

# European and International Board

Agenda

Monday 17 September  
2012  
11.00am

Smith Square, Rooms 1 & 2  
Local Government House  
Smith Square  
LONDON  
SW1P 3HZ

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

## **Guidance notes for visitors**

**Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

### **Welcome!**

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

### **Security**

All visitors (who do not already have an LGA ID badge), are requested to report to the Reception desk where they will be requested to sign in and will be handed a visitor's badge to be worn at all times whilst in the building.

### **Fire instructions**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the green Fire Exit signs. Go straight to the assembly point in Tufton Street via Dean Trench Street (off Smith Square).

DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.

DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

### **Members' facilities on the 7th floor**

The Terrace Lounge (Members' Room) has refreshments available and also access to the roof terrace, which Members are welcome to use. Work facilities for members, providing workstations, telephone and Internet access, fax and photocopying facilities and staff support are also available.

### **Open Council**

"Open Council", on the 1st floor of LG House, provides informal meeting and business facilities with refreshments, for local authority members/officers who are in London.



### **Toilets**

Toilets for people with disabilities are situated on the Basement, Ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 7th floors. Female toilets are situated on the basement, ground, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th floors. Male toilets are available on the basement, ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th floors.

### **Accessibility**

Every effort has been made to make the building as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. Induction loop systems have been installed in all the larger meeting rooms and at the main reception. There is a parking space for blue badge holders outside the Smith Square entrance and two more blue badge holders' spaces in Dean Stanley Street to the side of the building. There is also a wheelchair lift at the main entrance. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

### **Further help**

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

**Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your badge when you depart.**

## European & International Board

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The European & International Board meeting will be held on **Monday 17 September 2012 at 11.00am**, Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2, **Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ**.

### Political Group meetings

Political group meetings will take place in the following rooms and times:

Conservative Group at 10.30am in Meeting Room 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

Labour Group at 10.00am in the Labour Group Office (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

Liberal Democrat Group at 10.30am in the Liberal Democrat Office (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available from 1.00pm.

### 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 Local Government House printed on the back cover.

### Contact

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

### Guest WiFi in Local Government House

This is available in Local Government House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling "Wireless Network Connection" on your computer and connecting to LGH-guest, the password is Welcome2010LG.

### 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.

### Hotels

The LGA has negotiated preferential rates with Club Quarters Hotels in central London. Club Quarters have hotels opposite Trafalgar Square, in the City near St Pauls Cathedral and in Gracechurch Street, in the City, near the Bank of England. These hotels are all within easy travelling distance from Local Government House. A standard room in a Club Quarters Hotel, at the negotiated rate, should cost no more than £149 per night.

To book a room in any of the Club Quarters Hotels please link to the Club Quarters website at <http://www.clubquarters.com>. Once on the website enter the password: localgovernmentgroup and you should receive the LGA negotiated rate for your booking.



## European & International Board

03.08.12

### European & International Board - Membership 2012-2013

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Conservative (8)</b>		
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI <b>[Vice-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	
Neil Clarke*	Rushcliffe BC	
Sir Simon Day*	Devon CC	
David Shakespeare OBE*	Buckinghamshire CC	
<b>Substitutes:</b>		
Joanne Beavis**	Braintree DC	
Phil Grove**	Malvern Hills DC	
Ranil Jayawardena**	Basingstoke & Dean BC	
Mike Wilcox**	Lichfield DC	
<b>Labour (6)</b>		
Dave Wilcox OBE <b>[Chair]</b>	Derbyshire CC	Councillors' Forum
Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City	
Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB	Economy & Transport Board
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC	
Roger Lawrence *	Wolverhampton City	
Sue Murphy*	Manchester City	
<b>Substitute:</b>		
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>		
Richard Kemp CBE <b>[Deputy-Chair]</b>	Liverpool City	
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB	
Sian Reid*	Cambridge City Council	
<b>Substitute:</b>		
Nigel Mermagen**	South Somerset DC	
<b>Independent (1)</b>		
Shirley Flint* <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	North Kesteven DC	

\* new member

\*\* new substitute

<b>Substitute:</b>		
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council	
+ 1 tbc		

## Agenda

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### European and International Board

Monday 17 September 2012

11.00am

Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2, Local Government House, London

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#### For discussion

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Time</b>
1.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Opportunity for Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests.		
2.	<b>Membership and Terms of Reference</b>	3	11.00am
3.	<b>An Overview of LGA European And International Work</b>	9	11.05am
4.	<b>EU Funds update and Brussels lobby, September 2012</b>	27	11.30am
5.	<b>EU Fines Sanctions</b>	33	12.10pm

#### For information

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Time</b>
6.	European Bodies Update	39	12.45pm
7.	Notes of the last meeting	45	12.55pm
8.	Date of next meeting – Monday 17 September 2012 at 11am in Local Government House, London.		





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**European and International Board Membership and Terms of Reference**

**Purpose of report**

For decision.

**Summary**

This report sets out the membership and terms of reference for the European and International Board for the 2012 / 13 meeting cycle.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to formally note the membership and terms of reference for the LGA European and International Board (attached as **Appendix A** and **B** respectively).

**Action**

As agreed by the Board.

**Contact officer:** Frances Marshall  
**Position:** Programme Support Officer (Member Services)  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3220  
**E-mail:** [frances.marshall@local.gov.uk](mailto:frances.marshall@local.gov.uk)



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**Appendix A - 2012 /12 European and International Board Membership**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Conservative (8)</b>		
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI <b>[Vice-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	
Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC	
Sir Simon Day	Devon CC	
David Shakespeare OBE	Buckinghamshire CC	
<b>Substitutes:</b>		
Joan Beavis	Braintree DC	
Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC	
Ranil Jayawardena	Basingstoke & Dean BC	
Mike Wilcox	Lichfield DC	
<b>Labour (6)</b>		
Dave Wilcox OBE <b>[Chair]</b>	Derbyshire CC	Councillors' Forum
Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City	
Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB	Economy & Transport Board
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC	
Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City	
Sue Murphy	Manchester City	
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>		
Richard Kemp CBE <b>[Deputy-Chair]</b>	Liverpool City	
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB	
Sian Reid*	Cambridge City Council	
<b>Substitute:</b>		
Nigel Mermagen	South Somerset DC	
<b>Independent (1)</b>		
Shirley Flint <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	North Kesteven DC	
<b>Substitute:</b>		
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council	



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**Appendix B – European and International Board Terms of Reference**

The purpose of the European and International Board is to provide a strategic oversight of all the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to European and international work in line with the LGA priorities.

Boards should seek to involve councilors 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.

This 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 LGA 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 LGA Executive, covering lobbying and campaigns, research and or 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 LGA and responsibility for the promulgation of activity through public statements in its areas of responsibility.
5. Building and maintaining effective relationships with key stakeholders.



## **An Overview of LGA European and International Work**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and decision.

### **Purpose of report**

In mid 2012, members reviewed the LGA's European and international service in light of a new LGA business plan which set out service priorities for the LGA.

This revised offer is set out in the attached report for members' information and Board members are asked to consider its relevance and any revisions that may be necessary in the short or medium term to address new opportunities and challenges, for example, from future EU proposals.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to consider the attached report and to recommend additional ways in which priorities can be enhanced and delivered.

### **Action**

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

**Contact officer:** Ian Hughes  
**Position:** Head of Programme  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3101  
**E-mail:** [ian.hughes@lga.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hughes@lga.gov.uk)





1. The LGA has delivered a European and international service for its member councils over a long period. The service has covered four principle areas:
  - 1.1 Lobbying on EU legislative proposals that affect councils
  - 1.2 Bringing learning from international practice to support service delivery in councils
  - 1.3 Responding to demand from the developing world for support from English local government
  - 1.4 Supporting councillors who play a formal role on European consultative bodies (for example, Committee of the Regions and Congress)
  
2. The LGA now has a single business plan which sets out delivery priorities for the organisation in 2012-13. In July 2012, the European and international Board discussed how it would focus its work to support these priorities and develop a renewed offer to councils. From this discussion a renewed European and international offer to councils was developed which is detailed in **Appendix A**.
  
3. This offer sets out the priorities of the Board and the issues that will be brought to the Board for discussion. Given the new membership of the Board, Members are asked to consider this offer again and new Board members may wish to comment on the offer and its relevance to their councils. The LGA will start to develop its business plan for 2013-14 over the autumn. Members may wish to consider any new work areas on the horizon and consider how this offer is developed for the next business plan. **Appendix B** sets out the 2012 EU work programme in full.
  
4. **Appendix C** lists the LGA officers that form the European and International team.

**Contact officer:** Ian Hughes  
**Position:** Head of Programme  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3101  
**E-mail:** [ian.hughes@lga.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hughes@lga.gov.uk)



## **APPENDIX A**

### **The renewed LGA's European and international offer to councils (May 2012)**

The service priorities set out in the LGA business plan in 2012-13 were as follows:

- Public Service Reform
- Growth and Prosperity
- Funding and local government
- Efficiency and productivity
- Sector-led improvement

Each LGA Board was asked to develop a programme of work which addressed these priorities. The European and International Board considered its response earlier in the year and set out its work priorities as an offer to member councils, i.e. a description of the European and International service upon which members could call.

This is set out below against LGA priority work themes:

### **PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM**

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.

Our offer to councils:

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

In November, the Board will consider the European Commission's 2013 work programme which contains policy and legislative proposals for the year ahead; it is the EU equivalent of the Queen's speech. From this, the LGA will develop a focused lobbying programme on those proposals which will have an administrative, financial or regulatory impact on our member authorities, or the services that they provide or procure. This will be 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.

### **2012 lobbying priorities**

The 2012 EU work programme was published in October 2011. It is an extensive programme with 28 EU proposals that could affect the work of local government; the full list is attached at **Appendix B**. Board Members endorsed the long list of issues in January and recommended a set of six lobbying priorities for the LGA to work on during 2012. These are:

- Reform of EU public procurement rules.
- Directive on energy efficiency.

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- Campaign to localise future EU funding 2014-2020 including structural funds.
- Review of the Working Time Directive.
- Review of the Air Quality Directive.
- EU fines (part of the Localism Act) – see below.

In lobbying, the LGA works in partnership with leading Members, technical experts from councils, 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 in Whitehall, Westminster and Brussels.

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

In order to lobby effectively, the LGA 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:

Brussels: Commission officials, CEMR, CoR, MEPs (including LGA Vice-Presidents), UKRep, UK regional offices, other national LGAs, business and trade union representatives in Brussels.

UK: EU leads in Whitehall departments, UK Parliament, European Commission and European Parliament UK representations, and relevant stakeholders.

The political relationship with MEPs and MPs on key parliamentary committees is an area where LGA members make a significant contribution to lobbying strategies. This is especially the case in our relationship with LGA Vice-Presidents on the European Parliament.

Supplementing the relationship management highlighted, the LGA will continue to develop an annual theme-based UK local government summits in Brussels. The intention this year is to organise a summit in Brussels to focus on our EU funding campaign. *This work is detailed in a later report.*

**Policy briefings and intelligence**

The LGA 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. Watching briefs will be maintained 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**

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's EU work needs a greater Whitehall focus in future.

In 2012/13, the focused offer for councils will be:

- Ensure that any attempt to devolve EU fines to local authorities is fair and evidence-based.
- 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.
- A programme of support for our member authorities to help avoid any imposition of EU fines.

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

- Lead a Whitehall Summit to ensure that all Government departments are meeting their responsibilities in the implementation of EU law under the Localism Act.
- On our EU priority issues, identify lead EU Whitehall specialists and ensure they are supported and challenged by LGA leads on the same issue.
- 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.

*The development of this work in 2012/13 is detailed in later report.*

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

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.

## **OUR OFFER TO COUNCILS:**

### **Securing future investment from the EU**

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. The LGA's 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.

The strategy includes working with all five Government departments, including a Chatham House arrangement to support new ideas for local delivery, securing local government secondments 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**

The LGA 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. The LGA 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**

The LGA 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. 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.

In 2012/13, this work will be focused on two programmes. Firstly, a programme with the pan African LGA to pilot peer review as the basis for local government improvement across the continent (funded by Luxembourg) and secondly, the LGA's new approved supplier status with the Department of International Development which ensures that UK practitioners will form part of bids to deliver UK aid in future.

### **Supporting service improvement from international practice**

The LGA 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, there will be a focus two LGA campaigns: local growth and local government finance.

## **UNDERPINNING OUR WORK FOR COUNCILS**

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

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, LGA officers work closely with officers from across the UK to ensure they feed into our policy support to members. In summary, there will be a policy briefing on issues at each plenary and committee meeting, support for

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lobbying and governance issues, support to “*rapporteurs*” on key issues and on-the-spot advice at committees and plenary sessions.

**A national resource in Brussels**

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).





Item 3: Appendix B

ANNEX B : EU LOBBYING PRIORITIES

EU proposal and expected impact on LGA member authorities, Mainstreamed LGA Programme Board Level of response (priority or watching brief)	Launch of EU proposal	Brussels decision makers	Whitehall decision makers
<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. <i>Watching brief</i>	<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. <i>Watching brief</i>	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. <i>Watching brief</i>	June 2012	EMPL (EP) ECOS (CoR)	Dept for Education Dept for Work and Pensions (DWP)

**Item 3: Appendix B**

LGA Economy and Transport Board			
<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. <i>Priority</i></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. <i>Priority</i></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>			

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<b>Directive on energy efficiency:</b> LGA opposes inflexible annual 3% binding renovation target for buildings by 2014. <b>Priority</b>	Live COM(2011) 370	ITRE (EP) ENVE (CoR)	DEFRA, DECC, CLG
<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</b> Directive (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

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<p><b>Air Quality Directive:</b> review may set new air quality management standards. 2013 is European air quality year <b>Priority</b></p>	<p>2013</p>	<p>ENVI (EP) ENVE (CoR)</p>	<p>DEFRA, DECC, CLG</p>
<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>			

**Item 3: Appendix B**

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 and environmental health</b> teams. <i>Watching brief</i>	During 2012-13	ENVI+IMCO (EP) Various CoR	
<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. <i>Priority</i>	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

**Item 3: Appendix B**

<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

**APPENDIX C – European and International Officers**

**London Office**

Ian Hughes	Head of Programme	020 7644 3101
Jasbir Jhas	Senior Advisor	020 7664 3114
Nick Porter	Advisor	020 7664 3113
Drago Djekovic	Advisor	020 7664 3116
Ivor Wells	Advisor	020 7664 3119
Rachael Donaldson	Advisor	020 7664 3357
George Moody	Programme Support Officer	020 7664 3025
Frances Marshall	Programme Support Officer	020 7664 3220

**Brussels Office**

Richard Kitt	Senior Advisor	00 322 502 3680
Dominic Rowles	Advisor	00 322 502 3680
Benedicte Mottard	Office Manager	00 322 502 3680





## **EU Funds update and Brussels lobby, September 2012**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The report updates members on LGA's work on EU funds to date, and seeks views on issues to be raised by the LGA delegation to Brussels on 17-18 September 2012.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to provide views on issues to be raised by the delegation and the future LGA work on EU funds.

### **Action**

Officers to take action as directed by members.

**Contact officer:** Ian Hughes  
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## **EU Funds update and Brussels lobby, September 2012**

### **Context**

1. The EU 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 over the 2007-2013 period. Once match-funded the funds represent a total potential investment of 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-supported Rural Development Programme for England. Certain specialist EU funds dealing with research, the environment, and businesses competitiveness are also available. Increasingly the EU is offering loans as well as grants to support regeneration and SMEs.

### **Background**

3. The LGA is leading a major campaign in the UK and Brussels to ensure a more 'local' approach to the funds in the future. The objective is to ensure that councils are able to lead, shape and use these funds in whatever way is most appropriate for their area. This work is led by this Board and lobbying is focused on the 2013-2020 funding package.
4. Whilst local government values the funds, Government is pushing for a reduction in the EU's overall budget meaning there is no certainty about the value of EU funds for regeneration from 2013.
5. In Whitehall, Government has recently concluded its 'informal consultation' on the future of the programmes. There was a strong response from local authorities. Many set out ambitious plans for shaping EU spending around their local economic priorities.
6. The LGA has secured two local authority secondments into BIS, the responsible Government department, to help ensure local perspectives are built into the future delivery arrangements in England. The secondments are a first and are to ensure a strong local-central approach as the future programmes are being developed. The secondees have met with many local authorities across England, including the Board in July. Members may wish to invite the secondees for discussions on the future of EU Funds in their own localities.
7. In Brussels and across Europe the approach on behalf of local authorities is more coordinated than in the past and is showing results. In particular the LGA's alliance with other EU LGA's has secured significant changes to EU rules including:
  - 7.1 new possibilities for local authorities to be closely involved in the design and delivery of the funds;
  - 7.2 stronger rules on governments working in partnership with local authorities;
  - 7.3 greater opportunity for local strategies to help steer delivery; and

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### **Item 4**

7.4 new opportunities for the involvement of local community groups.

8. The LGA has worked with associations from across Europe to develop a common position and a common set of legislative amendments in the European Parliament to ensure these and other gains for local government feature strongly in the final version of the rules.
9. A range of publications have also been produced to ensure a strong case for a 'local' approach to the funds. The most recent one will be available at the Board meeting.

### **Upcoming issues**

10. Autumn 2012 is a crucial period in determining what the funds will look like from 2014-2020, and what role councils can play in delivering them. LGA will focus on influencing Government's thinking and on influencing the votes due to take place in the European Parliament.
11. Work being planned includes a delegation to Brussels to secure support from MEPs; work to identify and promote future sources of match-funding and a publication with case studies evidencing the benefits of a local approach to delivery.
12. The evidence for the latter piece of work is based on local authorities' own plans for the delivery of EU funds locally after 2013. The stage and detail of thinking varies between places. For instance several same groups of councils have ambitious plans and are looking to manage entire programmes rather than simply apply for funding for individual projects. The EU is promoting this and has created a tool, the 'Integrated Territorial Investment', to make delivery at local rather than regional level more easily achieved.

### **Delegation to Brussels**

13. The LGA delegation to Brussels on the 17-18 September 2012 aims to influence MEPs ahead of key votes in the Autumn in the European Parliament.
14. The delegation is cross party and comprises of councillors from the E&I Board. They are: Cllrs Barnes, Bore, Kemp, Keymer, Flint, Nicholson, Sparks, Wilcox. Carolyn Downs the LGA's Chief Executive will also participate, as will LGA officers.
15. Delegation members have a series of one-to-one meetings with MEPs on the morning of the 18 September, followed by a roundtable discussion with stakeholders and EU institutions in the afternoon. English local and regional Brussels offices, as well as stakeholders from other interest groups, have been invited to participate in the discussion session.
16. The following issues are some which could be raised with MEPs:
  - 16.1 How best to protected investment for regional development in the EU's budget negotiations?
  - 16.2 How best to maximise the take from these funds for local areas?
  - 16.3 How best to embed localism principles into the design, management and delivery of EU funds in England?

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### **Item 4**

- 16.4 How best to promote the message that councils should play a leading role in the negotiation and establishment of the new programmes and are well placed to do so?
  - 16.5 How to ensure councils, including Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and core cities, realise their place-shaping role by managing the dispersal of EU funds themselves in their own areas?
  - 16.6 How to ensure more simplification in the funds and that EU rules enable local partners to better join-up EU funds with other investments in their areas such as the Regional Growth Fund?
  - 16.7 What more can be done in the European Parliament to address the issue of a lack of match-funding?
17. Board members are asked to provide views on any other EU funding issues to be raised by the delegation.
18. The delegation will ask MEPs to use their influence in Brussels by supporting LGA amendments in the upcoming votes in the European Parliament. Also MEPs will be asked to promote LGA messages to the UK Government's representation in Brussels (UKRep).
19. MEPs' influence can also be exercised in Westminster during party conferences by committing to meet with MPs and government departments. Finally MEPs will be asked to publicise LGA messages on their websites and use local case studies in the regional media.
20. Key English and Welsh MEPs have been kept up to date throughout 2012 with LGA key messages and voting recommendations on EU funds. Several of the LGA MEP Vice Presidents have been particularly helpful in tabling amendments, or securing local government events in the European Parliament.
21. 'Local Link', the LGA's e-bulletin specifically for English MEPs, has also been launched ahead of the visit to ensure they are informed of the LGA's EU work across all policy areas.
22. A report on the outcome of the delegation to Brussels will be circulated to E&I Board members.

### **Next Steps**

23. Agreement is needed on the legislative package governing the funds at EU level by mid 2013 at the latest if new the programming period is to start on time in January 2014. In previous programming rounds discussions on the EU's budget have overrun and programmes have started with a delay of six months or more. The LGA is pushing for a timely agreement between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament to ensure local authorities can benefit from the new funding round as soon as possible.
24. Members are asked to consider and comment on any other EU funding issues which should form part of the LGA's ongoing work programme on EU funds in 2013.



## **EU Financial Sanctions**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

### **Purpose of report**

This paper provides an overview of the LGA's work to influence the EU fines policy in the Localism Act, and seeks Members views on delivering a new central-local relationship on EU proposed laws

### **Recommendation**

Members to provide their views on delivering a new central-local relationship on EU proposed laws.

### **Action**

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

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## **EU Financial Sanctions**

### **Summary**

1. This paper provides an overview of the LGA's work to influence the EU financial sanctions policy in the Localism Act, and seeks Members views on delivering a new central-local relationship on EU proposed laws.

### **The issue**

2. Central government negotiates, signs, and transposes EU laws. Once transposed into UK statutory instruments, EU Directives have a significant, administrative, financial and regulatory impact on the way local authorities are run, and the services they provide or procure, costing time and money to implement.
3. Examples of the how EU Directives affect councils include:
  - 3.1 energy efficiency targets for municipal buildings and housing stock;
  - 3.2 Recycling/waste laws framing local environmental and waste services;
  - 3.3 Procurement rules guiding the way councils buy goods, works and services;
  - 3.4 Working Time rules which regulate shift patterns in Fire and Rescue Authorities and residential care homes; and
  - 3.5 consumer policy establishing principles for trading standards.
4. However, while local authorities (e.g. through Committee of the Regions) seek to influence the drafting of EU laws, they have no direct decision making power. The LGA is on the record in criticising past and present Governments for ineffective consultation when it negotiates, agrees and implements EU laws affecting them.
5. In terms of local/central relations on EU issues, the Localism Act 2011 was a "game changer". As a result of the Act, any fines imposed on the Government by the EU (for failure to implement EU law properly) could be devolved to local government, if a council has contributed to the national failure to deliver.
6. The LGA had significant concerns about Bill's original proposals, which would have given Ministers powers to arbitrarily pass on a fine to a local authority. The LGA called for the proposals to be scrapped on the grounds they were unfair, unworkable, dangerous to their budgets, and unconstitutional. The LGA identified that no other country had legislated for a law of this kind without devolving the requisite financial autonomy or ability to influence EU laws to local (or regional) government. The 'unconstitutional' issue most exercised councils and legal commentators as it offered no independent appeal process in case of dispute between the authority and the Minister, who would in effect be judge and jury even though Government was likely to be partly to blame for incurring the fine.

### **LGA campaign to influence**

7. LGA elected members and officers took every opportunity to discuss this with Ministers from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), DEFRA, and the Cabinet Office. In the Commons, the LGA briefed MPs and there were calls for the policy to be scrapped.
8. When the Bill reached the Lords, it was clear Government would not delete the clauses. Sustained lobbying by the LGA, on behalf of our member authorities, and the Greater London Authority, resulted in a major rethink of Government policy to ensure sufficient safeguards were in place should the policy ever be used. A compromise was presented at Lords report stage. LGA lead members and peers secured key concessions, which are detailed below.
9. The final Act requires Ministers to lay before both Houses of Parliament, on a case-by-case basis, details of every council they intend to pass on a fine to, including the EU infraction they are alleged to have breached and the UK obligation. This will be subject to a vote in both Houses. An independent advisory panel, which will include representatives from local government, will advise and recommend, on the authority's culpability.
10. Ministers using the legislation must have regard to a statutory statement of government policy. The LGA drafted its own version with the aim of building in protections for councils. Our draft sought to commit government to a new way of working with local government around the principles of working in partnership when EU laws are being drafted; developing a fair, reasonable and proportionate process to apportion fines and a clear consideration of the ability to pay. The Government converted our proposal into a Whitehall version and consulted key stakeholders. The LGA also responded to the consultation, and was satisfied with the final statement published by Government in June 2012 which provides for a fairer and more transparent system.

### **New central-local relationship on EU proposed laws**

11. Devolution of fines under the Localism Act demonstrates the continued impact of EU regulation on local authorities, and the Government's responsibility to turn EU regulations into effective UK law. Through the work on EU fines, local government has the opportunity to renew its partnership with Government in Parliament and Whitehall and to play a greater role when UK positions on new EU laws are being formulated.
12. Now that the work on the policy framework has been finalised, the Board needs to consider some formal mechanism to ensure that the spirit of partnership which was formulated during these negotiations becomes a working practice. Board members are asked to consider the options below. From members' discussion, the following work is suggested. The Board may want to consider what support we can give to councils to avoid the devolution of any EU fines. Board support could include:

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- 12.1 Ensuring that any attempt to devolve EU fines to local authorities is fair and evidence-based. The LGA will ensure local government expertise is adequately represented on the **independent advisory panel** from within the sector (see paragraph 9). This will be progressed during the autumn.
  - 12.2 Supporting councils to mitigate the imposition of EU fines. for instance since the Act introduces new liability issues into **public contracts**, the LGA will work with our member authorities to ensure they consider EU fines issues, and that respective liabilities are appropriately highlighted to contractors, and/or reflected in current (where appropriate) and future contracts.
  - 12.3 Inputting council views into Whitehall's draft explanatory memoranda which indicate the initial UK Government stance to proposed EU laws. This work started in September 2012.
13. LGA will work across Government to ensure implementation of EU law is effective and appropriate. It is suggested that the Board could consider:
- 13.1 Leading a local/central **EU summit with key Government departments** focusing discussions on 2013 EU work programme proposals which most affect council services, to ensure Government is committed to involve us in developing UK positions on EU law and in the way it is transposed.
  - 13.2 Building a **relationship with parliamentarians** in relevant scrutiny committees in the Commons and Lords, and with key Whitehall department with an interest in EU developments to ensure that the impact of future EU law on Councils is considered by Parliamentarians.



## **European Bodies Update**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This Board takes responsibility for a number of external bodies where UK local government has formal representation. These bodies include:

1. The EU Committee of Regions;
2. Congress of the Council of Europe;
3. CEMR (the European LGA);
4. CLGF (the Commonwealth LGA); and
5. UCLG (the world LGA).

This paper gives an overview of recent developments in the Congress, CEMR and Committee of the Regions.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the recent developments in the Congress, CEMR and Committee of the Regions.

### **Action**

None.

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## **European Bodies Update**

### **Congress of local and regional authorities**

1. Congress is the local government arm of the Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg. It acts as the guardian of local democracy and good governance, which it achieves by scrutinising how each country implements the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and it organises election observation missions to ensure fair and transparent electoral processes. It also promotes exchange of experience and good practice in key policy areas for local councils. The current Congress President is Keith Whitmore (Manchester). The LGA provides the secretariat for the full UK Delegation.
2. Members of Congress are local councillors nominated by each member nation. The current Congress mandate expires on 15 October and a new delegation for 2012-16 needs to be in place by October 2012. The LGA is responsible for nominating 13 English full members and 13 alternates, out of a total of 18.
3. The nomination process has been organised by LGA political groups and they submitted final lists in August. The resulting UK Delegation meets targets for both gender and ethnicity and is politically balanced (based on current LGA proportions). The delegation covers and has representation from each English region, covers all type and size of authority and has a mix of urban and rural. The full list is attached at **Appendix A**.
4. The UK Delegation will meet for the first time on 15 October when it will elect its political office-holders and agree allocations to committees.
5. One of the first high-profile tasks of the new delegation will be to consider the report of a peer review of UK local/central relations. The Congress visit to scrutinise local democracy in the UK will now take place in February 2013 and will include a visit to the LGA.

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

6. The CEMR is the European association of LGAs from across Europe, and can be described as the "European LGA". It's main role is to lobby on new EU legislation on issue that concern local councils; it is increasingly successful in this, due in large part by being able to speak on behalf of over 100,000 local councils.
7. The CEMR was first established in Paris over 60 years ago, although in recent decades the weight of the organisation has shifted more towards Brussels, where it is co-located with the LGA and associations from nearly 20 other countries.
8. The LGA has campaigned for many years to locate the CEMR exclusively in Brussels in order to be more efficient, more visible, and to save money. The French LGA has consistently blocked such a move, but the recent decision of the City of Paris to give notice to CEMR from its subsidised premises has created the catalyst for change. The French LGA has therefore lifted its objection to relocation from Paris and this was confirmed at a meeting of the Executive Bureau on 4 September, in which Cllr Keymer

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played an active role as UK representative and Vice-Chair of the CEMR Finance Committee. Although the move will need to be staged over a few years to minimise costs of redundancies, we expect this to be completed within 3-5 years.

**Committee of the Regions (CoR)**

9. The CoR is a formal consultative body of the European Union. Its remit is to comment on forthcoming EU laws from a local and regional perspective. The LGA provides the secretariat for the full UK Delegation, which comprises 24 full and 24 alternate members.
10. In the May 2012 local elections three members of the LGA-nominated UK Delegation chose not to stand. These members were Amanda Byrne (Conservative, Yorkshire), Flo Clucas (Liberal Democrat, North-West), Peter Moore (Liberal Democrat, Yorkshire). The relevant LGA political groups have nominated to these vacancies and the following nominations will be put forward to the various Government Departments for approval: Paula Baker (Liberal Democrat, South East) from an alternate member to a full member; Dee Sharpe (Conservative, Yorkshire) as a full member; and Stewart Golton (Liberal Democrat, Yorkshire) and Margaret Lishman (Liberal Democrat, North West) as alternate members.
11. Still going through the Whitehall machinery are nominations to replace three Scottish MSPs from the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May 2011. Even more outstanding is the LGA nomination made in November 2010 of a replacement of a Labour member, despite repeated pressure on civil servants.
12. In its political work, the CoR has now adopted a report by LGA member Cllr Kay Twitchen on funding for environmental projects, and a report by former Board member Cllr Nilgun Canver on environmental law has now reached the committee stage; both reports were drafted by an LGA staff member.



## APPENDIX A - UK DELEGATION (ENGLAND)

LOCAL CHAMBER			
NAME	STATUS	GROUP	MANDATE
<b>Cllr Sandra BARNES</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>South Northamptonshire Council</b>
<b>Cllr Sherma BATSON</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Stevenage Council</b>
<b>Cllr Alison COOK</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Sevenoaks Council</b>
<b>Cllr Amrit MEDIRATTA</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Three Rivers Council</b>
<b>Cllr Nigel MERMAGEN</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>South Somerset Council</b>
<b>Cllr Sian REID</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>Cambridge Council</b>
<b>Cllr John WARMI SHAM</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Salford Council</b>

Cllr Anood AL-SAMERAI	Sub	LD	LB Southwark
Cllr Fleur BUTLER	Sub	CON	Richmondshire Council
Cllr Nilgun CANVER	Sub	LAB	LB Haringey
Cllr Richard CORNELIUS	Sub	CON	LB Barnet
Cllr Simon JAMES	Sub	LD	RB Kingston-upon-Thames
Cllr Chris ROBBINS	Sub	LAB	LB Waltham Forest
Cllr Neil STOCK	Sub	CON	Tendring Council

REGIONAL CHAMBER			
NAME	STATUS	GROUP	MANDATE
<b>Andrew BOFF AM</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Greater London Assembly</b>
<b>Cllr Eunice CAMPBELL-CLARK</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Nottingham Council</b>
<b>Cllr Vanessa CHURCHMAN</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>IND</b>	<b>Isle of Wight Council</b>
<b>Cllr Richard DODD</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Northumberland Council</b>
<b>Cllr David SHAKESPEARE</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Buckinghamshire Council</b>
<b>Cllr Tracey SIMPSON-LAING</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>York Council</b>
<b>Cllr Elizabeth STAPLES</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Staffordshire Council</b>

Cllr Mick HENRY	Sub	LAB	Gateshead Council
Cllr Cyndi HUGHES	Sub	LAB	Darlington Council
Cllr Syeda KHATUN	Sub	LAB	Sandwell Council
Cllr Alex KING	Sub	CON	Kent Council
Cllr Will MUMFORD	Sub	CON	Devon Council
Cllr Herbert MANLEY	Sub	CON	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Fiona TWYXCROSS AM	Sub	LAB	Greater London Assembly

## UK DELEGATION (OTHER)

LOCAL CHAMBER			
NAME	STATUS	GROUP	MANDATE
<b>Cllr Jim DILLON</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>UUP</b>	<b>Lisburn City Council</b>
<b>Cllr Harry McGUIGAN</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>North Lanarkshire Council</b>
Cllr Mairi EVANS	Sub	SNP	Angus Council
Cllr Ronnie HUGHES	Sub	LAB	Conwy Borough Council

REGIONAL CHAMBER			
NAME	STATUS	GROUP	MANDATE
<b>Christina McKELVIE MSP</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>SNP</b>	<b>Scottish Parliament</b>
<b>Joyce WATSON AM</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>National Assembly of Wales</b>
Stewart DICKSON MLA	Sub	ALL	Northern Ireland Assembly
Helen EADIE MSP	Sub	LAB	Scottish Parliament



## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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<b>Title:</b>	European & International Board
<b>Date and time:</b>	Wednesday 11 July 2012, 11.00 am
<b>Venue:</b>	Smith Square Rooms 3&4, Local Government House, London

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chair	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
Deputy Chair	Marco Cereste	Peterborough City
Deputy Chair	Linda Gillham	Runnymede BC
Members	Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB
	Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC
	Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC
	Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
	Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC
	Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB
Apologies	Cllr Richard Kemp OBE	Liverpool City
	Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB
	Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC
External Representatives	Sue Baxter (BIS), Kevin Richardson (BIS) and Adrian Cannard (EELGA)	
Officers	Ian Hughes, Jasbir Jhas, Richard Kitt, Dominic Rowles, Ivor Wells, Drago Djekovic and Frances Marshall	

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted all those apologies received.</p>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Update on International work</b></p> <p>Ivor Wells and Drago Djekovic (Advisors) provided a presentation on the current international work being undertaken by the LGA, the principles underpinning this work, and potential future opportunities based on demand and external funding.</p> <p>Ivor provided a detailed overview of the delivery phase of the African Peer Review Project and lessons learned so far. Feedback from the first Peer Review had been very positive and provided a solid foundation for the continued delivery of the next stages of the programme.</p> <p>With reference to a number of approaches from private sector companies expressing an interest in collaborating with the LGA on international projects, Drago outlined some of the potential collaborative opportunities open to the LGA, through public and private sector financing. The Chairman drew attention to the potential availability of funding for a project around conflict resolution in Sri Lanka as well as current work ongoing between the LGA, the Foreign Office and British Embassy in Mexico to explore the role that councils can play in opening up new markets for UK firms in Mexico. Members were asked to provide a steer on the appropriate level of LGA involvement in externally funded international projects.</p> <p>A detailed discussion followed, in which Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to issues including:</p> <p><b>African Peer Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With reference to the successes of the first African Peer Review, Members thanked officers for their hard work.</li> <li>• In terms of maximising the learning gained from the programme, it was suggested that any project evaluation include an external element.</li> </ul>	

### **Future International Opportunities**

- With reference to the lengthy process, and uncertainty of success in securing external contracts, it was suggested that subject to appropriate due diligence measures, any appropriate opportunities for further international work should be pursued.
- Members also advised that in forming future partnerships, reputational issues need to be considered.

### **Decisions**

That the Board:-

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **endorsed** exploring further opportunities for externally funded international projects within the bounds of the policy set out in the report.

### **Actions**

Officers to take forward in line with Members' comments.

**Ivor Wells /  
Drago Djekovic**

## **2 EU Funds Post 2013 - Update and Lobby Strategy**

Sue Baxter, the senior civic servant leading the UK negotiations on structural fund reform from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), provided a detailed overview of the latest position in the EU-wide negotiations and legislative timescale. In doing so she highlighted a policy shift, with a greater focus on structural funds as a driver of EU growth in the global market. Sue outlined the 11 themes within the Common Strategic Framework for 2014-2020, noting, however, that the final list of priorities for the UK had not yet been confirmed. In outlining the Commission's proposed changes to the funds and tools for implementation, she highlighted potential challenges and opportunities for local councils as a result of these changes.

Kevin Richardson, a local government employee seconded to BIS as part of the UK negotiating team on EU structural funds reform updated Members on how local authorities could engage in the negotiations and highlighted a number of common themes from the sector's contribution to BIS's

informal consultation in April. He expressed cautious optimism regarding levels of engagement and understanding across the sector, however highlighted the need to connect with councils currently not engaged in the debate.

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

- A discussion arose regarding the EU legislative timescale and Whitehall processes and timescales for UK Ministerial approval. It was noted that at present, there were different lines of thought in the key Government Departments.
- With reference to the Commission's proposed changes, Members emphasised the importance of developing mechanisms for more integrated programmes.
- In discussing how to connect with councils not currently engaged in the negotiations, Jasbir Jhas (Senior Advisor) outlined a number of LGA activities to engage councils as well as develop a strong evidence case to demonstrate how local approaches can deliver better outcomes and efficiencies to help make this case in Brussels and Whitehall.

Adrian Cannard, from the East of England LGA (EELGA) updated Members on the support the EELGA provides to councils in making EU funding applications. He explained that the support offered to councils, (including training, workshops, bid writing and external expertise), was designed to help councils build up their own capacity to equip them with the expertise to secure EU funding without additional support in future. He outlined a number of successes as well as challenges the programme has faced and suggested how such a programme could be rolled out to other areas post-2013.

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

- With reference to the level of demand on specific funding streams, Members expressed concerns about the sector's overall uptake of EU funding opportunities.

- The Chair noted that as part of the LGA's programme of lobbying activities, lead members were to agree a delegation of members from the Board to lobby key MEPs and European Commission officials in Brussels in September.

**Decision**

That the Board **noted** the report.

**3. Board EU lobbying priorities – Round-up of activity**

Members noted the report which provided an update on recent developments on each of the Board's six key priority topics.

**Decision**

That the Board **noted** the report.

**4 End of Year Review - 2011/12**

Members noted the report which set out the progress made in delivering the European and International Board's contribution to the LGA's 2011/12 business plan priorities.

**Decision**

That the Board **noted** the report.

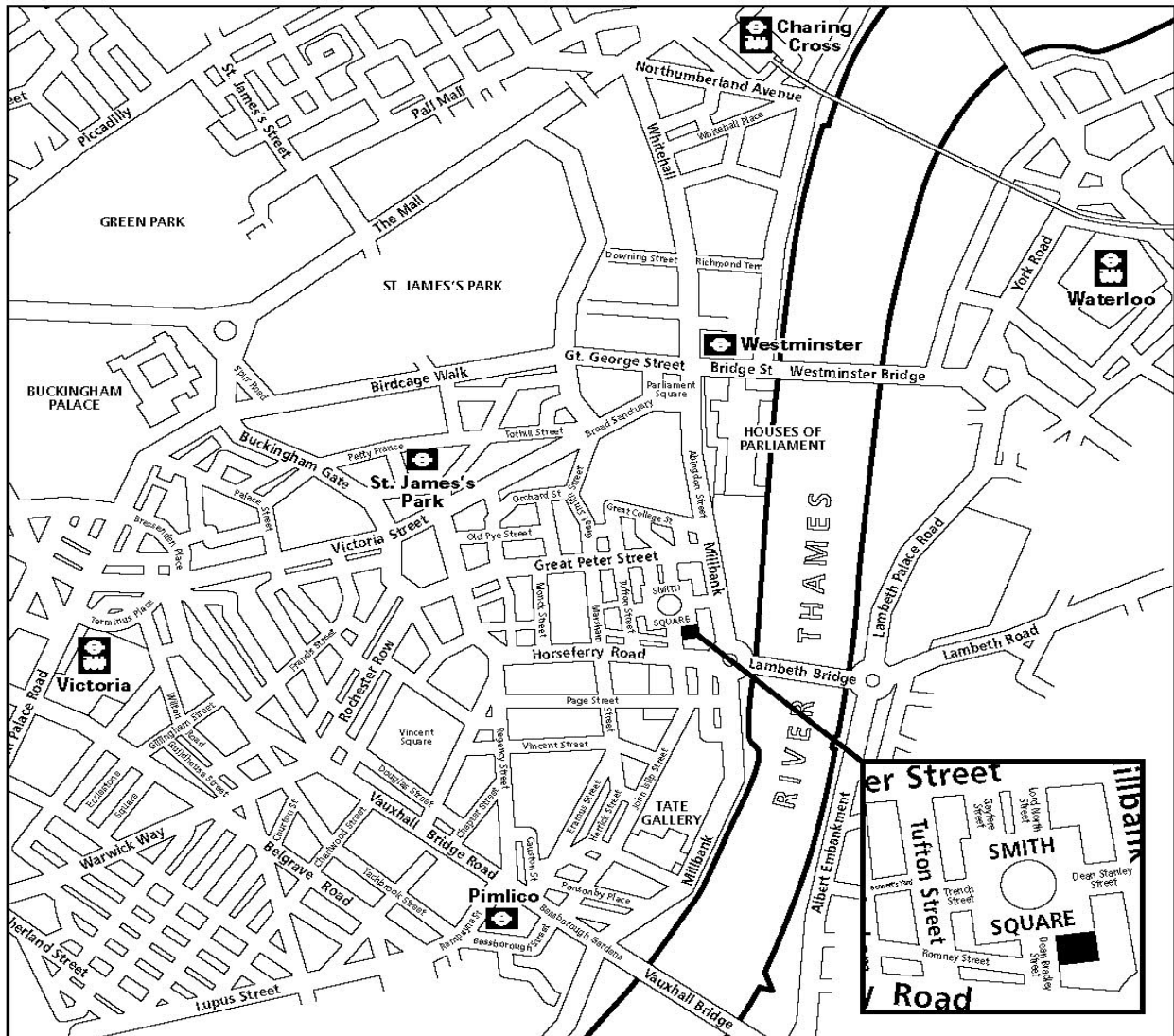
**5 Notes of the last meeting**

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

**6. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 17 September 2012 at 11am in Local Government House, London.

## LGA 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](mailto:info@lga.gov.uk)  
 Website: [www.lga.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.cclondon.com)

### Car Parks

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