

# European and International Board

Agenda

Monday 21 May 2012  
11.00am

Peterborough Town Hall (Bourges Room)  
Bridge Street  
Peterborough  
PE1 1HG

**To:** Members of the European and International Board  
**cc:** Named officers for briefing purposes

## European & International Board

21 May 2012

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The European & International Board meeting will be held on **Monday 21 May 2012** at **11.00am**, in the **Bourges Room** at Peterborough Town Hall, Bridge Street, **Peterborough**, PE1 1HG.

**Lunch** will be available following the meeting at approximately **1.30pm**. A study **tour of the City**, by foot, will take place at approximately **2.30pm** to see a number of eco-projects. It is anticipated that the tour will **finish** at approximately **3.30pm**.

### Apologies

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

**Labour:** Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: [aicha.less@local.gov.uk](mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk)  
**Conservative:** Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: [luke.taylor@local.gov.uk](mailto:luke.taylor@local.gov.uk)  
**Liberal Democrat:** Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: [libdem@local.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk)  
**Independent:** Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: [independent.group@local.gov.uk](mailto:independent.group@local.gov.uk)

### Attendance Sheet

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

### Location

A map showing the location of the Peterborough Town Hall is printed on the back cover.

### Contact

Frances Marshall (Tel: 020 7664 3220, email: [frances.marshall@local.gov.uk](mailto:frances.marshall@local.gov.uk) )

### Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme, a Carers' Allowance of up to £6.08 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependents (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

## European & International Board 2011 / 12

09.05.12

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### European & International Board - Membership 2011-2012

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Conservative (6)</b>		
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI [ <b>Deputy Chair</b> ]	Peterborough City	
Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC	Rural Commission
Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC	
Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC	
Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC	
Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC	Audit & Scrutiny Panel
<b>Labour (5)</b>		
Dave Wilcox OBE ( <b>Chair</b> )	Derbyshire CC	Councillors' Forum
Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City	
Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB	Economy & Transport Board
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC	
<b>Substitute:</b>		
Richard Williams	Southampton City	Environment & Housing
<b>Liberal Democrat (2)</b>		
Richard Kemp CBE [ <b>Vice- Chair</b> ]	Liverpool City	
<i>Vacancy</i>		
Lord Graham Tope CBE (observer)	Sutton LB	
<b>Independent (1)</b>		
Linda Gillham [ <b>Deputy Chair</b> ]	Runnymede BC	
<b>Substitute:</b>		
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council	

## LGA European & International Board Attendance 2011-2012

Councillors	31.10.11	17.1.12	6.3.12	21.5.12	11.7.12
<b>Conservative Group</b>					
Marco Cereste	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sandra Barnes MBE	Yes	Yes	No		
Gordon Keymer CBE	Yes	Yes	No		
Keith Glazier	Yes	Yes	No		
Liz Eyre	Yes	No	Yes		
Phil Grove	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Labour Group</b>					
David Wilcox OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sir Albert Bore	Yes	Yes	No		
Nilgun Canver	No	Yes	Yes		
Guy Nicholson	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Yes	No	Yes		
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>					
Richard Kemp CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Zulfiqar Ali	Yes	No	No	-	-
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Yes	No	No		
<b>Independent</b>					
Linda Gillham	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Substitutes</b>					
Roger Dennison		Yes			

## Agenda

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### European and International Board

Monday 21 May 2012

11.00am

Bourges Room, Peterborough Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG.

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#### **Part 1 – Board Business**

11.00am – 12.15pm

##### For discussion

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.	<b>European and International contribution to LGA business plan</b>	<b>3</b>
2.	<b>Member lobbying strategies 2012 – circulated separately</b>	
3.	<b>EU Funds Post 2013 - Update and lobbying strategy</b>	<b>17</b>
4.	<b>Representation on International Bodies</b>	<b>23</b>
5.	<b>Update on International work</b>	<b>31</b>

##### For information

12.15pm – 1.30pm

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
6.	Notes of the last meeting	<b>35</b>
7.	Date of next meeting - Wednesday 11 July 2012 , 11am at Local Government House, London	
8.	Discussion paper for the themed session: EU Environmental Policy	<b>43</b>

#### **Part 2 – Themed Session**

12.15pm – 1.30pm

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
9.	Environmental Issues Presentation on the Peterborough Model  Representatives from Peterborough City Council and the other local authorities will be in attendance to contribute to the discussion.	

#### **Lunch**

1.30pm – 2.30pm

#### **Part 3 – Peterborough Study Tour**

2.30pm – 3.30pm



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**Item 1**

**European and International contribution to LGA business plan**

**Purpose of report**

For discussion and decision.

**Purpose of report**

The LGA business plan has now been agreed and sets out clear delivery priorities for the organisation in 2012-13. This item suggests the contribution this Board can make to meet the LGA's business plan priorities.

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to consider the LGA's European and international offer and to recommend additional ways in which these priorities can be enhanced and delivered.

**Action**

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

**Contact officer:** Ian Hughes  
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## **Delivering the LGA business priorities in 2012/13**

### *The offer from the LGA European and International Board*

1. The LGA business plan sets out clear delivery priorities for the organisation in 2012-13. This paper sets out how the LGA European and International Board will focus on these priorities and, in doing so, will continue to provide a European and international service upon which councils can rely on for funding, early warning intelligence about European Union (EU) policy and legislative developments affecting them, and enabling learning from abroad to help councils continuously improve.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM**

2. A major priority of the LGA in 2012-13 will be to pursue a programme of public service reform. As over 50 per cent of all regulation affecting councils originates from EU proposals, we will focus on those EU proposals which provide the greatest opportunities or threats to councils' ability to delivery quality public services.
3. Our offer to councils:

### **LGA annual EU lobbying programme**

4. Every year, usually in the autumn, the LGA considers the European Commission's work programme which contains policy and legislative proposals for the year ahead. It is the EU equivalent of our Queen's speech, so it is important that the LGA is in a position to influence EU and national decision-making processes. From this, the LGA agrees a focused lobbying programme on those proposals which we expect could have an administrative, financial or regulatory impact on our member authorities, or the services that they provide or procure. This is combined with other EU lobbying priorities from previous years which are still going through the EU decision-making process. This exercise is coordinated by LGA staff responsible for EU work with detailed support from specialists across the organisation.
5. The 2012 EU work programme was published in October 2011. It is extensive, and we have identified that around 28 EU proposals which could affect the functioning of local government to a greater or lesser degree; the full list is attached at **Annex A**. Board Members endorsed the long list of issues in January this year, and discussed the issues further at the March Board meeting.

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**2012 lobbying priorities**

6. At the last Board meeting, Members recommended that from the long list, we identify a set of six priorities for the LGA to work on during 2012. These are:
  - 6.1 Reform of EU public procurement rules.
  - 6.2 Directive on energy efficiency.
  - 6.3 Campaign to localise future EU funding 2014-2020 including structural funds.
  - 6.4 Review of the Working Time Directive.
  - 6.5 Review of the Air Quality Directive.
  - 6.6 EU fines (part of the Localism Act) – see below.
7. LGA staff have prepared lobbying strategies for Members' consideration (circulated separately). These highlight how we propose to work with leading Members, other national associations, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR - the European LGA), Committee of the Regions (CoR), UK Parliament, and networks of council experts to influence decisions Whitehall, Westminster and Brussels.

**Lobbying and relationship management in Brussels and the UK**

8. We will maintain a close relationship with a range of decision-makers and opinion-formers to maximise the impact of our lobbying in Brussels and the UK. Specifically this includes:
  - 8.1 Brussels: Commission officials, CEMR, CoR, MEPs (including LGA Vice-Presidents), UKRep, UK regional offices, other national LGAs, business and trade union representatives in Brussels.
  - 8.2 UK: EU leads in Whitehall departments, UK Parliament, European Commission and European Parliament UK representations, and relevant stakeholders.
9. The political relationship with MEPs and MPs on key parliamentary committees is an area where LGA member engagement can make a significant contribution to our lobbying strategies. This is especially the case in our relationship with LGA Vice-Presidents on the European Parliament.
10. Supplementing the relationship management highlighted, the LGA will continue to develop annual theme-based UK local government summits in Brussels and Whitehall. The intention this year is to organise a summit in Brussels to focus on our EU funding campaign.

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**Systematic policy briefings and intelligence**

11. We will deliver a national policy information service through a monthly bulletin, funding tracker and other media. This will provide information on policy proposals/changes, key LGA lobbying events so councils can influence them, early-warning so that councils can support lobbying locally with MPs, MEPs and Ministers, and progress on key lobbying objectives. We will also maintain watching briefs on other EU proposals outside our core lobbying priorities, to ensure other risks/opportunities are monitored, and escalated if necessary.

**Working with Whitehall on the delivery of EU law and regulation**

12. The devolution of EU fines under the Localism Act demonstrates the continued impact of EU regulation on councils, and more importantly, and the Government's responsibility to turn EU regulations into effective UK law. Poor communication of EU responsibilities or badly enacted UK responses may have a financial impact on councils. Thus LGA activities on the EU need a greater Whitehall focus in future.

13. In 2012, our focused offer for councils will be:

- 13.1 Ensure that any attempt to devolve EU fines to local authorities is fair and evidence-based.
- 13.2 A clear process for parliamentary and independent scrutiny is in place should a local authority wish to challenge an attempt to pass down a fine. Local government expertise is adequately represented on the independent advisory panel.
- 13.3 A programme of support for our member authorities to help avoid any imposition of EU fines.

14. We will also work across Government to ensure that the implementation of EU law is effective and appropriate. We will:

- 14.1 Lead a Whitehall Summit to ensure that all Government departments are meeting their responsibilities in the implementation of EU law under the Localism Act.
- 14.2 On our EU priority issues, identify lead EU Whitehall specialists and ensure they are supported and challenged by LGA leads on the same issue.
- 14.3 Develop a link with Whitehall departments to identify areas where there is a risk of an EU fine and seek to address these issues within Whitehall and our sector.

**Item 1**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

15. EU structural funds provide an £8 billion investment into the UK over seven years. These funds are some of the few remaining public resources to support local regeneration. These funds are being reformed in 2012-13 and we will prioritise our lobbying in both Brussels and Whitehall on this issue.

16. Our offer to councils:

**Securing future investment from the EU**

17. As identified above, this forms one of our major EU lobbying priorities. There is a huge demand from the sector for a concerted national LGA effort to represent their interests both in Whitehall and Brussels. Our campaign aims to ensure that councils continue to have the opportunity to receive investment from EU regeneration funds, and that it is far more flexible locally than is currently the case. We will lead the debate to ensure local authority ideas are considered, and that we work with other stakeholders to ensure that our ideas are shared. Our strategy includes working with all five Government departments, including a Chatham House arrangement to support new ideas for local delivery, securing a local government secondment into Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to help develop the UK position, engagement with MEPs and the lead European Commissioner, and feeding into UK parliamentary debates.

**Early warning on funding opportunities**

18. We will provide a monthly bulletin and alerts on funding opportunities for councils to provide intelligence on funding calls: service area, amount, partners needed, deadline, etc. We will work with regional associations to ensure that councils have access to any EU (technical assistance) resources to support funding applications.

**SECTOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT**

**Managing the demand upon LGA member authorities from the developing world**

19. We will provide a gateway to manage the growing demand for UK local government practitioners to support developing local government abroad. There is a formal relationship with the Commonwealth LGA (CLGF), EU, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department for International Development (DFID). The LGA promotes the use of practitioners to deliver aid programmes, rather than expensive consultants to ensure greater value-for money from international, EU and UK aid budgets as well as ensuring on the ground expertise.

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We will continue to work with aid organisations and the private sector to secure extra funding for this work to ensure that councils have additional resources to undertake this work.

**Supporting service improvement from international practice**

20. We will continue to disseminate knowledge through the web and seminars about innovative and basic good practice from abroad. More importantly, we will use international practice in our lobbying work to test the boundaries of the UK local/central settlement. In 2012, we will focus this work on three LGA campaigns: local growth, adult social care and local government finance.

**UNDERPINNING OUR WORK FOR COUNCILS**

**Providing a national secretariat for councillors on formal European bodies**

21. The LGA will provide a single, national secretariat to support UK members on statutory European bodies, for example, on the EU CoR and the Council of Europe. To ensure effective and responsive support to all UK members, we work closely with officers from across the UK to ensure they feed into our policy support to members. In summary, we will provide a policy briefing on issues at each plenary and committee meeting, support for lobbying and governance issues, support to “*rappoteurs*” on key issues and on-the-spot advice at committees and plenary sessions.

**A national resource in Brussels**

22. The LGA Brussels Office is based in the EU Quarter and is co-located with CEMR, Eurocities, over 20 other LGAs and individual regions and cities. The LGA offers one hot-desk in our office (including internet and meeting facilities) for occasional use by member councils if there are meetings to be attended in Brussels. This is available to LGA member councils as a temporary Brussels base. The shared building also has larger meeting spaces for short-term rent, which we would be happy to make available for councils (fee charged by our landlord).

23. Officers responsible for coordinating European and international policy work are:

- 23.1 Brussels: Richard Kitt, Dominic Rowles
- 23.2 London: Jasbir Jhas, Nick Porter, Rachael Donaldson (EU work)  
Ivor Wells, Drago Djekovic (international work)



**European & International  
Board**  
21 May 2012

**Item 1**

**Contact officer:** Ian Hughes  
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**ANNEX A: EU LOBBYING PRIORITIES**

<b>EU proposal and expected impact on LGA member authorities, Mainstreamed LGA Programme Board Level of response (priority or watching brief)</b>	<b>Launch of EU proposal</b>	<b>Brussels decision makers</b>	<b>Whitehall decision makers</b>
<b>LGA Executive</b>			
<b>EU financial sanctions (Localism Act):</b> discretionary powers for Ministers to pass all, or part of, an EU fine for failing to comply with a ECJ ruling for non compliance with EU law. <b>Priority</b>	Live	-	Communities and Local Government (CLG)
<b>Review of Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MIFID):</b> Reclassification of UK councils as 'non-professional' investors, harming ability to invest public funds. <b>Priority</b>	Live COM(2011)656	ECON (EP) ECOS (CoR)	HM Treasury
<b>VAT affecting public authorities:</b> councils' ability to claim back VAT from government for goods/services they buy for the public sector (crèches etc) may be threatened by common EU approach for public bodies in the EU. <b>Watching brief</b>	<i>In 2011 plan, but not published</i>	ECON (EP) ECOS (CoR)	HM Treasury
<b>Regulation on prudential requirements of credit institutions ("BASEL III")</b> Greater capital requirements introduced by the regulation on prudential requirements for credit institutions may affect the lending (loan) activities of local authorities, credit unions, and public banks. <b>Watching brief</b>	Live COM(2011)452	ECON (EP) ECOS (CoR)	HM Treasury
<b>LGA Children and Young People Board</b>			
<b>Child poverty:</b> common principles of intervention on support to families (labour market, income support) and childcare, education, healthcare, housing, social services. <b>Watching brief</b>	June 2012	EMPL (EP) ECOS (CoR)	Dept for Education Dept for Work and Pensions (DWP)

**Item 1: Annex A**

<p><b>LGA Economy and Transport Board</b></p>			
<p><b>EU Budget review (2014-2020) incl. structural funds:</b> UK councils benefit from £9bn EU skills and regeneration funding. We seek a coherent, locally responsive and accessible future funding package. <b>Priority</b></p>	<p>Live COM(2011) 398 COM(2011) 607 COM(2011) 612 COM(2011) 614 COM(2011) 615</p>	<p>BUDG+REGI (EP) AdHoc+COTER (CoR)</p>	<p>Dept for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) Dept For Env, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) CLG, DWP</p>
<p><b>CO2 from cars and vans:</b> new targets for manufacturers, but may affect procurement of local authority fleet. <i>Watching brief</i></p>	<p>Dec 2012</p>	<p>TRAN (EP) COTER (CoR)</p>	<p>Dept for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Dept for Transport (DfT)</p>
<p><b>Revisions to regional aid guidelines</b> will affect the UK 'assisted areas' map + levels of grant support councils can offer to business. <b>Priority</b></p>	<p>Sept 2012</p>	<p>REGI (EP) COTER (CoR)</p>	<p>BIS</p>
<p><b>Revisions to 'block exemption' &amp; de minimis state aid regulations</b> could make it easier for councils to award state aid to companies without having to notify the EU. <i>Watching brief</i></p>	<p>July 2012</p>	<p>IMCO (EP) ECOS (CoR)</p>	<p>BIS</p>
<p><b>Revisions to state aid rules for broadband</b> may make it easier for councils to provide support schemes locally. <i>Watching brief</i></p>		<p>IMCO (EP) EDUC (EP)</p>	<p>BIS</p>
<p><b>LGA Environment and Housing Board</b></p>			
<p><b>Directive on energy efficiency:</b> LGA opposes inflexible annual 3% binding renovation target for buildings by 2014. <b>Priority</b></p>	<p>Live COM(2011)370</p>	<p>ITRE (EP) ENVE (CoR)</p>	<p>DEFRA, DECC, CLG</p>



**Item 1: Annex A**

<b>Initiative on radio spectrum policy for more efficient energy production and distribution:</b> harmonisation of smart energy grids / metering. <i>Watching brief</i>	Autumn 2012	ITRE (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG
<b>Revision of EU Greenhouse Gas:</b> fluorinated greenhouse gases (led to fridge mountains). <i>Watching brief</i>	June 2012	ITRE (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG
<b>Review of Environmental Impact Assessment Directive</b> will seek to improve councils' implementation of EU laws. <b>Priority</b>	July 2012	ENVI (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG
<b>Seventh environmental action programme:</b> sets general framework and priorities for future agenda. <i>Watching brief</i>	Oct 2012	ENVI (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG
Potential review of <b>Environmental Liability Directive</b> <i>Watching brief</i>	2014	ENVI (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG
Revision of <b>Waste</b> Framework and Waste Stream Directives must not add to existing duties.			DEFRA, DECC, CLG
New diversion targets from other waste streams may be added to <b>Landfill Directive</b> (zero land fill by 2050.) <b>Priority</b>	2014		DEFRA, DECC, CLG
<b>Directive on water efficiency in buildings:</b> as part of a wider "blueprint" for future water policy, a new Directive may set binding targets and incur a significant cost to councils as owners of municipal buildings and social housing. <b>Priority</b>	Dec 2012	ENVI (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG
<b>Air Quality Directive:</b> review may set new air quality management standards. 2013 is European air quality year <b>Priority</b>	2013	ENVI (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG

**Item 1: Annex A**

<p><b>LGA Improvement Board</b></p>			
<p><b>Major review of EU public procurement rules.</b> LGA is lobbying to ensure a simpler and lighter regime overall, and a more flexible approach to shared services. <b>Priority</b></p>	<p>Live COM(2011)896</p>	<p>IMCO (EP) ECOS (CoR)</p>	<p>Cabinet Office</p>
<p><b>Award of concession contracts:</b> LGA is lobbying for light touch regulation on councils' franchise arrangements: toll bridges car parks, leisure centres, waste, school canteens <b>Priority</b></p>	<p>Live COM(2011)897</p>	<p>IMCO (EP) ECOS (CoR)</p>	
<p><b>Data protection: re-use of public sector information:</b> proposals may affect how councils store and share personal data. <i>Watching brief</i></p>	<p>Live COM(2011)877</p>	<p>LIBE (EP) ECOS (CoR)</p>	
<p><b>LGA European and International Board</b></p>			
<p><b>Role of civil society and local authorities in development.</b> <i>Watching brief</i></p>	<p>Oct 2012</p>	<p>DEVE (EP) CIVEX (CoR)</p>	<p>Dept for International Development (DFID)</p>
<p><b>European Neighbourhood Policy and Eastern Partnership</b> <i>Watching brief</i></p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>AFET (EP) CIVEX (CoR)</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)</p>
<p><b>LGA Stronger and Safer Communities Board</b></p> <p>Proposals to review EU Directives/regulations on organic food, tobacco sales, general product safety, animal health, and official food chain controls may affect councils' <b>trading standards</b> and <b>environmental health</b> teams. <i>Watching brief</i></p>	<p>During 2012-13</p>	<p>ENVI+IMCO (EP) Various CoR</p>	

**Item 1: Annex A**

<b>European consumer agenda:</b> consumer safety, rights redress and access to justice, enforcement, information. <i>Watching brief</i>	Summer 2012	IMCO (EP) EDUC (CoR)	
<b>LGA Culture Tourism &amp; Sport Board</b>			
<b>European tourism label sector:</b> legislation to bring quality evaluation of the sector. <i>Watching brief</i>	2012	TRAN (EP) NAT (CoR)	Dept for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)
<b>LGA Workforce Board</b>			
<b>LGA Fire Services Management Committee</b>			
<b>Working Time Directive Review:</b> may affect care homes and fire services. Lobbying to keep 48 hour opt-out; ensure not all on-call time is working time; and compensatory rest is taken flexibly. <b>Priority</b>	Ongoing	EMPL (EP) ECOS (CoR)	CLG, BIS
<b>Freedom of movement for workers</b> within the EU may establish certain obligations on employers, including councils. It is envisaged to apply to EU nationals moving/working within the EU rather than migration to/from third countries <i>Watching brief</i>	Late 2012	EMPL (EP) ECOS (CoR)	CLG, BIS
<b>Green Paper on restructuring:</b> good practice in employment restructuring promoting employment/growth. <i>Watching brief</i>	Live COM(2012)007	EMPL (EP) ECOS (CoR)	CLG, BIS
<b>Protection of workers from the risks related to carcinogens and mutagens at work</b> <i>Watching brief</i>	Oct 2012	EMPL (EP) ECOS (CoR)	CLG, BIS
<b>Work/family and private life</b> - measures to increase female employment rates and tackle demographic change <i>Watching brief</i>	2012	EMPL (EP) ECOS (CoR)	CLG, BIS



## **EU Funds post 2013 - Update & lobbying strategy**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This report updates Members on current lobbying activities related to EU funds. It also proposes a lobby strategy to steer the ongoing work during 2012 and 2013.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

1. comment on the report;
2. approve the lobby strategy; and
3. give a steer regarding current lobbying work.

### **Action**

Officers to action as directed by Members.

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## **EU Funds post 2013 - Update and lobbying strategy**

1. The European Union structural funds typically support economic and skills development activity, and are regularly accessed by local authorities to help realise local ambitions.
2. The funds are worth over £8 billion to the UK between 2007-2013 period, which, once match-funded, represents a potential total investment over £16 billion. They include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). Further investment opportunities are available to councils through the EU's Rural Development Programme for England, and a range of thematic EU funds.
3. 2012 is a crucial year in determining what the funds will look like from 2014-2020, and what role councils can play in using them. The LGA continues to play a leading role in discussions with European institutions and the UK Government to ensure that councils are able to lead, shape and use these funds in whatever way is most appropriate for their area.
4. An informal task and finish group continues to lead LGA lobbying on EU funding. The group includes Members from this Board and the Economy and Transport Programme Board. The objectives are to:
  - 4.1 protect investment and maximise the take from EU funds for local areas;
  - 4.2 ensure councils play a leading role in the negotiation and establishment of the new programmes; and
  - 4.3 articulate and push the case for new delivery models that enable local partners to join-up EU funds with all investments in their areas.
5. This paper updates on work to date, and sets out some recommendations for progressing next steps.

### **Update on ongoing work**

6. Members continue to lead work in both Whitehall and Brussels to influence the progress of the EU fund negotiations, spending decisions and management arrangements. Some of these are summarised below:

7. In Brussels

- 7.1 Engagement with MEPs, including proposing amendments to reports currently under negotiation in the European Parliament.
- 7.2 Continued joint lobbying with other European LGA's to develop and push for a coherent EU local government message in Brussels.
- 7.3 Work with the European Commission on a 'code of good practice' on partnership working toward national governments, ensuring they work closely with local government in design and delivery of funds.
- 7.4 Continued work through the Committee of Regions to promote the value of strong local leadership within the EU funds.

8. In Whitehall

- 8.1 Responding to UK Government informal consultation on how to deliver EU billions from 2014 – 2020.
- 8.2 Submission of written and oral evidence to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee inquiry into the functioning of ERDF – including some press coverage.
- 8.3 A delegation of members, including Councillors Bore, Nicolson and Keymer met Commissioner Hahn, making the case for locally shaped spending in the future.
- 8.4 Local authority secondments to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to ensure councils able to shape the negotiation of the EU funding programmes in England.
- 8.5 House of Lords EU Committee report supportive of structural funds, and the roles for local authorities.
- 8.6 Creation of an online Knowledge Hub to bring local authority members and officers together to discuss and develop approaches to using the funds, and to build an evidence case for local influence.

**Looking ahead – lobbying strategy**

9. Members are asked to consider and comment on the proposed next steps, to be taken forward and overseen by the joint task group.

10. Protecting investment in Brussels:

- 10.1 A Member-led lobby visit to Brussels during September, including sessions with MEPs and the European Commission.
- 10.2 Continued Member representation and pressure through the Committee of Regions and Council of European Municipalities and Regions.



**Item 3**

11. Making the 'local' case in Whitehall:

- 11.1 Articulate and push the case for new delivery models that enable local partners to join-up EU funds with all investments in their areas.
- 11.2 Member meetings with UK Government Ministers to discuss and take forward local authority approaches following responses to the BIS consultation.
- 11.3 Mobilise the sector and build an evidence case to show how local authorities can join-up spending in their areas to deliver better outcomes and efficiencies.

12. Officers would be keen to support members of the Board wanting to more directly engage their councils in this work, such as supporting them to:

- 12.1 meet their local MEP or MPs;
- 12.2 engage with the local authority secondments to BIS, inviting them to your area/region to discuss the value of engaging with the process for developing new programmes;
- 12.3 provide evidence and examples of how local authorities have engaged with EU programmes; and
- 12.4 considering and developing models for local authorities to engage and shape investment from the EU funds in their areas.

**Atlantic Strategy**

13. At the last meeting, Members asked for an update on the progression of the 'Atlantic Strategy'.

14. The European Commission proposed the strategy in November 2011 to act as an 'umbrella strategy' to bring together all the different EU funding interventions taking place along the Atlantic coast. The strategy and its associated action plan will cover a diverse range of issues, from marine bio-diversity to reducing carbon emissions. There will be €1.2 million for the creation of an 'Atlantic Forum' to contribute to and oversee the strategy. However, the strategy will have no spend budget itself. Instead budgets from the various different funds and initiatives which contribute to the strategy will be used. The LGA has provided input into the process by arguing that there should be a stronger territorial focus to the strategy, resulting in tangible projects which deliver direct benefits to local coastal areas, including fishing communities. Governance structures should also involve local and regional authorities more directly.

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## **Representation on International Bodies**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This report informs members of the impact of the 3 May 2012 local elections on UK delegations to international bodies.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the report and approve the actions proposed:

1. consider how to fill the one Congress vacancy for the period up to October 2012 (**paragraphs 5&6**);
2. LGA Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups to nominate new Committee of the Regions (CoR) members as set out in the report (paragraph 9);
3. LGA Liberal Democrat Group to nominate a new substitute member to the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) Policy Committee, replacing Keith Whitmore (**paragraph 11**); and
4. the Secretary of Delegation to launch the renewal of UK Delegation to Congress for 2012-16 by requesting nominations from LGA political groups and other UK bodies (**paragraph 14**).

### **Action**

Officers to action as directed by Members.

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## **UK representation on International Bodies**

1. The LGA nominates English members to several international bodies and provides the secretariats for the UK delegations. This report deals with the delegations to the Committee of the Regions (CoR), Congress and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

### **IMPLICATIONS OF LOCAL ELECTIONS**

2. A small number of changes are necessitated by the recent local elections as set out below. It is proposed that, as in the past, a selection process be undertaken by the LGA political groups, according to the statutory requirements of the various institutions. The English section of CoR and CEMR Delegations maintains a fixed political template throughout the mandate, whereas on Congress, it is obliged to adapt to political changes.
3. Details of the full delegations to CoR, Congress and CEMR, and mandate dates are attached at **Annex A**.

### **Congress**

4. With the exception of Keith Whitmore, who chose not to contest his seat, no members lost their Congress mandate at this election. The following members were successfully re-elected:
  - 4.1 Full members: McCabe (CoSLA), Mediratta (LGA), Boff (GLA).
  - 4.2 Alternate members: Hughes (WLGA), McCartney (GLA), Oswald (CoSLA).
5. Action required: we need to launch a procedure to replace Keith Whitmore. We await the revised political balance for England to be published to determine which LGA political group has the right to replace Keith Whitmore. As outgoing Congress members can retain their place for up to six months after loss of mandate and a new full delegate needs to be in place by October 2012, members are asked for a steer on how to make the appointment.
6. It is therefore recommended that this procedure be merged with the wider renewal of the Congress Delegation.

### **Committee of the Regions**

7. All 10 members who stood for election were successful:
  - 7.1 Full members: Bore, Keymer, Swannick (all LGA), Bright (WLGA), Evans (GLA), McChord (CoSLA).
  - 7.2 Alternate members: Huddart (LGA), Arnold (GLA), Garvie (CoSLA), Holley (WLGA).
8. Three LGA-nominated members chose not to stand: Amanda Byrne (Conservative, Yorkshire), Flo Clucas (Liberal Democrat, North-West), Peter Moore (Liberal Democrat, Yorkshire). In addition, two CoSLA-nominated members did not stand: Roger Knox (SNP) and Sandy Park (Independent). These five new vacancies are in addition to the following vacancies with appointments still pending: Ferguson, Hume, McGrigor (all Scottish Parliament); Cummings (NILGA); Watson (LGA).
9. Action required: LGA Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups to nominate to replace these members: Conservative 1 full place; Liberal Democrats 1 full place, 1 alternate place.

### **Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR - European LGA)**

10. With the exception of Keith Whitmore who chose not to contest his seat, no CEMR members lost their mandate at this election. The following were re-elected:
  - 10.1 Full members: Keymer (LGA), Holley (WLGA), Oswald (CoSLA).
  - 10.2 Alternate members: Galbraith, Murray (CoSLA).
11. Action required: LGA Liberal Democrat Group to nominate a replacement for Keith Whitmore to act as permanent alternate to Councillor Dorothy Thornhill.

### **RENEWAL OF CONGRESS MANDATE 2012-16**

12. The current Congress term expires in October 2012 and therefore a renewal procedure must be launched promptly. The LGA nominates 13 full and 13 alternate places, which together with the two GLA nominations constitutes the English section. This must be balanced politically, geographically and by type of authority, gender, and ethnic balance. These criteria are a requirement of Congress (except ethnic balance) and must be adhered to strictly.
13. As above, it is proposed that a selection process be undertaken by the LGA political groups, according to a template established by the Secretary to the Delegation, who will also advise on the statutory requirements of the Congress

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and any Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) Ministerial Guidance (currently awaited).

14. A timetable which enables LGA sign-off by mid-September is essential, as the deadline for receipt by Congress is approximately 1 October 2012.
15. The Secretary of the Delegation will write to the other UK nominating bodies requesting their nominations by early September.

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**ANNEX A: UK DELEGATION TO COR (situation post 3 May 2012)**

**DURATION OF MANDATE: 5 years (to January, 2015)**

UK Delegation Leader: Cllr Gordon Keymer  
 Group Leader (Labour): Cllr Dave Wilcox  
 Group Leader (Liberal Democrat): Cllr Lord Graham Tope  
 Group Leader (Independent): Cllr Linda Gillham

<b>Full members</b>	
Cllr Doris Ansari (Liberal Democrat, Cornwall)	Stewart Maxwell MSP (SNP, Scottish Parliament)
Cllr Sir Albert Bore (Labour, Birmingham)	Francie Molloy MLA (Sinn Fein, NI Assembly)
Cllr Bob Bright (Labour, Newport)	Cllr David Parsons (Conservative, Leicestershire)
Christine Chapman AM (Labour, Welsh Assembly)	Cllr Judith Pearce (Conservative, Wychavon)
Cllr Sir Simon Day (Conservative, Devon)	Cllr David Simmonds (Conservative, Hillingdon)
Roger Evans AM (Conservative, GLA)	Cllr Neil Swannick (Labour, Manchester)
Cllr Linda Gillham (Independent, Runnymede)	Cllr Lord Tope (Liberal Democrat, LB Sutton)
Cllr Gordon Keymer (Conservative, Tandridge)	Cllr Kay Twitchen (Conservative, Essex)
Cllr Corrie McChord (Labour, Sterling)	Cllr Dave Wilcox (Labour, Derbyshire)
Cllr Iain Malcolm (Labour, South Tyneside)	

**THREE VACANCIES:** 2 LGA (1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat); 1 CoSLA

Appointments pending:

*Cllr Trevor Cummings (DUP, Ards Borough Council)*  
*Patricia Ferguson MSP (Labour, Scottish Parliament)*

<b>Alternate members</b>	
Jennette Arnold AM (Labour, GLA)	Cllr Doreen Huddart (Lib Dem, Newcastle)
Cllr Paula Baker (Liberal Democrat, Basingstoke)	Cllr Herbert Manley (Con, Cheshire W & Chester)
Cllr Sandra Barnes (Conservative, S. Northants)	Cllr Alan Melton (Conservative, Fenland)
Cllr Nilgun Canver (Labour, LB Haringey)	Cllr Kathy Pollard (Liberal Democrat, Suffolk)
John Dallett MLA (SDLP, NI Assembly)	Cllr Mary Robinson (Independent, Eden)
Cllr Graham Garvie (Liberal Democrats, Borders)	Cllr David Shakespeare (Con, Buckinghamshire)
Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM (PC, Welsh Assembly)	Cllr Roger Stone (Labour, Rotherham)
Cllr Arnold Hatch (UUP, Craigavon)	Cllr Ann Stribley (Conservative, Poole)
Cllr Martin Heatley (Conservative, Warwickshire)	Cllr Sharon Taylor (Labour, Stevenage)
Cllr Chris Holley (Liberal Democrat, Swansea)	Cllr Peter Thompson (Conservative, Hounslow)

**TWO VACANCIES:** 1 LGA (Liberal Democrat); 1 CoSLA

Appointments pending:

*Jim Hume MSP (Liberal Democrat, Scottish Parliament)*  
*Jamie McGrigor MSP (Conservative, Scottish Parliament)*



**ANNEX B: UK DELEGATION TO CONGRESS (situation post 3 May 2012)**

**DURATION OF MANDATE: 2 years (to October 2012), then 4 years (to October 2016)**

UK Delegation Leader: Cllr Sandra Barnes

Group Leader (Labour): Cllr John Warmisham

Group Leader (Liberal Democrat & Independent): Keith Whitmore

<b>Full members</b>	
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>REGIONAL</b>
Cllr Sandra Barnes (Conservative, S. Northants) Cllr Bert Biscoe (Independent, Cornwall) Cllr Alison Cook (Conservative, Sevenoaks) Cllr Cyndi Hughes (Labour, Darlington) Cllr Simon James (Liberal Democrat, Kingston) Cllr Jim McCabe (Labour, North Lanarkshire) Cllr Amrit Mediratta (Conservative, Three Rivers) Cllr John Warmisham (Labour, Salford) Keith Whitmore*	Andrew Boff AM (Conservative, GLA) Cllr Eunice Campbell-Clark (Labour, Nottingham) Stewart Dickson MLA (Alliance, NI Assembly) Cllr Andrew Gravells (Conservative, Gloucs) Cllr Martin Heatley (Conservative, Warwickshire) Bill Kidd MSP (SNP, Scottish Parliament) Cllr David Shakespeare (Con, Buckinghamshire) Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing (Labour, York) Joyce Watson AM (Labour, Welsh Assembly)

*\*Keith Whitmore, ex Manchester City Council (did not stand, 3 May 2012)*

<b>Alternate members</b>	
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>REGIONAL</b>
Cllr Anood Al-Samerai (Lib Dem, LBSouthwark) Cllr Sherma Batson (Labour, Stevenage) Cllr Fleur Butler (Conservative, Richmondshire) Cllr Jim Dillon (UUP, Lisburn) Cllr Philip Grove (Conservative, Malvern Hills) Cllr Ronnie Hughes (Labour, Conwy) Cllr Nigel Mermagen (Lib Dem, South Somerset) Cllr Helen Oswald (SNP, Angus) Cllr Chris Robbins (Labour, Wlatham Forest)	Cllr Richard Dodd (Con, Northumberland) Cllr Lynne Hack (Conservative, Surrey) Cllr Mick Henry (Labour, Gateshead) Cllr Syeda Khatun (Labour, Sandwell) Cllr Alex King (Conservative, Kent) Joanne McCartney (Labour, GLA) Cllr Herbert Manley (Con, Cheshire W & Chester) Helen Eadie MSP (Labour, Scottish Parliament) Cllr Liz Oades (Independent, Lancashire)

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**ANNEX C: UK DELEGATION TO CEMR (situation post 3 May 2012)**

**DURATION OF MANDATE: 3 years (to December 2013)**

UK Delegation Leader: Cllr Gordon Keymer

<b>CEMR POLICY COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>Full member</b>	<b>Substitute (<i>ad personam</i>)</b>
Cllr Gordon Keymer (Conservative, Tandridge)	Cllr David Shakespeare (Con, Buckinghamshire)
Cllr Sandra Barnes (Conservative, S. Northants)	Cllr Linda Gillham (Independent, Runnymede)
Cllr Dave Wilcox (Labour, Derbyshire)	Cllr Sharon Taylor (Labour, Stevenage)
Cllr Dorothy Thornhill (Liberal Democrat, Watford)	VACANCY
Cllr Chris Holley (Liberal Democrat, Swansea)	Cllr Ann Galbraith (Conservative, S Ayreshire)
Cllr Helen Oswald (SNP, Angus Council)	Cllr Rob Murray (SNP, Angus)
Cllr John Matthews (Alliance, Larne)	Cllr Evelyne Robinson (DUP, Ballymoney)

**ONE VACANCY (*ad personam* alternate to Cllr Thornhill): 1 LGA (Liberal Democrat)**

## **Update on International work**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This report summarises progress being made on the international work. A further update will be provided at the Board meeting for Members' consideration.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to comment on the report and make any recommendations for officers to action.

### **Action**

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

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## **Update on International work**

### **Africa Peer Review Project**

1. Members will be aware that the LGA has been commissioned by the pan-African LGA to support the development of peer reviews with councils and LGAs in Africa. The programmes will include five peer reviews in 2012.
2. Confirmation of dates for these has been received from United Cities & Local Government Africa (UCLGA). The first peer review in Namibia will take place in June. The other four reviews are scheduled for Ghana (July), Uganda (August), Cameroon (September) and Ivory Coast (October). Preparations for the first review are under way.
3. The process for confirming the participation of UK peers is reaching conclusion from a long-list of members selected via the LGA Group offices' list of accredited peers. A final list of participating UK member peers in the five reviews will be tabled at the Board meeting, as well as an oral update on progress.

### **DFID procurement consortium**

4. Members will be aware that the LGA has recently attained the position of "approved supplier" for Department for International Development (DFID), as part of a public/private consortium led by HTSPE (international programme management company).
5. DFID has announced its first batch of competitions (a small number of governance-related projects, including work in Pakistan and Ghana). The LGA is exploring in more detail the potential involvement in any of the current batch of projects, based on geographical and thematic capabilities, and those of other consortium partners. Discussions are taking place week commencing 14 May 2012 and will be reported to Members at the May Board meeting.



**Note of decisions taken and actions required**

**Title:** LGA European & International Board  
**Date and time:** Tuesday 6 March 2012, 10.50am  
**Venue:** Herculaneum / Huskisson Room, Liverpool

**Attendance**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council</b>
Chair	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
Vice Chair	Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City
Deputy Chair	Marco Cereste	Peterborough City
Deputy Chair	Linda Gillham	Runnymede BC
Members	Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC
	Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB
	Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB
	Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC
	Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC
Apologies	Zulfiqar Ali	Rochdale MBC
	Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB
	Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
	Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC
External Representatives	Councillor Flo Clucas (Liverpool City Council), Simon Nokes (New Economy, Manchester), Martin Eyres (Liverpool City Council) and Sean McGrath (Lancashire County Council)	
Officers	Ian Hughes, Jasbir Jhas, Richard Kitt and Frances Marshall	

**Part 1 – Board Meeting**

**Item Decisions and actions**

**Action by**

**Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted all those apologies received. He welcomed Councillor Flo Clucas, the President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, to the meeting.

**1 Delivering our lobbying priorities**

Ian Hughes (Head of Programmes) and Jasbir Jhas (Senior Adviser) introduced the item, which set out the LGA's emerging corporate priorities and mapped key players in Brussels and Whitehall with influence over the development of EU policy in the LGA's priority areas. Members were asked to comment on the European and International (E&I) Board's priorities, recommend priorities within the Board's lobbying campaign and discuss how to involve Board Members in lobbying where they would be best placed to influence decision-makers.

A detailed discussion followed, in which Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- Members discussed the relationship between central and local government in terms of trade development and investment, as well as the potential role for the councils in encouraging trade development. Members emphasised the pivotal role of the sector in delivering successful local investment and confirmed the value of comparing and contrasting practises outside of the UK, particularly in relation to exploring how best to support local authorities with the new powers granted to them through the Localism Bill.
- In terms of taking the Board's work programme forward, there was agreement that the next steps should be to condense and focus the Board's lobbying priorities, once the LGA Executive had agreed the final business plan. This process would take into consideration resources as well as Members' expertise. Members would then be equipped to take forward the Board's lobbying priorities into the political arena.



- Members discussed mechanisms for maximising the use of Member and officer resources in the Board's lobbying activities. These included: Members to identify where they have contacts with key decision makers that they would be willing to work with to support the LGA's EU lobbying priorities; that prior to a meeting with a key decision maker, Board Members have the option of receiving a short briefing on E&I matters which would be of relevance to the politician; increasing the involvement of the LGA Vice Presidents in the EU Parliament in LGA lobbying activities; and expanding LGA lobbying activities to include individuals based outside of the UK.

### **Decision**

That the Board:-

- noted** the report; and
- asked** that Members' comments as detailed above be taken into consideration in the development of the Board's lobbying campaign.

### **Action**

Following the agreement of the final business plan, streamline the Board's lobbying priorities. Report back to the next European and International Board meeting.

**Ian Hughes**

Identify where Board Members' have contacts with key decision makers who have influence over the development of EU policy in the LGA priority areas. Report back to the next European and International Board meeting.

**Ian Hughes /  
Frances  
Marshall**

Take Members' comments into consideration in the development of the Board's lobbying campaign.

**Ian Hughes**

## **2 International Activities Update**

Ian Hughes provided a verbal summary of the report, which updated Members on externally funded international project activities, including: the Pan-African Peer Review project, DIFID contracts and the Kosovo training project. In particular, he drew attention to the following issues not referred to in the report:-

Pan-African Peer Review project:-

- The role of the E&I Board in reviewing the project.
- The potential opportunity for continued LGA involvement with the pan-African LGA.
- The wide exposure and positive publicity the project had received. A Municipal Journal article was circulated to Members for information.

DIFID contracts:-

- The need for a political steer from Members to decide whether to bid for contracts, once they had been advertised.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- Support for an interim review of the Pan-African Peer Review project to take on board any lessons to be learned from the experiences gained so far.
- The success of the four day training programme for African peers and the role of LGA staff in delivering this.
- Questions regarding the peer recruitment process.
- A discussion regarding the development of the Centre for Island Government and the potential for collaboration with the LGA.

### **Decision**

That the Board:-

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **asked** that their comments be taken into account in the development of the Board's international activities.

### **Action**

Take Members' comments into account in the development of the Board's international activities.

**Ian Hughes**

### **3. Update on reform of EU procurement rules**

Ian Hughes outlined the report which updated Members on the LGA and the CEMR's (European LGA's) proposals to reform the EU procurement rules. In doing so he drew attention to the key issues and invited Members to provide a steer in terms of the next stage of the lobbying programme.

In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

- Questions regarding the timescale and process for approval of the directive.
- Existing links with stakeholders and politicians with similar objectives to the LGA regarding the development of the new directive, as well as scope for expanding these linkages.
- That given the significance of the proposed changes, regular updates be brought to the Board on developments relating to reform of EU procurement rules.

#### **Decision**

That the Board:-

- noted** the LGA's and CEMR's response to the European Commission's proposal for a new directive on public procurement; and
- asked** that the Board receive regular updates on EU procurement reform developments.

#### **Action**

Provide regular updates to the European and International Board on EU procurement reform developments.

**Dominic  
Rowles**

### **4 European and International Programme Board Update**

Ian Hughes outlined the key aspects of the report which provided Members with an update on recent LGA international work and current projects taking place. He made particular reference to the nomination process for the Congress of the Council of Europe and an LGA organised exhibition at the March plenary to mark the UK simultaneously

holding the Presidency of the Congress and the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

**Decision**

That the Board **noted** the report.

**5 Notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting were **agreed**.

**6 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 21 May 2012 at 11am in Peterborough.

**7. Briefing Note for Future EU Funding Seminar**

The briefing noted was **noted**.

**8. AOB - Magna Carta Anniversary**

Councillor Gillham informed Members about a programme of celebrations leading up to the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta, one of which was the development of an Interpretation Centre at Runnymede. With reference to a £3.5 million funding gap, she asked that if any Members had any ideas or contacts regarding sponsorship, to approach her after the meeting.

**Part 2 – Future EU Funding Seminar**

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
9.	<p><b>Future EU Funding Seminar</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed representatives from three regional Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs): Simon Nokes (New Economy, Manchester), Martin Eyres (Liverpool City Council) and Sean McGrath (Lancashire County Council).</p> <p>Jasbir Jhas and Richard Kitt (Senior Advisers) provided a PowerPoint presentation on the evolving European funding landscape. They briefly set out EU proposals to better integrate funds and set out Whitehall’s thinking on future funding programmes, which included a role for the sector in local delivery. Joined up discussions between the LGA and our</p>	

member authorities with five relevant Government departments, under 'Chatham House' rules, had led to positive conversations with Government on delivery, management and commissioning structures. With reference to this opportunity to influence Government thinking, Jasbir Jhas and Richard Kitt outlined the LGA's future lobbying priorities in Whitehall and Brussels and emphasised the need to provide a coherent yet diverse local government response.

As the Chair of the temporary ad hoc Commission on the EU Budget, Councillor Flo Clucas updated Members on the Commission's work with regard to the EU financial framework. She outlined the ad hoc Commission's key priorities, which were generally agreed upon by all states and parties, and indicated that there would be considerable support for the LGA's priorities within Brussels. With reference to three key strategies of significant interest to the United Kingdom, (Atlantic Region, North Sea and English Channel strategies), she emphasised the importance of LGA representation in Brussels and continued support for Committee of the Region representatives.

Simon Nokes provided a verbal presentation on the development of, and collaboration between, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the North West of England. He circulated a document setting out an initial response from the LEP for Greater Manchester regarding the prospects for EU funding post 2013. He expressed cautious optimism in terms of influencing the debate in Brussels on the future of structural funds, however noted that it was for individual member states to take-up and interpret the new regulations. He spoke in support of regional and local flexibility offering a range of delivery models, rather than a nationally prescribed programme. Simon Nokes, Martin Eyres and Sean McGrath updated Members on the progress made in developing a delivery model across councils and LEPs in the North West which focused on areas of mutual interest as well as providing flexibility for autonomy on local issues. Initial discussions had been held with Government regarding the developing of the model; however there was still considerable further work to do.

Members were provided the opportunity to comment and suggest further ways in which the LGA could support councils through lobbying and practical activities. In the discussion that followed, Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:

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- The timescale for development of the North West delivery model and mechanisms for operation.
- The scope for exploring regionally diverse LEP delivery models and the imperative that draft models be submitted to the relevant Government departments as soon as possible to help shape Government's thinking. It was unclear whether the Government's flexible approach to delivery included different types of models within Greater London.
- The capacity for cross regional LEP coordination and future plans to develop a national LEP network through the British Chamber of Commerce.
- The importance of effectively integrating EU and domestic funds as well as match funding public and private sector investment.
- The need to strengthen the democratic accountability and transparency of LEPs.
- That an update on the EU Strategy for the Atlantic Region be brought to a future meeting.

**Decision**

That the Board: -

- noted** the presentations; and
- asked** for an update to a future meeting on the Atlantic Region Strategy.

**Action**

Bring a report on the Atlantic Region Strategy to a future meeting of the European & International Board.

**Ian Hughes**

## **Discussion Paper on EU Environment Policy**

### **Purpose**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

Members are invited to discuss current priorities and developments in EU environment policy and funding, and the LGA approach to lobbying on these issues. **Annex A** provides an update on our existing priorities.

### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to discuss current priorities and developments in EU environment policy and funding.

**Contact officer:** Richard Kitt/Dan McCartney  
**Position:** Senior Advisor / Advisor  
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[Dan.McCartney@local.gov.uk](mailto:Dan.McCartney@local.gov.uk);





**Item 8**

## **Discussion Paper on EU Environment Policy**

### **Overview**

1. EU policy and law on environmental matters has a significant impact on the rules and regulations that UK local councils have to implement. Over half of UK environmental law has its origins in Brussels. It is therefore essential that the LGA maintains a close watch on EU developments in this area.
2. The EU is currently taking stock of existing regulations, with revisions likely in the coming years on waste management, air quality, greenhouse gases and water quality/efficiency. In the next period (2014-20) focus will be on implementation, ensuring broad ownership and securing mobilisation for action. The LGA will want to ensure that new rules are practicable, proportionate, relevant, and minimise administrative burdens and compliance costs.
3. In its own estimation, the EU is currently:
  - 3.1 “on track” on: greenhouse gas emissions, recycling, water pollution from point sources and on bathing water quality;
  - 3.2 “mixed progress” on: energy efficiency, the conservation status of the EU's most important habitats and species, decoupling (resource use and economic growth), water stress, water quality and trans boundary air pollution; and
  - 3.3 “not on track” for: pressure on ecosystems, biodiversity loss (terrestrial and marine), waste generation and air quality in urban areas.

### **LGA priority-setting**

4. The LGA has regards to both the EU legislative programme and current UK initiatives. From an EU perspective, topics currently being monitored or actively lobbied by LGA are:
  - 4.1 preparation of 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental action programme;
  - 4.2 implementation of EU laws;
  - 4.3 funding: LIFE programme;
  - 4.4 adaptation to climate change;
  - 4.5 waste management directives;
  - 4.6 energy efficiency directive;
  - 4.7 air quality review;
  - 4.8 greenhouse gases (F-gas regulation); and
  - 4.9 water quality and water efficiency.
5. Current developments in these areas are outlined in the **Annex A**.

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6. These priorities were set by the European and International Board in response to the EU work programme for 2012-14, reflecting comments from LGA staff working on environmental matters. However, it is important to view this from the converse perspective, i.e. what are the LGA's domestic priorities and how can these be supported through European and international work.
7. The current priorities of the LGA Environment and Housing (E&H) Board are:
  - 7.1 greater local decision making in planning and housing;
  - 7.2 local energy security, carbon reduction and the low carbon economy;
  - 7.3 climate adaptation, including flood risk management; and
  - 7.4 local decisions on waste.

**Case study: Energy Efficiency Directive**

8. Recent lobbying on the draft Energy Efficiency Directive demonstrated an integrated approach by the LGA towards the draft law, which is still being negotiated in Brussels.
  - 8.1 LGA policy staff in Brussels and London promptly identified the potential impact of the draft Directive (mandatory renovation of local council building stock; energy efficient procurement and contract compliance).
  - 8.2 LGA E&H Board established its policy position, which was reported to European and International Board.
  - 8.3 The E&H Board Chair wrote to UK Ministers to voice our concerns; London-based staff lobbied Whitehall civil servants and secured media coverage.
  - 8.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR) members lobbied MEPs in face-to-face meetings; Brussels-based staff lobbied UKREP and the Commission, and liaised with Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR – European LGA) and other stakeholders (e.g. Eurocities) to form a concerted lobby.
  - 8.5 LGA Chairman was briefed ahead of an LGA event in the UK Parliament to which MEPs were invited.
  - 8.6 CoR opinion was amended by LGA members of CoR to reflect LGA position.
9. The current position on the Directive is that member states (Council of Ministers) largely support the LGA line of taking local government out of the Directive, at least in terms of the renovation targets. We believe that UK Government Ministers and UKREP have been helpful in promoting the LGA line within Council. The European Parliament however takes a

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stronger line, as it generally does on environmental law, whilst agreeing to exempt historic buildings from renovation (e.g. historic town halls). A final decision is expected in the next two months.

10. The above example shows the effectiveness of a parallel approach in London and Brussels, involving both members and staff in shaping opinion and directly lobbying decision-makers. The contribution of other stakeholders, notably CEMR should not be under-estimated in this field. Although the UK did not have the CoR rapporteurship, UK amendments reshaped the CoR opinion into a useful lobbying tool.

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**ANNEX A**

**UPDATE ON EU ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION  
30 APRIL 2012**

**Future directions for EU environment policy 2014-20**

1. Later this year, the EU will publish its seventh multi-annual Environmental Action Plan (7EAP) which will indicate what to expect from the EU in the medium-term. This is a major strategic policy initiative, although it is the legislative initiatives that derive from it that will directly affect councils.
2. The context is:
  - 2.1 rapidly changing external conditions and the increasingly interlinked nature of environmental, economic and social challenges;
  - 2.2 increased growth in the demand for natural resources and the impacts this has for the environment;
  - 2.3 uneven implementation record of environmental legislation; and
  - 2.4 the need for a longer-term vision for environment policy.
3. In addition to the more traditional elements of environmental policy (biodiversity, water, waste, etc) the 7EAP will also have to deal with:
  - 3.1 changing the behaviour of consumers to ease pressures on the environment, notably in those sectors which impose most of the EU's ecological footprint;
  - 3.2 exploring the role of urban communities and urban policy to deliver environmental improvements;
  - 3.3 ensuring an improved policy coherence through better integration;
  - 3.4 developing a more extensive knowledge base and better indicators;
  - 3.5 the environmental determinants for improving public health;
  - 3.6 renewed emphasis on the international aspect of environmental policy: promoting global green, better global environmental governance; and
  - 3.7 financing environmental policy objectives based on an appropriate mix of public and private means given the pressures on public budgets.
4. The European Parliament is trying to influence the plan. In January 2012, MEPs proposed ambitious targets such as a net decrease in waste generation and zero landfill "without driving waste to incineration". The 7EAP should also contain binding energy efficiency targets and a plan to tackle maritime and non-CO2 emissions. MEPs single out poor

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implementation of environmental policy as a major problem, and call for a directive on environmental inspections and an EU inspection force.

5. The European Commission has recently launched a public consultation to help shape its thinking. The deadline for responses is 1 June 2012.

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=7EAP>

**Implementation of EU environmental rules**

6. Implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law is a shared task with European, national, and local authorities. Poor implementation is often exacerbated by a lack of accurate information on environmental issues. Monitoring efforts are uneven across Europe, the information generated can be patchy and out-of-date and not enough useful information is placed online. Better and more accessible information at national and local levels would allow major environmental problems to be identified earlier, saving costs in the longer term.
7. The European Commission is considering measures to improve implementation of EU environmental laws, including national inspection audits and wider use of economic instruments. This can have important consequences for UK councils following the entry into force of the Localism Act 2011. As a result of this, EU fines for infringement of EU laws can, in theory, be passed on to local councils deemed to have contributed to the infringement. A more assertive approach by the EU will increase the risk of infringement proceedings against the UK.
8. The EU has launched the debate, and Cllr Nilgun Canver has been appointed rapporteur to draft a contribution from the Committee of the Regions. The European Commission will consider responses before making new proposals as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme (see above).

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/law/compliance.htm>

**EU funding (LIFE Programme 2014-20)**

9. The European Commission has proposed to extend and expand the “Programme for the Environment and Climate Action” (LIFE) for the period 2014-2020. The aim of the proposal is to increase the efficiency of the current LIFE+ Programme.

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10. The main elements of the new LIFE Regulation include:

- 10.1 the creation of two sub-programmes under LIFE: one for the environment (with a budget of €2.4 billion) and one for climate action (€800 million);
- 10.2 a special emphasis on better governance;
- 10.3 the creation of "integrated projects", which will operate on a large scale and will aim to improve the implementation of environmental and climate policy and their integration into other policies; and
- 10.4 a better definition of the activities funded for each priority area.

11. The key issues are: geographical balance - i.e. the criteria for the distribution of LIFE funds among member states - and co-financing rates, including simplification of procedures:

- 11.1 Geographical spread: several member states consider that the merit and quality should remain the first criteria for distribution of projects, in particular "traditional projects", whereas others prefer to keep national allocations, as in the existing LIFE+ Regulation.
- 11.2 Co-financing: many member states would like to maintain VAT and permanent staff cost as eligible costs, even if that would entail a decrease in co-financing rates, although some ministers expressed concern that this would lead to a decrease in proposals for projects.

12. The CoR response is being drafted by Cllr Kay Twitchen (Essex). Her report welcomes the continuation and simplification of the programme, and the increased budget which will allow a higher level of EU co-financing (from 50% to 70%). However she shares concerns that by not reimbursing VAT and staffing costs, many councils will find the Programme less attractive.

13. UK MEPs on the Environment Committee have received an initial LGA officer contact, however the EP will not adopt its response until Autumn 2012.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/beyond2013.htm#proposal>

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**Adaptation to climate change**

14. The European Commission considers that there are still a number of knowledge gaps about the adverse effects of climate change. This concerns:
- 14.1 the generation and sharing of sound data and modelling results essential for assessing climate related risks, potential damages and cost-efficient adaptation options;
  - 14.2 a number of EU policies are or will gradually be affected by the adverse effects of climate change but often do not sufficiently take into consideration the need to adapt to those negative effects;
  - 14.3 not all local councils and countries are at the same level of knowledge, development or capacity to respond to the adverse effects of climate change. Some are not considering how to respond/deal with the adverse effects of climate change, vulnerabilities and adaptation needs; and
  - 14.4 the private sector, including insurance and finance markets, is not yet fully delivering the right products and services to help private agents in increasing their resilience to climate risks.
15. The Commission will prepare a communication in Spring 2013. The main policy objectives are:
- 15.1 to have a more resilient Europe at national and local level;
  - 15.2 to facilitate the exchange of good practices and co-ordination;
  - 15.3 to strengthen the knowledge base on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; and
  - 15.4 to mainstream adaptation into policies, strategies and programmes at EU level (and develop dedicated adaptation action where needed).

**Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE Directive)**

16. The revised directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is passing between the European Parliament and Council of Ministers. Once signed-off by Ministers, the UK will have 18 months after it enters into force to transpose the directive into national law (ie by late-2013). The UK can strengthen the new rules as they would apply in the UK (known as “gold-plating”) but cannot weaken them.



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17. At the present stage of the negotiations (after 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in Parliament), the main features are:

- 17.1 *Separate collection*: Member States shall adopt appropriate measures to minimise the disposal of WEEE in the form of unsorted municipal waste, to ensure the correct treatment of all collected WEEE and to achieve a high level of separate collection of WEEE, notably, and as a matter of priority, for temperature exchange equipment containing ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases, fluorescent lamps containing mercury, photovoltaic modules and for certain small equipment.
- 17.2 *For WEEE from private households*: Member States shall ensure that distributors provide for the collection, at retail shops with sales areas relating to EEE of minimum 400 m<sup>2</sup>, or in their immediate proximity, of very small WEEE (no external dimension more than 25 cm) free of charge to end-users and with no obligation to buy an EEE of equivalent type, unless an assessment shows that alternative existing collection schemes are likely to be at least as effective. Such assessments shall be available to the public. WEEE collected will be properly treated.
- 17.3 *Disposal and transport of collected WEEE*: in order to maximise preparing for re-use, Member States shall promote that, prior to any further transfer, collection schemes or facilities, as appropriate, provide for the separation at the collection points of WEEE that is to be prepared for re-use from other separately collected WEEE, in particular by granting access for personnel from re-use centres.
- 17.4 *Collection rate*: each country will ensure the implementation of the producer responsibility principle and, on that basis, that a minimum collection rate is achieved annually. The minimum collection rate shall be of 45 % calculated on the basis of the total weight of WEEE collected in a given year in the country concerned, expressed as a percentage of the average weight of EEE placed on the market in the three preceding years in that country. They shall ensure that the volume of WEEE collected evolves gradually during the period up to 7 years after entry into force of the Directive, unless the final collection rate is already achieved.

18. From 2019 the minimum collection rate to be achieved annually shall be 65% of EEE placed on the market in the three preceding years, or alternatively 85% of WEEE generated on its territory.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index_en.htm)

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**Future EU waste laws**

19. In 2014, the EU will propose a revision of the targets of the existing waste laws (Waste Framework Directive) and specific waste streams, to make the EU more resource-efficient.
20. At the same time, it will revise existing landfill diversion targets and propose new diversion targets for other waste streams in order to gradually move towards zero landfilling in 2050.

**Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)**

21. There is positive momentum towards making the draft energy efficiency directive (EED) more flexible, to reflect existing initiatives and different levels of performance in Europe. Getting agreement on the Directive is a major priority for the Danish EU Presidency, which is in office until June 2012, meaning compromises on both sides are likely. A summary is in the cover paper.

**Smart cities and communities**

22. The Commission is looking at different options to improve and consolidate the existing initiatives to create a comprehensive approach to render cities across Europe more energy efficient and sustainable. No legislative instrument is considered. The initiative will focus on large-scale demonstration projects and cross-sector and cross-border issues in terms of business models, regulatory questions and technology development where there is a European dimension.
23. To be launched in Spring 2012, the “Smart Cities and Communities Partnership” should provide the framework for:
- 23.1 engaging business and regional/local public authorities in technological demonstration and testing programmes which will validate advanced energy-efficient and low-carbon technologies and strategies;
  - 23.2 enabling economic, organisational and social innovation which will transform the cities into low carbon, citizen-friendly urban areas; and
  - 23.3 developing smart energy supply and demand systems, integrated solutions in the areas of active buildings, heating and cooling, electricity networks, ICT solutions, as well as alternative fuels and clean and energy efficient transport.

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**Air quality**

24. The European Commission believes that a revision of EU Air Quality regulations is timely given the magnitude of the impacts on health and the environment from current air quality and air pollution deposition as exhibited by widespread non-compliance with ambient air quality standards and continued non-exceedence of thresholds for the protection of natural ecosystems. Moreover, there is a growing consensus that air pollution policies can better link with climate mitigation given that key air pollutants such as ozone and soot particles are very significant components of atmospheric warming and act over a much shorter time than the classical greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and methane.
25. The current revision has the following specific objectives:
- 25.1 to identify reasons and propose solutions for persistent problems of non-compliance, in particular for particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ozone;
  - 25.2 to assess the need for setting new, long-term objectives on the basis of the latest evidence, in particular national emission ceilings and particulate matter standards;
  - 25.3 to evaluate the need for additional emission control measures in certain sectors, in particular road (vehicle emissions) and non-road transport, shipping, agriculture, small installations, households and others; and
  - 25.4 to strengthen synergies and manage potential trade-offs with other related policies, in particular climate change mitigation.
26. The EU is currently taking views on how it should revise current rules on air quality (bearing in mind that existing limits are being breached by the UK, especially in London, and EU fines are possible). Current EU limits are at half of WHO guidelines.
27. The most pressing issues for national governments are improving integrated assessments, policy coherence and tackling ultra-fine particles and black carbon. Arsenic, cadmium and other toxic pollutants might be integrated into the main framework directive on ambient air quality.
28. LGA officers are monitoring the situation with regards to potential changes to local air quality management regime, which Defra are looking to review following feedback from the Red Tape Challenge.
29. Proposals are expected in 2013.

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**Fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gas)**

30. F-gases are greenhouse gases with a high global warming potential used in and emitted from a wide range of closed (eg refrigeration and air conditioning) and open applications (eg aerosols).
31. Whilst the F-Gas Regulation aims to reduce emissions by targeting leakage from closed applications, the use of F-gases in equipment - and thus overall emissions - are expected to continue increasing.
32. In a recent stakeholder survey (published April 2012), the preferred policy actions were strengthening containment and recovery, voluntary agreements for specific sectors, and limits to the placing of HFCs on the EU market (in that order). Stakeholders provided numerous suggestions to improve containment and recovery pointing out the importance of control and enforcement of the existing legislation and harmonisation of the situation within the EU as well as the need to broaden the scope of the existing legislation. Other suggestions included measures improving awareness and information exchange, the introduction of financial incentives and taxes as well as some technical measures.
33. Proposal expected in June 2012.

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/f-gas/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/f-gas/index_en.htm)

**Water efficiency**

34. With much of Europe suffering from various degrees of drought, the European Commission is considering a range of options aimed at reducing the impact of agriculture on resources, tackling water leakages, improving building efficiency and water pricing.
35. Specifically, the European Commission believes there is a very significant potential for water savings in Europe through improved water efficiency, in particular in agriculture, buildings, water distribution systems, etc. The Commission is looking at different levels of improvement to the water performance of buildings, among them water-saving devices, water-efficient construction, design and renovations, and measuring a building's performance, as well as smart metering, water pricing, labelling, certification and minimum efficiency requirements.
36. Last year, the European Commission conducted an open consultation on water efficiency in buildings. A summary of results published this month shows about half of respondents thought it relatively unimportant that the EU act centrally on the issue. When asked what it should do, the most popular options were local/regional measures, expansion of water metering and provision of guidance. Binding EU laws and new water

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pricing policies were the least-favoured options. There was some support for minimum efficiency standards for buildings and water-using products.

37. LGA officers will closely monitor the Water Bill as it progresses through parliament to identify any implications for councils. A position statement on will also be prepared in response to EU thinking on future water performance directives of buildings, including council assets.

38. A set of measures will be proposed towards the end of 2012.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/pdf/WaterPerformanceBuildings\\_results%20of%20consultation2012.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/pdf/WaterPerformanceBuildings_results%20of%20consultation2012.pdf)

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## Directions from Peterborough Railway Station to Peterborough Town Hall

From the Station walk right towards the car park, over a footbridge, through the Queensgate Shopping Centre, pass through Cathedral Square and onto Bridge Street.

If you require further guidance in terms of the locating venue, please contact Ashleigh Candy on [Ashleigh.candy@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Ashleigh.candy@peterborough.gov.uk) or (01733) 452481.