.
14. The LG Group has been working with Defra and WRAP to produce separate household and business waste commitments for local authorities to sign that outline the level of service and opportunities for input their customers can expect. The launch of the commitments has been delayed while the text for the household commitment reconsidered. This is in the process of being agreed between LG Group and Defra. The launch is expected this autumn.
15. The LG Group is seeking further discussions with Defra concerning this Waste Review action based on a removal of barriers to opening up council run household waste and recycling centres to SMEs/ businesses. A letter is being drafted for Councillor Parsons to raise concerns with Lord Henley (Minister for Waste and Recycling) in order to initiate further consideration and meetings between LG Group and Defra officers

EU Energy Efficiency Directive

16. The European Commission have produced a draft EU Energy Efficiency Directive, which would have significant implications for the local authorities. The main issues are the establishment of a 3% annual target for renovation of publicly owned buildings and an obligation on public bodies to purchase only products, services and buildings with high energy efficiency performance. The LG Group have contributed towards a Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) position statement that seeks to minimise and make more flexible the targets. A draft LG Group position statement will be produced shortly for your consideration.

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Report to July Councillors' Forum

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

LGA Housing Seminar – 9 June 2011

1. I chaired a members housing seminar on 9 June. The seminar included a presentation and discussion with the housing Minister, Grant Shapps MP and political perspectives from Cllr Tony Newman, Cllr Chris Naylor and Cllr Mike Haines. Issues discussed included: giving councils a level playing field with housing associations in accessing funding for building social housing, questions about long-term sustainability of the Affordable Rent model, positive impact of past regeneration projects in turning around deprived urban areas and the Importance of sustainability, and social and environmental considerations in delivering housing. Members then took part in detailed workshop discussions on four themes: housing finance, housing growth, housing regeneration and renewal, social housing reform.

Draft Planning Policy Statement for Traveller Sites

2. On 13 April 2011, the Government published for consultation a draft new planning policy statement for traveller sites. Full details available here: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/travellers> On 17 June 2011, Cllr Ed Turner chaired a meeting of CLG officials and LG Group Planning Portfolio Holders to explore some of key issues for local authorities stemming from the consultation. LG Group officers will use the outputs of this discussion to inform the LG Group response to this consultation, which will also be circulated to members for comment.

Homelessness round table with Grant Shapps

3. Further to LG Group Members attendance at the Ministerial Working Group on homelessness, Councillor David Rogers OBE, Chair of the Community Wellbeing Programme Board, and I convened a round table to discuss a community budgeting approach to homelessness. The meeting was attended by over 20 local authority members, senior officers and the Housing Minister, Grant Shapps MP. Following a discussion on the community budget pilots on families with complex needs the group agreed to investigate developing a stronger role for housing issues on the health and well being board agenda and develop a strong evidence base and case studies to support a preventative approach.

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National Planning Forum

4. Cllr Mike Haines chaired the National Planning Forum (bringing together private and public sector interests in planning) meeting on the 23rd June. The Forum discussed the recently published draft National Planning Policy Framework and heard from two of the draft's authors, John Rhodes of Quod Planning Consultancy and Pete Andrew, Director of Land and Planning at Taylor Wimpey UK. The meeting also heard from DCLG Chief Planner, Steve Quartermain on changes to the planning system.

Meeting with Chief Executive Homes and Communities Agency

5. Pat Ritchie, Chief Executive of the Homes and Communities Agency, attended the Environment and Housing Board meeting on 26th June for a discussion with the Board on the Government's housing reforms, the implications for local housing authorities and the agency's changing role from investor to enabler. Following a discussion of challenges and priorities for the sector, it was agreed that the LG Group and the HCA should explore the potential for collaboration in supporting councils in providing strong leadership through their strategic housing role.

Environment & Housing Programme Board – report from Cllr David Parsons CBE

Planning Summer School (Elected Members School)

1. I gave the opening address at the Annual Planning Summer School in Swansea University on Saturday 3 September, which focused on 'planning with communities.' I discussed the important role of councillors in planning, the reforms in the Localism Bill and the opportunities this brings for councils and communities to shape their areas. I also stressed the importance of getting a local plan in place as a way of enabling councils to safeguard their areas against inappropriate development, developing a good understanding of the needs of the local community as they relate to planning and a way of engaging local people in decisions that affect them.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework published

2. The Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 25 July 2011. As well as responding to the formal consultation (deadline 17 October), we will be submitting written evidence to the DCLG and Environmental Audit select committees on the NPPF in September. Please see our [position statement](#) on the proposals put forward in July. In addition to this we will be launching a new document "Localism and the NPPF: some implications for local government" with the Planning Advisory Service and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives at our national conference on "Understanding the NPPF" on 10 October 2011.

Flood Risk Management

3. In August, I wrote to the Minister for Flooding, Richard Benyon, to express the concerns of member authorities at the delay in publication of the consultation on the Implementation of the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) provision and also the National Standards for SuDS. Government has proposed to implement the SuDS provisions in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 from April 2012 however currently there is no clear timetable for commencement to enable local authorities to plan effectively for the implementation at a local level. The Government has confirmed that the consultation will not be launched until the Autumn 2011. The knock on effect is that the preferred implementation date of April 2012 is unlikely.
4. The LG Group will continue to ensure the view of local government is fully represented and work with Defra to ensure the consultation addresses the

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areas of concern, particularly around the avoidance of new burdens, proposed new implementation dates, and long-term funding.

Understanding and Responding to Planning Reform event

5. Mayor Dorothy Thornhill CBE spoke at the Planning Advisory Service's (PAS) 'Understanding and Responding to Planning Reform' event on 8 September. Mayor Thornhill provided an elected Member's perspective on the Localism Bill, the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the impact of the planning agenda on councils' work, local plans and place.

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LG Group Environment & Housing Programme Board

Meeting Dates 2011-12

DAY (2011)	DATE	TIME	LEAD MEMBERS' PRE-MEETING	ROOM / VENUE
Wednesday	14 September 2011	11.00am	9.30am	Smith Square Rooms 3&4, Local Government House
Wednesday	16 November 2011	11.00am	9.30am	Rathbone Rooms 1&2, Local Government House
DAY (2012)				
Wednesday	11 January 2012	11.00am	9.30am	Smith Square Rooms 3&4, Local Government House
Wednesday	14 March 2012	11.00am	9.30am	Smith Square Rooms 3&4, Local Government House
Wednesday	Tbc May			
Monday	25 June 2012 (to coincide with LGA Conference – the day before)	tbc	tbc	Birmingham

Security marking: None

Sandie Dunne
Head of Programmes
Local Government Group
Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Our ref: TG/ME-J/SandieDunne/290711

Your ref:

Date: 29 July 2011

Dear Sandie,

Climate Change Adaptation

As follow up to your recent meeting with Julie Foley, Phil Rothwell and David Rooke, I am pleased to ask formally if you would consider being a delivery partner to the Environment Agency's new climate change adaptation advice programme. I would also like to confirm our offer of an Environment Agency funded secondment into the Local Government Group to support delivery.

The new programme aims to build on the work carried out by the UK Climate Impacts Programme and to improve the resilience of key sectors to climate risks. We propose to target the programme on a number of key sectors and themes, including infrastructure, the built environment, business and the economy, health and wellbeing and the natural environment. We recognise that local government is a key sector, with direct relevance to all the other sectors and themes, as well as having specific local government objectives. These include embedding climate resilience into core services as well championing climate resilience in communities and with business.

We are keen that that new programme builds capacity and embeds expertise where it is most needed - in the sectors themselves - and as such we would like to offer you an Environment Agency funded secondment to support delivery. This would start as soon as practically possible and end in March 2013 (approximately 18 months duration) to help develop and deliver the local government sector elements of the programme.

We are currently at the early stages of scoping and developing the delivery plans for each of the sectors. We are keen to ensure this is done in partnership with you and others, so that we focus our efforts in the most strategic places. As such, a possible work programme for the secondment might include –

- Review current progress and needs of the local government sector, including for tools, advice or evidence gaps.
- Scope opportunities and synergies to embed advice and support into existing initiatives, mechanisms and channels.
- Work in partnership with leading local authorities, sector leads and other local government groups (e.g. ADEPT, SOLACE, LGID, LGIU etc) to secure their support for the programme.

Environment Agency
25th Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4XL
Tel: 020 78638677 Fax: 020 78638775
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

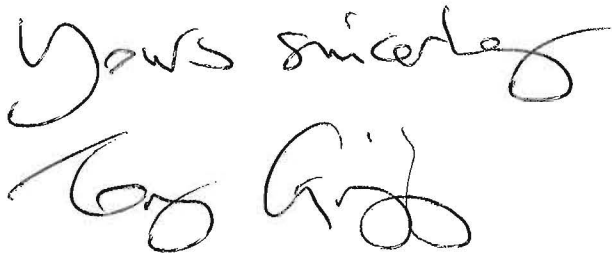
- Scope potential projects for funding in 2012/13 and beyond (although the exact amount of available project spend is unclear at the moment).
- Monitor progress to feed into the overall programme reporting.
- Gather evidence of the obstacles and barriers to adaptation and develop sector-led suggestions for overcoming these.
- Work with other sector delivery partners such as ClimateUK to ensure a joined up approach to delivery.

The post will need to work in partnership with multiple partners, including the Environment Agency as the overall delivery body for the programme, but also Defra (in particular the Adapting to Climate Change team) and DCLG.

We envisage the post being a senior advisor, line managed by a senior person within LG Group, but working very closely with the overall programme team in the Environment Agency. The governance, work programme and deliverables would need to be mutually agreed by both parties. LG Group would need to provide all the support services required for staff members.

In exchange, we hope that LGG would provide leadership within the sector to deliver and drive forward this agenda as delivery partner for the programme outcomes. This would include helping to shape the programme, providing access to key staff, networks and members, as well as the expertise in the LG Group to ensure the programme was tailored to the sectors bespoke needs

If this proposal is acceptable to you, we would be pleased to meet with you or your team to further agree the details and progress the recruitment as soon as possible.



Tony Grayling
Head of Climate Change and Communities

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Environment & Housing Programme Board
Date and time: 2pm, Monday 27 June 2011
Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Birmingham City Centre

Attendance

Cllr:

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Vice chair	Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest LB
Deputy chair	Dorothy Thornhill	Watford BC
Deputy chair	Mike Haines	Teignbridge DC
Members	Peter Britcliffe	Hyndburn BC
	Andrew Gravells	Gloucestershire CC/ Gloucester City
	Clare Whelan	Lambeth LB
	David Smith	Lichfield DC
	Derek Bateman	Cheshire West & Chester
	Tony Newman	Croydon LB
	Ed Turner	Oxford City
	Paula Baker	Basingstoke & Deane BC
Substitutes	Tim Moore	Liverpool City
	Richard Williams	Southampton City
Apologies	Jason Stacey	Ealing LB
	Roger Symonds	Bath and NE Somerset Council
In attendance	Sandie Dunne	LG Group
	Clive Harris	LG Group
	Caroline Green	LG Group
	Lara Adekoya	LG Group
	Jo Allchurch	LG Group
	Tina Holland	LG Group

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p>Councils' leadership role in housing – discussion with the Homes and Communities Agency and feedback from the LG Group housing seminars</p> <p>Pat Ritchie, Chief Executive and Jim Bennett, Head of Corporate Strategy, Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), attended the meeting to update members of the work of the HCA, their priority areas of work, and discuss how the HCA and the LG Group can work together to support councils on current issues and priorities for housing.</p> <p>Merron Simpson and Lee Shostak also attended the meeting to present the outcomes of the recent LG Group seminars <i>Changing the way we do housing</i>.</p> <p>Pat discussed the new focus for the HCA following spending cuts and the government's housing reform agenda, and its change of focus from investing to enabling and delivery (although 3 investment programmes, including the Affordable Homes Programme, will be continued), with a specific focus on supporting councils in their new role in determining local housing needs and achieving local housing growth. To this end, the HCA has protected funding for local teams despite significant spending reductions, to help ensure that localities are supported appropriately.</p> <p>Members discussed challenges and priorities for the sector and raised the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members discussed the housing reforms in the Localism Bill, particularly the 'Community Right to Build' and stressed that the HCA should provide a more streamlined bidding process for smaller schemes and also a more simplified grant system. Members also added that it would be helpful for the HCA to support councils not just in increasing housing supply, but also helping councils ensure that existing and new stock is appropriate and sustainable for their local communities. • Members discussed the HCA's recently published Development and Land Disposal Strategy and stressed 	

that more focus should be given to supporting councils to act in more commercially focussed ways with developers. In particular, Members suggested that the HCA should do some further work with RSLs to this end.

- Members welcomed the work the HCA has done with local authorities to develop Local Investment Plans. However, Members noted that some LIPs would need to be revised in the light of the proposed abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies in the Localism Bill.
- Members expressed concern that councils are at a disadvantage compared with housing associations in bidding for funding under the Affordable Rent model. Members asked for further information at a later stage about how many local authorities have been engaged in determining successful bids and whether the funding decisions are based on Local Infrastructure Plans.
- Some members expressed concern about the pressures on councils to supply affordable housing, particularly in light of the new provision for social landlords to charge tenants up to 80% of market rent.
- Members stressed that it will be important for the HCA to engage with the new Health and Wellbeing Boards to make the case for investment in housing as a means of driving up health outcomes.

Merron Simpson and Lee Shostak discussed their findings from the five seminars they facilitated on behalf of the LG Group throughout March to consider with local authority representatives the opportunities arising from the government's planned reforms of housing and planning, and how the changes will affect the strategic leadership role of local authorities.

In discussion, Members stressed that only a strong strategic housing function in local authorities will enable councils to adapt to the fundamental reforms to housing policy made by the Government. Following the discussion of the key challenges and priorities for the sector, it was agreed that the LG Group and the HCA should explore the potential for collaboration in supporting councils in providing strong leadership through their strategic housing role.

Decision

Members noted the report and recommended that further work should be undertaken by LG Group and HCA to scope out how a collaborative approach could deliver a strong leadership role

on planning and housing, and what a support offer to councils should seek to address.

Action

- Officers to develop proposals for a programme of support to councils in delivering an enhanced leadership role in housing.

2 Waste Review update

Clive Harris introduced this item which provides members with a summary of the contents of Defra's review of waste policy that was published on 14 June.

In discussion, Members made the following comments:

- The LG Group's lobbying of politicians and officials has resulted in significant successes for the sector in the final review response, most notably that frequency of collection will continue to be decided by local authorities.
- Members endorsed the proposed further work set out in report, and said that further detail would need to be fleshed out in due course.
- Members suggested that further lobbying work should be done by the LG Group to ensure that local government is given better enforcement powers for tackling fly-tipping.

Decision

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

3 EU Update

Sandie Dunne introduced this report which discusses two EU proposals which are being developed and require a Local Government Group stance to inform lobbying activity.

Members discussed the suggested overarching strategic principles which could be applied to the issues, commenting specifically that although climate change should be addressed by all public bodies, EU proposals should not add additional administrative or financial burdens to councils.

Decision

Members **endorsed** the principles set out in the report.

Action

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

4 Adaptation to Climate Change

Jo Allchurch introduced this item which updates Members on LG Group work on Adaptation to Climate Change and new arrangements for local/ central dialogue on Adaptation.

Members discussed possible routes for inputting to the newly formed Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, and agreed that although input from elected councillors was essential, this should not be done directly through the Environment and Housing Programme Board.

Decision

Members **agreed** to use the Inland Flood Risk Management Group to discuss adaptation (every 6 or 12 months) to help develop LG Group policy positions and provide recommendations to LAAP.

5 Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats – Project Update

Decision

Members **noted** the update and draft guidance.

6 Getting Closer

Decision

Members **noted** the report which summarises the Getting Closer process and the next steps for the new organisation.

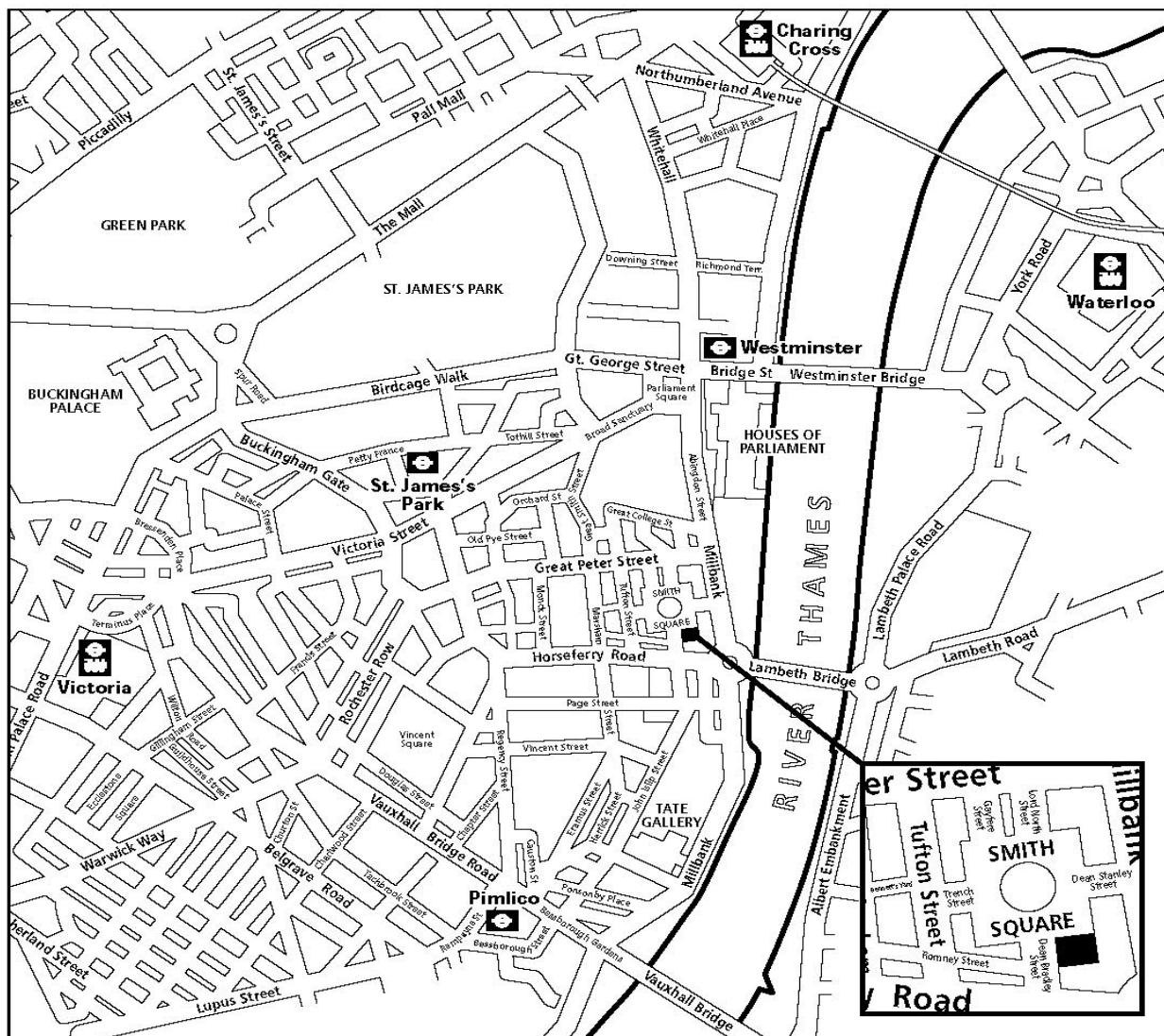
7 Update on other Board Business

Decision

Members **noted** the report.

Members placed on record their thanks to Gary Porter for his chairmanship of the Environment and Housing Programme Board and congratulated him on his election as Leader of the LGA Conservative Group. The Board also thanked other Members for whom this would be the last meeting; in particular, Cllr Mike Haines and Cllr Derek Bateman for their longstanding service to environment and housing issues for local government.

LG Group Location Map



Local Government Association

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

Public transport

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

Bus routes - Millbank

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

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - 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