

European and International Board

Agenda

Friday 9 November 2012
11.00am

Biscuit Building
10 Redchurch Street
Shoreditch
London
E2 7DD

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

European & International Board

9 November 2012

The European & International Board meeting will be held on **Friday 9 November 2012** at **11.00am**, in the Biscuit Building, 10 Redchurch Street, **Shoreditch**, London, E2 7DD.

Political Group meetings

Conservative Group at 10.00am in the Biscuit Building, 10 Redchurch Street, Shoreditch, London.
Liberal Democrat Group at 10.30am in the Biscuit Building, 10 Redchurch Street, Shoreditch, London.

Timings

Board Meeting: **11.00 am – 12.30pm**
Working Lunch: **12.30pm – 1.30pm**

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
Conservative: Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Group Office: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: 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 Biscuit Building is printed on the back cover.

Contact

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

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme, a Carers' Allowance of up to £6.19 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

20.10.12

European & International Board - Membership 2012-2013

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Role</i>
Conservative (8)		
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI [Vice-Chair]	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	Wycombe DC	
Substitutes:		
Joanne Beavis	Braintree DC	
Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC	
Ranil Jayawardena	Basingstoke & Dean BC	
Mike Wilcox	Lichfield DC	
Labour (6)		
Dave Wilcox OBE [Chair]	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	
Liberal Democrat (3)		
Richard Kemp CBE [Deputy-Chair]	Liverpool City	
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB	
Sian Reid	Cambridge City Council	
Substitute:		
Nigel Mermagen	South Somerset DC	
Independent (1)		
Shirley Flint [Deputy Chair]	North Kesteven DC	
Substitutes:		
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council	
Linda Gillham	Runnymede BC	

LGA European & International Board Attendance 2012-2013

Councillors	18.09.12				
Conservative Group					
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI	No				
Gordon Keymer CBE	Yes				
Keith Glazier	No				
Sandra Barnes MBE	Yes				
Liz Eyre	No				
Neil Clarke	Yes				
Sir Simon Day	Yes				
David Shakespeare OBE	Yes				
Labour Group					
David Wilcox OBE	Yes				
Sir Albert Bore	No				
Guy Nicholson	Yes				
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Yes				
Roger Lawrence	Yes				
Sue Murphy	Yes				
Lib Dem Group					
Richard Kemp CBE	Yes				
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Yes				
Sian Reid	Yes				
Independent					
Shirley Flint	Yes				
Substitutes					
Joanne Beavis	Yes				
Phil Grove	Yes				

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European and International Board

Friday 9 November 2012 at 11am

Biscuit Building, 10 Redchurch Street, Shoreditch, London, E2 7DD

PART 1 – BOARD BUSINESS

11.00AM – 12.30PM

Item	Page	Time
1. Peer Review of UK Local Democracy Presentation by Jeremy Smith Director at Advocacy International Ltd.	3	11.00am – 11.40am
2. EU Funding 2014 – 2020	19	11.40am – 12.10pm
3. European Commission 2013 Work Programme	23	12.10pm – 12.20pm
4. Round-up of activity: Board EU lobbying priorities, institutions and international activities	45	12.20pm – 12.30pm
5. Notes of the last meeting	53	
6. Date of next meeting - Thursday 7 February 2013 at 11am, Local Government House, London, SW1P 3HZ		

PART 2 – INFORMAL SESSION

12.30AM – 1.30PM

Working Lunch

Councillor Nicholson will introduce the session by providing background to Hackney's recent economic development and how the Borough sought to maximise the economic potential of the Olympic Games.

Representatives from Mother Advertising Limited, an independent advertising agency based in Shoreditch, will provide a presentation on the role of social media and mobile technologies in the 2012 GREAT Britain campaign as a platform to promote the UK abroad and the implications of these engagement tools this for future international development initiatives.

Peer Review of UK Local Democracy

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Recommendations

1. To note the intention of the Council of Europe to scrutinise UK compliance with the Charter of Local Self-Government; and
2. To endorse preparations to input to the scrutiny process, including commissioning an external evaluation.

Action

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

Contact officer: Richard Kitt
Position: Senior Adviser
Phone no: 00 32 2 502 36 80
E-mail: richard.kitt@local.gov.uk

Peer Review of UK Local Democracy

Summary

1. This report summarises a planned Council of Europe (CoE) peer review of local democracy in the UK during 2013 and considers how the LGA could engage. This activity can support existing LGA campaigns on localism and a new constitutional settlement for local government in England.

Background

2. To recall, the Council of Europe was founded in 1949 at the initiative of Sir Winston Churchill to build democracy and good governance, defend human rights and foster the rule of law. It has 49 member countries and acts on the basis of key treaties and benchmarks, which it mainly upholds by peer pressure. It is based in Strasbourg and is not an EU body (the EU is a member).
3. The Congress is the local government arm of the CoE, and has an elected assembly to whom the LGA nominates 14 members. The core mission of the Congress is the effective monitoring of local democracy in member states by assessing the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which was adopted in 1985 and entered into force in the UK in 1998. It embodies the conviction that the degree of self-government enjoyed by local authorities may be regarded as a touchstone of genuine democracy.

The Charter of Local Self-Government

4. The purpose of the European Charter of Local Self-Government is to identify common European standards for measuring and safeguarding the rights of local authorities. The Charter commits central governments to applying basic rules guaranteeing the political, administrative and financial independence of local authorities.
5. The Charter has two main parts: (Full text attached at **Appendix A**).
 - 5.1 Part I sets out the principles of local self-government. It defines the concept and establishes principles governing the nature and scope of local authorities' powers; ensures that they have autonomy as regards their administrative structures and access to competent staff and defines conditions for the holding of local elective office. Two major articles aim at limiting administrative supervision of the activities of local authorities and ensuring that they have adequate financial resources at their disposal on terms which do not impair their basic autonomy.
 - 5.2 Part II relates to the scope of the obligations entered into by the signatories. To take account of the legal and institutional peculiarities of the various member States, it permits them to exclude certain provisions of the Charter from those by which they consider themselves bound. In the case of the UK, although it signed up to all of the matters of principle, the main exclusion is territorial as the Charter currently does not apply in Northern Ireland.

6. In 2009 a Protocol was added on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority.

Monitoring

7. The Congress polices the Charter through regular but infrequent monitoring. The first and so far only report on the UK was in May 1998, soon after the UK signed the Charter. It is intended to establish a five-year cycle for all countries from now onwards.
8. The process involves a small fact-finding visit comprising two Congress politicians (the rapporteurs), an independent academic expert in constitutional matters, and staff of the Congress. Visits are made to individual councils, the national associations of local government and Government departments at Ministerial and civil servant level. The findings of the visit are written up in the form of an evaluation and recommendations for future action, and presented to Congress by the rapporteurs.
9. To be effective, this monitoring is not limited to the production of reports and recommendations. It is also part of an ongoing political dialogue with the different levels of governance in the country, therefore once a Monitoring Report has been adopted, the Congress will periodically scrutinise how its recommendations have been implemented. In this way, peer pressure is applied to enforce Congress findings.

UK monitoring visit 2013

10. The Congress has appointed its two rapporteurs:
 - 10.1 Mr Willy Borsus: Mayor of Somme-Leuze and member of the Walloon Regional Parliament (MR party, Liberal Group).
 - 10.2 Mr Alexander Uss: Chairman, Krasnoyarsk Regional Legislative Assembly (United Russia, Christian-Democrat Group).
11. They will visit the UK in Spring 2013. The programme will include Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) staff and Ministers, the LGA and some English councils – possibly including the GLA – before moving on to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is expected that the non-application of the Charter in Northern Ireland will be a focus of the report.
12. The evaluation will take into account all aspects of the Charter, and additionally new benchmarks for central-local consultation agreed at the October 2012 plenary.
13. It is proposed that the LGA commission Jeremy Smith to prepare an evaluation of UK compliance with the Charter, with specific reference to English local government. This will help ensure that the situation of English local government is given due consideration in the Congress report. Jeremy Smith, a barrister by profession, has held senior office in English and European local councils and associations, and prepared a similar evaluation 10 years ago which found a number of instances of non-compliance.

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14. Subsequent to receiving this evaluation, the LGA may wish to prepare its own contribution (or simply endorse Jeremy Smith's) to present to the Congress delegation when they visit LGA.

APPENDIX A

European Charter of Local Self-Government

Strasbourg, 15.X.1985

Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe, signatory hereto,

- Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;
- Considering that one of the methods by which this aim is to be achieved is through agreements in the administrative field;
- Considering that the local authorities are one of the main foundations of any democratic regime;
- Considering that the right of citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs is one of the democratic principles that are shared by all member States of the Council of Europe;
- Considering that it is at local level that this right can be most directly exercised;
- Convinced that the existence of local authorities with real responsibilities can provide an administration which is both effective and close to the citizen;
- Aware that the safeguarding and reinforcement of local self-government in the different European countries is an important contribution to the construction of a Europe based on the principles of democracy and the decentralisation of power;
- Asserting that this entails the existence of local authorities endowed with democratically constituted decision-making bodies and possessing a wide degree of autonomy with regard to their responsibilities, the ways and means by which those responsibilities are exercised and the resources required for their fulfilment,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties undertake to consider themselves bound by the following articles in the manner and to the extent prescribed in Article 12 of this Charter.

Part I

Article 2 – Constitutional and legal foundation for local self-government

The principle of local self-government shall be recognised in domestic legislation, and where practicable in the constitution.

Article 3 – Concept of local self-government

1. Local self-government denotes the right and the ability of local authorities, within the limits of the law, to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interests of the local population.
2. This right shall be exercised by councils or assemblies composed of members freely elected by secret ballot on the basis of direct, equal, universal suffrage, and which may possess executive organs responsible to them. This provision shall in no way affect recourse to assemblies of citizens, referendums or any other form of direct citizen participation where it is permitted by statute.

Article 4 – Scope of local self-government

1. The basic powers and responsibilities of local authorities shall be prescribed by the constitution or by statute. However, this provision shall not prevent the attribution to local authorities of powers and responsibilities for specific purposes in accordance with the law.
2. Local authorities shall, within the limits of the law, have full discretion to exercise their initiative with regard to any matter which is not excluded from their competence nor assigned to any other authority.
3. Public responsibilities shall generally be exercised, in preference, by those authorities which are closest to the citizen. Allocation of responsibility to another authority should weigh up the extent and nature of the task and requirements of efficiency and economy.
4. Powers given to local authorities shall normally be full and exclusive. They may not be undermined or limited by another, central or regional, authority except as provided for by the law.
5. Where powers are delegated to them by a central or regional authority, local authorities shall, insofar as possible, be allowed discretion in adapting their exercise to local conditions.
6. Local authorities shall be consulted, insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way in the planning and decision-making processes for all matters which concern them directly.

Article 5 – Protection of local authority boundaries

Changes in local authority boundaries shall not be made without prior consultation of the local communities concerned, possibly by means of a referendum where this is permitted by statute.

Article 6 – Appropriate administrative structures and resources for the tasks of local authorities

1. Without prejudice to more general statutory provisions, local authorities shall be able to determine their own internal administrative structures in order to adapt them to local needs and ensure effective management.

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2. The conditions of service of local government employees shall be such as to permit the recruitment of high-quality staff on the basis of merit and competence; to this end adequate training opportunities, remuneration and career prospects shall be provided.

Article 7 – Conditions under which responsibilities at local level are exercised

1. The conditions of office of local elected representatives shall provide for free exercise of their functions.
2. They shall allow for appropriate financial compensation for expenses incurred in the exercise of the office in question as well as, where appropriate, compensation for loss of earnings or remuneration for work done and corresponding social welfare protection.
3. Any functions and activities which are deemed incompatible with the holding of local elective office shall be determined by statute or fundamental legal principles.

Article 8 – Administrative supervision of local authorities' activities

1. Any administrative supervision of local authorities may only be exercised according to such procedures and in such cases as are provided for by the constitution or by statute.
2. Any administrative supervision of the activities of the local authorities shall normally aim only at ensuring compliance with the law and with constitutional principles. Administrative supervision may however be exercised with regard to expediency by higher-level authorities in respect of tasks the execution of which is delegated to local authorities.
3. Administrative supervision of local authorities shall be exercised in such a way as to ensure that the intervention of the controlling authority is kept in proportion to the importance of the interests which it is intended to protect.

Article 9 – Financial resources of local authorities

1. Local authorities shall be entitled, within national economic policy, to adequate financial resources of their own, of which they may dispose freely within the framework of their powers.
2. Local authorities' financial resources shall be commensurate with the responsibilities provided for by the constitution and the law.
3. Part at least of the financial resources of local authorities shall derive from local taxes and charges of which, within the limits of statute, they have the power to determine the rate.
4. The financial systems on which resources available to local authorities are based shall be of a sufficiently diversified and buoyant nature to enable them to keep pace as far as practically possible with the real evolution of the cost of carrying out their tasks.
5. The protection of financially weaker local authorities calls for the institution of financial equalisation procedures or equivalent measures which are designed to correct the effects of the unequal distribution of potential sources of finance and of the financial burden they must support. Such procedures or measures shall not diminish the discretion local authorities may exercise within their own sphere of responsibility.
6. Local authorities shall be consulted, in an appropriate manner, on the way in which redistributed resources are to be allocated to them.

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7. As far as possible, grants to local authorities shall not be earmarked for the financing of specific projects. The provision of grants shall not remove the basic freedom of local authorities to exercise policy discretion within their own jurisdiction.
8. For the purpose of borrowing for capital investment, local authorities shall have access to the national capital market within the limits of the law.

Article 10 – Local authorities' right to associate

1. Local authorities shall be entitled, in exercising their powers, to co-operate and, within the framework of the law, to form consortia with other local authorities in order to carry out tasks of common interest.
2. The entitlement of local authorities to belong to an association for the protection and promotion of their common interests and to belong to an international association of local authorities shall be recognised in each State.
3. Local authorities shall be entitled, under such conditions as may be provided for by the law, to co-operate with their counterparts in other States.

Article 11 – Legal protection of local self-government

Local authorities shall have the right of recourse to a judicial remedy in order to secure free exercise of their powers and respect for such principles of local self-government as are enshrined in the constitution or domestic legislation.

Part II – Miscellaneous provisions

Article 12 – Undertakings

1. Each Party undertakes to consider itself bound by at least twenty paragraphs of Part I of the Charter, at least ten of which shall be selected from among the following paragraphs:
 - Article 2,
 - Article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2,
 - Article 4, paragraphs 1, 2 and 4,
 - Article 5,
 - Article 7, paragraph 1,
 - Article 8, paragraph 2,
 - Article 9, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3,
 - Article 10, paragraph 1,
 - Article 11.
2. Each Contracting State, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, shall notify to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the paragraphs selected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article.
3. Any Party may, at any later time, notify the Secretary General that it considers itself bound by any paragraphs of this Charter which it has not already accepted under the terms of paragraph 1 of this article. Such undertakings subsequently given shall be deemed to be an integral part of the ratification, acceptance or approval of the Party so notifying, and shall have the same effect as from the first day of the month following the

expiration of a period of three months after the date of the receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 13 – Authorities to which the Charter applies

The principles of local self-government contained in the present Charter apply to all the categories of local authorities existing within the territory of the Party. However, each Party may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the categories of local or regional authorities to which it intends to confine the scope of the Charter or which it intends to exclude from its scope. It may also include further categories of local or regional authorities within the scope of the Charter by subsequent notification to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 14 – Provision of information

Each Party shall forward to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe all relevant information concerning legislative provisions and other measures taken by it for the purposes of complying with the terms of this Charter.

Part III

Article 15 – Signature, ratification and entry into force

1. This Charter shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
2. This Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which four member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Charter in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.
3. In respect of any member State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 16 – Territorial clause

1. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which this Charter shall apply.
2. Any State may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Charter to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.
3. Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the

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Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

Article 17 – Denunciation

1. Any Party may denounce this Charter at any time after the expiration of a period of five years from the date on which the Charter entered into force for it. Six months' notice shall be given to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Such denunciation shall not affect the validity of the Charter in respect of the other Parties provided that at all times there are not less than four such Parties.
2. Any Party may, in accordance with the provisions set out in the preceding paragraph, denounce any paragraph of Part I of the Charter accepted by it provided that the Party remains bound by the number and type of paragraphs stipulated in Article 12, paragraph 1. Any Party which, upon denouncing a paragraph, no longer meets the requirements of Article 12, paragraph 1, shall be considered as also having denounced the Charter itself.

Article 18 – Notifications

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe of:

any signature;
the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval;
any date of entry into force of this Charter in accordance with Article 15;
any notification received in application of the provisions of Article 12, paragraphs 2 and 3;
any notification received in application of the provisions of Article 13;
any other act, notification or communication relating to this Charter.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Charter.

Done at Strasbourg, this 15th day of October 1985, in English and French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe.

Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority

Utrecht, 16.XI.2009

Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe, signatories to this Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government (hereinafter referred to as “the Charter”, ETS No. 122),

- Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;
- Considering that the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs is one of the democratic principles that are shared by all member States of the Council of Europe;
- Considering that the evolution in member States has shown the pre-eminent importance of this principle for local self-government;
- Considering that it would be appropriate to supplement the Charter with provisions guaranteeing the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority;
- Bearing in mind the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 November 2008;
- Bearing in mind also the Declaration and the Action Plan adopted at the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16 to 17 May 2005),

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 – Right to participate in the affairs of a local authority

- 1 The States Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority.
- 2 The right to participate in the affairs of a local authority denotes the right to seek to determine or to influence the exercise of a local authority's powers and responsibilities.
- 3 The law shall provide means of facilitating the exercise of this right. Without unfairly discriminating against any person or group, the law may provide particular measures for different circumstances or categories of persons. In accordance with the constitutional and/or international obligations of the party, the law may, in particular, provide for measures specifically limited to voters.
- 4.1 Each Party shall recognise by law the right of nationals of the party to participate, as voters or candidates, in the election of members of the council or assembly of the local authority in which they reside.

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- 4.2 The law shall also recognise the right of other persons to so participate where the party, in accordance with its own constitutional order, so decides or where this accords with the party's international legal obligations.
- 5.1 Any formalities, conditions or restrictions to the exercise of the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority shall be prescribed by law and be compatible with the party's international legal obligations.
- 5.2 The law shall impose such formalities, conditions and restrictions as are necessary to ensure that the ethical integrity and transparency of the exercise of local authorities' powers and responsibilities are not jeopardised by the exercise of the right to participate.
- 5.3 Any other formalities, conditions or restrictions must be necessary for the operation of an effective political democracy, for the maintenance of public safety in a democratic society or for the party to comply with the requirements of its international legal obligations.

Article 2 – Implementing measures for the right to participate

- 1 The Parties shall take all such measures as are necessary to give effect to the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority.
- 2 These measures for the exercise of the right to participate shall include:
- i empowering local authorities to enable, promote and facilitate the exercise of the right to participate set out in this Protocol;
- ii securing the establishment of:
- a procedures for involving people which may include consultative processes, local referendums and petitions and, where the local authority has many inhabitants and/or covers a large geographical area, measures to involve people at a level close to them;
 - b procedures for access, in accordance with the Party's constitutional order and international legal obligations, to official documents held by local authorities;
 - c measures for meeting the needs of categories of persons who face particular obstacles in participating; and
 - d mechanisms and procedures for dealing with and responding to complaints and suggestions regarding the functioning of local authorities and local public services;
- iii encouraging the use of information and communication technologies for the promotion and exercise of the right to participate set out in this Protocol.

- 3 The procedures, measures and mechanisms may be different for different categories of local authorities, having regard to their size and competences.
- 4 In the planning and decision-making processes concerning measures to be undertaken to give effect to the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority, local authorities shall be consulted insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way.

Article 3 – Authorities to which the Protocol applies

This Protocol applies to all the categories of local authorities existing within the territory of the Party. However, each State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the categories of local or regional authorities to which it intends to confine the scope of the Protocol or which it intends to exclude from its scope. It may also include further categories of local or regional authorities within the scope of the Protocol by subsequent notification to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 4 – Territorial application

- 1 Any State may at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the territory or territories to which this Protocol shall apply.
- 2 Any Party may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Protocol to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.
- 3 Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

Article 5 – Signature and entry into force

- 1 This Protocol shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe signatories to the Charter. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. A member State of the Council of Europe may not ratify, accept or approve this Protocol unless it has, simultaneously or previously, ratified, accepted or approved the Charter. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- 2 This Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which eight member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Protocol in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1.

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- 3 In respect of any member State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 6 – Denunciation

- 1 Any Party may at any time denounce this Protocol by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
- 2 Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 7 – Notifications

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe of:

any signature;
the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval;
any date of entry into force of this Protocol in accordance with Article 5;
any notification received in application of the provisions of Article 3;
any other act, notification or communication relating to this Protocol.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

Done at Utrecht, on the 16th day of November 2009, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe.

EU Funding 2014-2020

Purpose of report

For discussion, direction and approval.

Summary

At the last Board meeting, Members requested further discussion and information on 2014-2020 EU funding. This report includes:

1. the role of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the implications of instruments such as Jeremie and Jessica, as requested by members; and
2. a draft LGA position on delivery options for EU funds which maybe appropriate across England. **This will be circulated separately.**

Feedback from relevant LGA meetings is addressed in Item 4.

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers to take action as directed by Members.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Programme
Phone no: 020 7664 3101
E-mail: ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

Item 2

EU Funding 2014-2020

European Investment Bank and instruments including JEREMIE and JESSICA

1. In the current funding period 2007-2013 the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched a number of new loan products to assist with regional development. The new instruments are partly based on existing loan schemes developed in the UK such as the Merseyside Investment Fund and Finance Cornwall.
2. EIB loans will play an important role in the future funding landscape for local authorities alongside traditional grant financing from the structural funds.
3. The new instruments include:
 - 3.1 JEREMIE – Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises, allows EIB funds to be matched with ERDF to create a holding fund which is used to provide loans (or equity or guarantees) to SMEs. The instrument has been used in Wales, Yorkshire and the Humber, the North West and the North East to create loan funds of over £90 million.
 - 3.2 JESSICA – Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas, typically allows European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and EIB funds to be brought together to create an urban development fund to support urban regeneration projects and public-private partnerships. Wales, Scotland, London, the North West and the East Midlands have opted to use the instrument creating loan funds of between £15 million and £100 million.
 - 3.3 ELENA - European Local Energy Assistance, helps local authorities to prepare energy efficiency or renewable energy projects. London, Bristol, and Birmingham have benefitted from funding.
4. It was primarily the Regional Development Agencies in 2009-2010 who decided which EIB loan instruments to use in their region. Several English regions undertook evaluations and decided not to run the schemes. Possibilities remain for individual projects to bypass the regional loan schemes and apply directly to the EIB for a single loan.
5. The delivery of JESSICA funding has been held up by difficulties agreeing the schemes with the EU, and by private sector developers withdrawing their support in a difficult financial climate. Individual loans are only expected to begin being issued this year.
6. The benefits of running a loan scheme are that they are set up as revolving funds allowing the same capital to be re-lent several times over. Also as soon as the loan fund is established the ERDF component counts as having been spent thus reducing the risk of underspend significantly.

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7. Members are asked to give a steer on these issues and if EIB loan schemes should be prioritised in future as an area of work for LGA.
8. In this short brief we summarise a new approach to developing EU funding programmes for 2014 – 2020, focusing specifically on how the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund (ESF) can help drive growth and prosperity in local economies.

Delivery options for EU funds

9. Discussions with our member authorities suggest they are exploring a variety of options with Government departments about ways in which they want to use future EU funds, including the levels of engagement and types of delivery mechanisms which could be used.
10. A LGA draft position paper which explores options for delivery will be **circulated separately**. Members are invited to discuss the contents, and make recommendations to be incorporated in a further iteration.

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European Commission 2013 Work Programme

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Recommendation

To agree the policy priorities as outlined in the report at paragraphs 9 – 11, consider how the Board can support a refreshed approach to EU lobbying.

Action

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

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European Commission 2013 Work Programme

Why we lobby the EU

1. European Union policy and legislation affects the day-job of councils. Much of our environmental, trading and procurement standards are based on legislation which was drafted by the European Commission rather than in the corridors of Whitehall. Though estimates vary, up to half the regulation which affects councils in England is likely to originate in Brussels.
2. After the Localism Act, EU laws and their UK implementing measures could affect councils in new ways. Fines imposed on the UK by the European Court of Justice for a breach of EU law could be devolved to councils by central government.
3. Whilst Whitehall is currently working on the basis of deregulation and localism, there is no similar philosophy in Brussels. An added problem is gold-plating of EU regulations as it is transposed into EU law by UK civil servants.
4. Thus for LGA's lobbying work, we have two legislatures to influence: London and Brussels. As a result we need a clear prioritised lobbying programme which identifies those EU proposals which will have the greatest impact on councils. This lobbying programme needs to be led at the most appropriate level in the LGA and integrated with our work in Whitehall.

LGA lobbying programme

5. The LGA has developed an annual EU lobbying programme for a number of years. Last year's programme recorded a number of significant wins for the LGA, including:
 - 5.1 The removal of the duty on local government to renew 3% of its public buildings every year in line with new EU environment regulations. This was contained in the draft Energy Efficiency Directive and the removal of the obligation on local government was based on an LGA suggested amendment.
 - 5.2 The safeguards established in the Localism Act to ensure that the devolution of EU fines to councils is not without independent due process.
 - 5.3 A new approach to EU funding through:
 - 5.3.1 Amendments to EU legislation which stressed the important role of local government in delivery of programmes.
 - 5.3.2 Local government secondees joining the UK negotiating team in Whitehall – a first for EU/UK negotiations.
6. This report refreshes our approach to EU lobbying. It suggests policy priorities and roles for LGA leaders, its Boards and its senior managers to ensure that the impact of LGA's lobbying on EU matters is maximised.

Refreshing our lobbying from the 2013 EU Work Programme

7. Every year the EU publishes an annual work programme which sets out the legislative and policy proposals which will be dealt with in the following year. This is Brussels' equivalent of the Queen's Speech. The 2013 work programme was published on 23 October 2012 and is attached as **Appendix A**.
8. In order to optimise our lobbying work in Brussels, it is suggested that from the 2013 EU work programme we develop:
 - 8.1 A short-list of key lobbying issues where we develop a pro-active lobbying strategy covering both Brussels and London, including lobbying of UK ministers and Brussels decisions makers. These issues will be reported into the Executive regularly as part of the round up of Whitehall and Brussels public affairs.
 - 8.2 A long-list that additionally includes a "watching brief" for the LGA Brussels Office – i.e. we will monitor European parliamentary progress, brief MEPs on key issues and escalate into a pro-active strategy if the impact on councils increases.

(a) Proposed new priorities

9. The following proposals are considered to be the new areas which need to be prioritised in the 2013 EU lobbying programme. The priority short list is:
 - 9.1 Economic regeneration and development.
 - 9.1.1 Common Strategic Framework (will shape how the major EU funds will be spent in the UK from 2014-20).
 - 9.1.2 Social investment for growth and cohesion (use of European Social Funds (ESF) to promote social inclusion).
 - 9.1.3 General Block Exemption Regulation (reduces administrative burden in state aid).
 - 9.1.4 State aid modernisation in key sectors (eg regeneration grants).
 - 9.2 Public procurement.
 - 9.2.1 E-invoicing in public procurement (intended to reduce costs).
 - 9.3 Local councils as employers.
 - 9.3.1 Effective occupational retirement pensions (may impose new liquidity rules to local government pension schemes).

9.4 Environment and climate change.

9.4.1 Review of air quality legislation (potential new rules, targets).

9.4.2 Review of waste legislation (potential new rules, targets).

10. For completeness, and to properly understand the LGA resources available for the above work, it must be recalled that there is ongoing priority work from the 2012 programme (and watching briefs) notably:

10.1 EU funding: preparing for the new period 2014-20.

10.2 Review of EU public procurement laws.

10.3 Review of EU air quality legislation.

(b) Proposed watching briefs

11. Members will want to discuss the prioritised list and consider whether it contains the most important issues for councils, or whether the items identified for watching brief should be re-prioritised:

11.1 Annual growth survey.

11.2 Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation.

11.3 Reducing the cost of broadband deployment.

11.4 Future EU ports policy.

11.5 Adaptation to climate change.

11.6 New energy framework to 2030.

11.7 Integration of the Roma.

Maximising our influence

12. Against each policy priority, we will develop a customised lobbying strategy. In order to develop these plans, Members are asked to consider the overall approach to EU lobbying below, and note that LGA senior leadership is keen for our EU work to have more profile, and is considering ways in which this can be achieved .

13. The LGA and its member councils have many areas in which it can influence EU policy and meanwhile we can influence in developing pan-European local government responses and co-ordinated lobbying.

Telling the bigger picture to EU decision makers

14. Whilst we lobby MEPs and key EU officials on individual lobbying issues, we have had feedback from MEP Vice Presidents that the LGA should be more proactive in explaining the wider local government picture in Brussels. As much of the legislation passing through the European Parliament each week has an impact on councils, we need to ensure that MEPs are briefed on the wider local agenda and especially on the financial pressures. This will ensure that the impact of recent UK reforms and the ability of councils to deliver new legislation are more widely understood by key Parliamentarians and decision makers in Brussels.

Lobbying on individual policy proposals

15. There is a wider and more detailed work required in the LGA on our prioritised lobbying programme. The practice in recent years has been for the relevant LGA Board (for example, the Environment and Housing Board on the Energy efficiency regulations) to lead the detailed lobbying and policy briefing on EU lobbying priorities within its remit. Board Chairs have been active in briefing ministers and MEPs on draft EU proposals and have built networks across Whitehall and Brussels on key issues. LGA officers in Brussels and London provide the detailed background work to support this lobbying. This practice should be continued, but there needs to be an overview of the overall impact of our work.

Increased activities in Whitehall

16. The Localism Act and the possibility for EU fines to be devolved create the need for more systematic local government engagement in Whitehall on EU issues. When negotiating EU proposals and agreeing "UK lines" for Brussels negotiations, ministers will need to have a better appraisal of the impact of individual EU proposals on councils, our ability to deliver new regulation and any future liability to fines. The LGA needs to be in a position to provide this on those issues that are believed to be priority issues. Given the 2013 EU work programme is the first published EU legislative programme since the Localism Act EU fines provisions; a new engagement is required for 2013 and beyond.
17. As part of the negotiations during the passage of the Localism Bill, we have a commitment from Whitehall (Foreign Office and DCLG) that a more systematic approach is required to gather intelligence and evidence on the local implications to inform the developing UK position on EU proposed law. This has already started. An annual local/central summit on EU issues is being pursued in early 2013.
18. Ensuring that Whitehall is acting on advice from the LGA on the impact of EU proposals requires more systematic lobbying. Board Chairs already brief relevant ministers on individual pieces of legislation but further work is required with CLG and FCO to ensure that Whitehall is acting consistently on these issues. It is suggested that the LGA Leadership and senior managers have an overview of our EU lobbying lines to ministers

and senior CLG officials at their regular meetings to ensure wider pressure is applied and our lines get more traction with the UK Government on EU proposals.

Role of the LGA E&I Board, Committee of the Regions and CEMR

19. There is clearly a role for a detailed appraisal and coordination of our engagement in Brussels. This is undertaken by the European and International Board which will deliver the report to the Executive and Leadership team on EU lobbying described above.
20. One of the key roles that the Board plays is working on the detailed, Brussels-based lobbying work that takes place through our formal representation on the EU Committee of the Regions and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR – the European LGA). It is also the Board into which the leaders of the delegations to these bodies report.
21. The Committee of the Regions is the formal representative body for local and regional government within the EU and is consulted on any proposal which impacts on councils. It has growing political influence in Brussels. The LGA sends a delegation of 16 members to this forum (list attached) and their term of office is from 2010-15. Individual members of COR can open doors of decision makers. They can influence legislation from work in committee and they act as lead members (or rapporteurs) on specific policy debate.
22. One concern raised by members is we do not systematically link lead COR members to LGA Board debates, where COR members could act for the Board in Brussels. Whilst there are excellent examples of COR and Board members acting together on strategies (for example in our successful lobby to reduce the burdens contained in EU energy proposals), this work needs to be improved.
23. There is a similar issue with CEMR (European LGA) which has a great influence in Brussels, especially at the earlier stage of drafting proposals. CEMR is the European “association of associations”. Our office in Brussels is part of the CEMR building where we share space with 22 other LGAs. This body is given first sight of new EU proposals and, as with the LGA in England, acts as a collective voice of councils and thus has good access to decision makers. The LGA sends a member-level delegation to its bi-annual meetings. Our Brussels staff work with CEMR and lead a number of work streams where we lobby collectively with other LGAs (for example, procurement).
24. As with COR, we have access to an influential organisation and we need to ensure that there is better links between specific policy debates on Boards and the access that CEMR members provide in Brussels.
25. It is suggested the Board takes a formal role in linking the domestic work of Boards with the influence that can be exerted by our member delegates to both COR and CEMR. The current membership of COR is attached at **Appendix B**.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2013-14: NEW INITIATIVES

The European Commission Work Programme 2013 was published on 23 October 2013. The following is the original text of the work programme, setting out intended new proposals for 2014 or early 2014. The individual items have been reordered by LGA staff to correspond to the likely lead LGA Board.

“PRIORITY” indicates initiative likely to impact on local councils positively or negatively: pro-active lobby campaign
“WATCHING BRIEF” possible impact on local councils: await publication of proposal
“NON-PRIORITY” indicates highly unlikely to impact on local councils: no action required

- EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL: No LGA priorities (but shared leadership on many)
- CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: 1 LGA priority
- COMMUNITY WELLBEING: 1 LGA watching brief
- ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT: 4 LGA priorities, 4 LGA watching briefs
- ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING: 2 LGA priorities, 2 LGA watching briefs
- FINANCE: no LGA priorities
- IMPROVEMENT: 1 LGA priority
- SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES: no LGA priorities
- WORKFORCE: 1 LGA priority

EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL BOARD

21. Fighting misappropriation of trade secrets [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

This initiative aims at providing effective protection against trade secret theft which can act as a significant disincentive for innovative companies who rely on trade secrets to expand their businesses through licensing deals with partners, notably given the protection existing in other jurisdictions harmonising existing rules on protection of trade secrets.

54. Preparing an EU position on the post - 2015 development agenda [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

As part of a process to pursue a linked strategy for the MDGs, the follow-up to Rio+20 and the Sustainable Development Goals process, this Communication will pursue agreement on an ambitious post-2015 global development framework with a strong emphasis on shared responsibility and accountability.

55. Follow-up to Rio + 20 including the development of Sustainable Development Goals [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

As part of a process to pursue a linked strategy for the MDGs, the follow-up to Rio+20 and the Sustainable Development Goals process, this Communication will set out the EU follow-up to Rio+20 including sustainable development goals.

56. Enlargement package 2013 [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The Commission has been invited by the Council to regularly report on the candidate and countries and potential candidates. The Commission Strategy Paper allows the European Council to define main strategic orientations on enlargement at the end of each year.

57. Negotiation for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement with the relevant partners. [Negotiating directives] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The main policy objective will be to realize the untapped potential and to generate new economic opportunities, particularly in sectors that have the highest potential to create jobs and growth. It also aims to be a strong signal that the two largest economies in the world remain committed to open markets

58. Comprehensive Approach to Crisis Management outside the EU [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The European Union has a unique array of tools at its disposal to promote the resolution of complex external crises. These tools need to be used coherently and in close cooperation with Member States addressing the whole crisis cycle, from crisis prevention to reconstruction.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

30. Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion – including implementing the ESF 2014-2020 [Non-legislative] LGA PRIORITY

Provide guidance on increasing efficiency, effectiveness, and adequacy of social protection systems; improving activating and enabling policies; social inclusion and adequate livelihoods. The Communication will contribute to implementing the Europe 2020 strategy/European Semester, support the design of social investment in the NRPs and assist Member States in making best use of EU funds, ESF in particular.

33. Internationalisation of Higher Education [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Europeans need to be prepared for an increasingly global, open and competitive labour market. European universities are subject to growing global competition to attract talent and exchange knowledge. The Communication will review the different policies and programmes that can support them in furthering their internationalisation efforts.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

31. Integration of the Roma [Soft law] **LGA WATCHING BRIEF**

Commission Recommendation aimed at fostering implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies, based on the work of a Pilot Group of Member States representing a geographical balance and the diverse situations concerning Roma within the EU and identifying good practices and effective approaches to Roma Integration.

47. EU Citizenship Report 2013: Progress towards eliminating obstacles to EU citizens' rights [Non-legislative] **LGA NON-PRIORITY**

Report on progress made since the 2010 Citizenship Report and identify further actions towards completing the removal of obstacles to EU citizens' enjoyment of their rights under the Treaty. It will be one of the deliverables of the European Year of Citizens. (Q2 2013)

51. Reviewing the Union's visa policy to facilitate life for legitimate travellers [Legislative/Non-legislative] **LGA NON-PRIORITY**

Since its entry into force, the Community Code on Visas ('Visa Code') has streamlined the rules and conditions for issuing visas and enhanced the harmonised applications of those common rules. Building on an evaluation report on its implementation, the Commission intends to propose amendments to improve the Visa Code. This will ensure that the EU Visa policy fosters economic growth and cultural exchanges by facilitating the travel to the EU of legitimate travellers such as businessmen, tourists, students and young people while ensuring a high level of security of the EU.

REGULATORY SERVICES

50. Fighting cigarette smuggling [Non-legislative] **LGA NON-PRIORITY**

This strategy would propose a comprehensive response at EU level to illicit trade in cigarettes, taking into account the losses caused to public revenue and its role as an outlet for organised crime. Better coordinated and more targeted action would include exchange of information, standard setting and international cooperation

52. Animal medicines [Legislative] **LGA NON-PRIORITY**

New framework for veterinary medicines and certain aspects of their use to establish a level playing field in the EU, and decrease administrative burden.

53. Use of cloning technique for food production [Legislative/Non-legislative] **LGA NON-PRIORITY**

Follow up Commission's report on cloning of animals for food production, in the context of the good functioning of the internal market.

ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT

ECONOMIC REGENERATION & SPECIFIC SECTORS

1. Annual Growth Survey [Non-legislative] LGA WATCHING BRIEF

The Commission will present an Annual Growth Survey which will be the main input for discussions at the Spring European Council. The survey will include both a review, reporting on progress, and a forward-looking part proposing strategic policy guidance horizontally across Member States. (Q4 2013)

6. Common Strategic Framework Funds and EU economic governance [Non-legislative] LGA PRIORITY

The Communication will analyse how the CSF Funds will contribute to EU economic governance, their role in fostering growth and the importance of a sound macroeconomic framework for the efficient use of the funds. It will examine the links of CSF Funds with the economic governance procedures and explain how macroeconomic conditionality will be implemented.

7. Country-specific negotiation mandates for the Common Strategic Framework Funds for the period 2014-2020 [Non-legislative] LGA PRIORITY

In view of the adoption of the partnership agreements, these documents will shape the priorities in Member States for public investment during the next seven years.

9. State aid Modernisation: General block exemption Regulation (800/2008) [Legislative] LGA PRIORITY

The GBER set the most appropriate conditions for State aid, exempted from the notification requirement, to be compatible with the internal market. This will reduce administrative burden for national authorities. (Q4 2013)

10. State aid modernisation in key sectors [Non-legislative] LGA PRIORITY

Reviews of the compatibility criteria included in the following guidelines for aid to Research & Development & Innovation; for aid to risk capital, for regional aid, for environmental aid, for industrial Rescue and Restructuring aid; and for aid to airports and airlines. These revisions aim at supporting the EU's strategy for economic growth, at giving a better focus to the Commission's enforcement work, and at taking Commission decisions quicker.

11. Review of the Technology Transfer Block exemption Regulation and its Guidelines [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The objective is to improve framework conditions for licensing of technology for production thereby stimulating innovation and growth while ensuring effective competition.

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13. Reforming the internal market for industrial products [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The objective is to enhance the quality and efficiency of the internal market legislation for industrial products. This initiative will address the elimination of remaining trade barriers, in particular for products with high-growth potential, ensure more consistency in the application of the legislation, and simplify its management and implementation. (Q3 2013)

16. A Comprehensive Strategy for the Defence Sector [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The Strategy will set out options to foster the competitiveness and the efficiency of the European defence sector through a consistent and integrated use of EU policies that have an impact on defence.

ICT

17. Proposals for reinforced partnering in research and innovation under Horizon 2020 [Legislative] LGA WATCHING BRIEF

Leveraging investment and pooling efforts in key industrial sectors and in global development assistance through the renewal and creation of Public-Private Partnerships. These partnerships will leverage substantial private investment in key industrial sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, energy, transport, aeronautics, electronics, air traffic management and bio-based products. The initiative also includes Public-Public Partnerships for the joint implementation of national research programmes, to underpin industrial competitiveness by supporting R&D-performing SMEs, cutting-edge metrology, and ICT-based products and services for the elderly. Another will fight against poverty-related diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa. (Q3 2013)

23. Reducing the costs of broadband infrastructure deployment [Legislative] LGA WATCHING BRIEF

The draft regulation aims to substantially reduce the cost of deploying high-speed broadband networks across the EU. This would incentivise investment in line with Digital Agenda high speed internet targets. The Regulation would mainly set out rights and obligations directly applicable to telecom operators and other utilities. (Q1 2013)

24. Action Plan on Wireless Communications for a Connected Europe [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The aim of the Communication is to lay down a policy action plan meeting the challenges the EU is facing in the next few years with regard to dynamic market developments and exponential traffic growth in wireless services. Policy objectives include accelerating the roll-out of wireless broadband networks, fostering shared spectrum use, exploitation of EU R&D results on wireless communications and enhancing global spectrum harmonisation.

25. Follow up to Green Paper: Towards an integrated European market for card, internet and mobile payments [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

While card, internet and mobile payments are the retail payment methods with the highest growth potential, there is significant market fragmentation along national borders. The follow-up to the Green Paper addresses the main obstacles for market integration in these areas. (Q2 2013)

Item 3, Appendix A

TRANSPORT

26. Single European Sky package - Single Sky II plus [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

This package (Communication, SES Regulation, EASA Regulation) addresses a number of issues that were left unresolved during the SES development. These concern in particular the performance of air navigation service provision and the need to clarify the institutional landscape at EU level to ensure the roles and responsibilities of various organisations support each other, but do not overlap.

27. A Blue Belt for a single market for maritime transport [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

To reduce the administrative burden for intra-EU maritime transport to a level that is comparable to that of other transport modes by avoiding multiple controls including customs. This will be supported by modern ICT technologies, which permit the reliable tracking of ships and cargo with a sufficient level of certainty when shipping operates within the Single Market.

28. Framework on the future EU ports' policy including a legislative proposal [Legislative/Non-legislative] **LGA WATCHING BRIEF**

Enhancing the efficiency and overall quality of port services, addressing the obligations of Member States regarding the sound planning of ports and hinterland connections, transparency of public funding and port charges, and administrative simplification efforts in ports, and reviewing restrictions on the provision of services at ports.

29. Internal Market: Access to the road haulage market and access to occupation of road transport operator [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The initiative will improve the economic and environmental efficiency of road freight transport by further lifting the restrictions to cabotage. It will create a more even playing field by including provisions to apply social rules of the host country in the case of long stay of drivers and provisions for a more uniform enforcement.

EMPLOYMENT

34. Modernisation of Public Employment Services [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

This package will cover all elements of the reform of EURES including the delivery of a European Employment Guarantee, and set up a formal European network of Public Employment Services, to help develop and implement a European Labour Mobility Action Plan for modernisation and strengthening of PES to help transitions on labour markets.

35. European platform to fight undeclared work [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

This draft decision establishes a European platform between labour inspectorates and other enforcement bodies. It aims for a more coherent approach by covering all the key areas influenced by undeclared work and supporting a more effective fight against undeclared work by way of improving cooperation, sharing best practice and identifying common principles.

ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING

12. Energy Technologies and Innovation in a future European Energy Policy [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

To foster energy technologies development according to the energy roadmap 2050, to promote energy research, demonstration and market deployment actions at EU level and to remove market, regulatory and behavioural barriers to the market deployment of energy innovation (via the Intelligent Energy Europe III programme).

36. Review of EU political and legal framework for organic production [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The policy objectives of the current framework for organic production are to establish a sustainable management system for agriculture and produce high quality products and a high variety of products responding to consumers demand for processes that do not harm the environment, health, or animal welfare. The review will verify whether they are still relevant and adapted to the future evolution of organic production.

37. EU's Strategy on adaptation to climate change [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA WATCHING BRIEF

To contribute effectively to a more climate-resilient Europe. This means enhancing the preparedness and capacity to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change of the EU, its Member States and regions.

38. New climate & energy framework for the period up to 2030 [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA WATCHING BRIEF

To meet 80-95% GHG emission reduction objective in 2050 compared to 1990; foster long term competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability; provide a long-term perspective for investments until 2030.

39. Review of the Thematic Strategy on air pollution and associated legislation [Legislative] LGA PRIORITY

The initiative will assess the implementation and achievements of current air pollution and air quality policies and will include legislative proposals to revise the NEC Directive and other air quality legislation as appropriate in order to deliver enhanced protection from the impacts of air pollution for human health and the natural environment whilst contributing to Europe 2020.

40. Review of Waste Policy and Legislation [Legislative] LGA PRIORITY

This initiative will review key targets in EU waste legislation (in line with the review clauses in the Waste Framework Directive, the Landfill Directive and the Packaging Directive) and carry out an ex-post evaluation of waste stream directives, including ways to enhance coherence between them.

41. Framework to enable safe and secure unconventional hydrocarbon extraction [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Options to ensure that opportunities to diversify energy supplies and improve competitiveness, including by production of unconventional gas, can be taken up. The framework would target full consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and management of climate and environmental risks.

42. Nuclear insurance and liability [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Improvement of victim compensation in case of nuclear accident and creation of an internal market/level playing field for investors.

Item 3, Appendix A

FINANCE

2. Addressing systemic risks related to shadow banking [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Following the Green Paper of March 2012 and the international work coordinated by the FSB, the Commission will address the systemic problems related to shadow banking entities and practices e.g. money market funds, securitisation and activities such as securities lending and repurchase agreements performed by all types of financial entities. (Q3 2013)

3. Common framework for the production of indices and benchmarks [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The overall objective is to enhance the integrity of the production and use of benchmarks and indices which will enhance market confidence and efficiency and improve investor protection.

4. Review of the European System of Financial Supervision [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The regulations establishing the EFSF (the three European Supervisory Authorities and the Systemic Risk Board) require that the Commission carried out an in-depth review in 2013, in view of making proposals for changes.

5. Providing long-term finance through the effectiveness of financial institutions, markets and instruments [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Following the Green Paper to be adopted by the Commission at the end of the year, and the ensuing debate, the Commission will propose policy actions to improve the conditions for long term finance in Europe. Some of the actions may be included in other proposals (like UCITS VI)

8. Reforming the framework for collective investment funds/UCITS VI [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Recent international work on shadow banking has identified certain shortcomings in the field of investment funds that require closer scrutiny (for instance, money market funds and the use of securities lending or sale-and-repurchase arrangements (repos)). This initiative will address a number of concerns relating to systemic risks, the efficiency, competitiveness and integration of the market for UCITS funds in order to preserve the UCITS attractiveness. This will contribute to preserving financial stability and fostering a culture of long-term investment in Europe, thus underpinning growth and jobs.

18. Making business easier through a standard VAT declaration [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The aim is to make a standardised VAT declaration available in all EU languages and optional for businesses across the EU. The standard VAT declaration forms a key action point of the strategy for the future of VAT and of the Better Regulation Agenda, as it will help reducing burdens on business and enhance the digital single market. (Q3 2013)

19. Making the VAT system more efficient through a review of the rates structures [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The aim is to readjust the scope of the reduced rates in order to increase the efficiency of the VAT system

Item 3, Appendix A

20. Access for regulated professions [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Take stock of recent developments in Member States in the area of regulated professions and to devise a methodology for facilitating the mutual evaluation exercise foreseen in the proposal modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive. The mutual evaluation foreseen in the proposal will focus on restrictions (qualifications and reserved activities).

22. Bank account initiative [Non- legislative/Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

An initiative aiming at increasing the transparency and comparability of bank account fees, as well as to render bank account switching easier for consumers. (Q1 2013)

48. Establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's office (EPPO) to protect the financial interests of the Union [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

This initiative intends to set out the framework and conditions for establishing the European Public Prosecutor's office to focus on the protection of the financial interests of the Union. It will be accompanied by proposals on the reform of Eurojust and on protection of the financial interests of the EU. (Q2 2013)

49. Fighting money laundering [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

As one of the 'Eurocrimes', money laundering is a criminal offence in all EU Member States. However, EU Member States do not have the same definition of money laundering and also apply different sanctions. Because this hinders cross-border investigations and police cooperation, there is a need to harmonise the offence of money laundering at EU level.

Item 3, Appendix A

IMPROVEMENT

14. Review of standardisation acquis [Legislative/Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

- 1) An initiative to establish strategic priorities and specific mandates to support EU policy for international competitiveness, innovation, digital interoperability and technological development.
- 2) An independent review will be launched in 2013 to assess progress against strategic objectives and evaluate the performance of the current governance in the European standardisation system.

15. Initiative on E-invoicing in the field of public procurement [Legislative] LGA PRIORITY

This initiative would eliminate the fragmentation of the Internal Market by promoting the use of B2G e-invoicing in the public sector and enhancing the interoperability of national e-invoicing systems. It would help to reduce the operating costs of enterprises and the procurement costs of public authorities by fostering the automation of procedures related to invoicing.(Q2 2013)



**Local
Government
Association**

European & International Board
9 November 2012

Item 3, Appendix A

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

43. Initiative on firearms: reducing gun-crime in Europe [Non-legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

Trafficked firearms are being used by criminal networks and lone criminals. Legally-held firearms are also used illegally. The aim of the Communication will be to present: the nature/scale of the problem and current action including external dimension; new/increased EU actions (e.g. increased role of Europol; funding); law enforcement policy orientations in view of the 2015 review of the Firearms Directive 91/477

44. Freezing of funds, financial assets (etc) of persons and entities suspected of terrorist activities inside the EU [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The EU legal framework on the freezing of funds, financial assets and economic gains of persons and entities suspected of terrorist activities only covers terrorists who represent an international, global threat. However, no such framework currently exists for the realisation of the objectives of the area of freedom, security and justice. This initiative aims at using the new legal basis of the Lisbon Treaty to set up a coherent and effective legal framework for administrative measures for the freezing of funds, financial assets and economic gains of such persons and entities.

45. Special safeguards in criminal procedures for Suspected or Accused Persons who are Vulnerable [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

A directive to ensure that special attention is shown in criminal procedures throughout the EU to suspected or accused persons who cannot understand or follow the content or the meaning of the proceedings, owing, for example, to their age, mental or physical condition.

46. Service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters [Legislative] LGA NON-PRIORITY

The revision of regulation 1393/2007 will pay special attention to the effectiveness of the transmitting and receiving agencies and focus on the practical application of the execution of a request for forwarding a request for service. It could include the establishment of common minimum standards.

WORKFORCE

32. Effective Institutions for Occupational Retirement Pensions [Legislative] LGA PRIORITY

A review of this Directive is required in view of the importance of ensuring that appropriate structures are in place to fund retirement.

APPENDIX B: ENGLISH MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS



*The LGA nominates English members only. * denotes an appointment pending Whitehall approval or Brussels ratification.*

Full Members

Cllr Doris Ansari	Liberal Democrat	Cornwall Council
Cllr Paula Baker*	Liberal Democrat	Basingstoke & Deane Council
Cllr Sir Albert Bore	Labour	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Sir Simon Day	Conservative	Devon County Council
Roger Evans AM	Conservative	Greater London Assembly
Cllr Linda Gillham	Independent	Runnymede District Council)
Cllr Gordon Keymer	Conservative	Tandridge District Council
Cllr David Parsons	Conservative	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Judith Pearce	Conservative	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Dee Sharpe*	Conservative	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Simmonds	Conservative	London Borough of Hillingdon
Cllr Neil Swannick	Labour	Manchester City Council
Cllr Lord Graham Tope	Liberal Democrat	London Borough of Sutton
Cllr Kay Twitchen	Conservative	Essex County Council
Cllr Paul Watson*	Labour	Sunderland Council
Cllr Dave Wilcox	Labour	Derbyshire County Council

Alternate Members

Jennette Arnold AM	Labour	Greater London Assembly
Cllr Paula Baker	Liberal Democrat	Basingstoke & Deane
Cllr Sandra Barnes	Conservative	South Northamptonshire DC
Cllr Nilgun Canver	Labour	London Borough of Haringey
Cllr Stewart Golton*	Liberal Democrat	Leeds Council
Cllr Martin Heatley	Conservative	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Doreen Huddart	Liberal Democrat	Newcastle City Council
Cllr Margaret Lishman*	Liberal Democrat	Burnley Council
Cllr Herbert Manley	Conservative	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Cllr Alan Melton	Conservative	Fenland District Council
Cllr Kathy Pollard	Liberal Democrat	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Mary Robinson	Independent	Eden District Council
Cllr David Shakespeare	Conservative	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Roger Stone	Labour	Rotherham MBC
Cllr Ann Stribley	Conservative	Poole District Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor	Labour	Stevenage District Council
Cllr Peter Thompson	Conservative	London Borough of Hounslow

Round-up of activity: Board EU lobbying priorities, institutions and international activities

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

At an earlier meeting, European and International Board (E&I) Members requested a regular update on recent developments on each of our key priority topics. In addition, the Board routinely receives an update of recent developments in the European and international bodies to which it nominates members and on the LGA's international activities.

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers to take action as directed by Members.

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Position: Head of Programme
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Round-up of activity: Board EU lobbying priorities, institutions and international activities

A: BOARD EU LOBBYING PRIORITIES

EU structural funds 2014-2020

1. On 18 September 2012 a cross-party delegation of E&I Board Members, including the three lead members and the Chair, met 20 Members of European Parliament (MEPs) in the European Parliament to make the case for a more locally-responsive EU funding model. The visit raised the political profile of the LGA in the Parliament and provided a basis for follow up work ahead of key votes taking place in the Parliament before the end of the year. It also allowed local EU funding issues to be put on MEPs' radar so that they could influence their parliamentary colleagues in Westminster.
2. The decisions made in Whitehall around the management and delivery of EU funds is a critical issue for our member authorities. Ministers are expected to make decisions on this soon, so it is important local authorities are in a position to influence this since if funds cannot be drawn down in a timely or effective way, it will hinder their ability to deliver growth to local areas. To this end, the LGA organised a roundtable in mid-October for local authorities to test their plans with all four lead Whitehall departments (Business Innovation and Skills, Communities and Local Government, Work and Pensions and Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs) on how they would like to use future EU funds through existing / new delivery mechanisms, and what that could look like i.e. governance models / geographic coverage / buy-in from other councils and / or local partners. This LGA session put local authorities in good stead to develop their models further in time for the Government roadshows across England which conclude in December.
3. As part of the new working structures of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the first meeting of the CEMR's Thematic Platform on Territorial Development took place on 10 October 2012 and brought together a mix of officers and politicians to steer the CEMR's work on EU funds and other related topics such as innovation and urban-rural links. On the same day, the CEMR held a successful event on community-led local development (CLLD) as part of the Committee of the Regions Open Days (CoR) 2012. CLLD is a new instrument proposed by the EU to give local community groups, councils and existing partnerships, a greater say over how EU funds are spent in their area. LGA is making the case to government that the use of CLLD should be fully explored alongside the other new instruments proposed to make EU funds more locally relevant.

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Procurement

4. Following meetings with the LGA, the local government Minister (Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP) has written to the Cabinet Office Minister (Rt Hon Francis Maude MP) to further press the local authority case for simpler EU procurement rules. In particular the letter calls for higher thresholds; a 'light' approach towards social services; exclusions for employee mutuals, legal services, and loan services; and an easier approach to sharing services generally. The next step is a committee vote in the European Parliament to take place by the end of the year. LGA and other European associations have good contact with several MEPs who are championing the local authority case in the discussions in the European Parliament.

Energy efficiency Directive

5. An agreement has been reached between the European Parliament, Commission and European Council that new energy efficiency legislation will not contain mandatory obligations towards local government. This results from a lengthy and effective lobbying campaign by the LGA, CoR and CEMR in Brussels and Whitehall.
6. To recall, the draft Directive proposed new measures on energy to bring the EU back on track to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in energy use by 2020. The most important aspect for local councils was the requirement to buy energy-efficient buildings, products and services, and to refurbish 3 per cent of their buildings each year to drastically reduce their energy consumption. This obligation will now apply to central government buildings and activities only, although local councils will be encouraged to achieve energy efficiencies on a voluntary basis.
7. Other contributions will be made by energy utilities (who must help end users to cut their energy consumption through replacement of old boilers or insulation of their homes); industry (large companies required to undertake energy audits every 3 years); and consumers (better information provided on their meters and bills).
8. The Directive must now be incorporated into UK law. LGA staff will monitor this process to ensure that no new obligations are reintroduced by UK civil servants.

Air quality review

9. There have been no developments since the last Board meeting.
10. The Commission is conducting a review of existing air quality rules, which is expected to result in strengthened targets on existing pollutants and a broadening of the scope to include new ones. The main objectives of the review are to assess progress towards achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on human health and the environment, and to identify options - both regulatory and non-regulatory - that could improve implementation of existing policy and contribute towards the greening of the economy.

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11. The drafting of new EU targets is still some way off and now appears in the Commission work programme for 2013-14.

Working Time Directive

12. There have been no developments since the last Board meeting.
13. To recall, the Working Time Directive, implemented in the UK as the *Working Time Regulations 1998 (amended 2003)*, ensures that every worker is entitled to: a maximum 48 hour week; a minimum daily rest period; daily and weekly rest breaks; 4 weeks paid annual leave; and extra protection in the case of night work. Special rules apply for working time in a small range of sectors.
14. The EU has repeatedly sought to revise the Directive, and is currently consulting the social partners on various aspects that might feature in a new Directive: on-call time; timing of minimum rest periods; tackling excessive working hours; better reconciliation of work and family life; clarifying areas where the law appears unclear. The outcome of these negotiations is not yet known, but an update will be provided at the Board meeting.

Localism Act: EU financial sanctions

15. The LGA is now systematically invited to feed into an array of policy issues, and will need to manage the expectation that we will contribute to our priority issues only. The LGA has been invited by the Foreign Office to give its views on the 2013 work programme, which is welcome. Discussions with DCLG and FCO are ongoing on developing a summit.

B: INSTITUTIONS

Congress of the Council of Europe

16. The Congress of the Council of Europe has just started a new four-year term. The UK delegation was renewed on time and with 50 per cent gender parity (the LGA nominates 14 of the 18 UK places and an equivalent number of alternates). Keith Whitmore completed his term as Congress President and has now left the institution, with Cllr John Warmisham (Labour, Salford) taking a place on the Congress Bureau, its political steering body.
17. The UK Delegation met during the plenary session. The political group leaders had agreed shortly before the plenary that they would not continue the existing rotation by group, and requested that an election be held. Officers set in train an electoral procedure based on CoR precedent, and although this was agreed in writing by the group leaders, on the day it became clear that this did not have the support of all members, and it was agreed to defer the election to the January meeting in London. A formal consultation of the nominating bodies will now be conducted prior to launching a new process.

EU Committee of the Regions

18. The CoR held its annual Open Days event in October, attracting 5,000 local politicians, officials, EU staff, academics and local media to debate the future EU funding period and strategies to promote jobs and growth.
19. There are still several vacancies outstanding, although those dating back to 2011 and 2010 are expected to be ratified in Brussels within weeks of this meeting. LGA staff and members are continuing to press Whitehall departments to improve this procedure.

Council of European Municipalities and Regions

20. CEMR (the European LGA) held its triennial General Assembly in September 2012, attended by nearly 1000 local politicians and officers to discuss strategies to address the economic crisis.
21. The CEMR is currently preparing to close its Paris Office, for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness. The LGA has strongly supported this decision, a long-held wish of the UK section, but insists that it should be achieved at minimal cost to the CEMR and its subscribing associations (under EU and French law, staff cannot be compelled to move from Paris to Brussels, and must therefore be made redundant according to French terms and conditions). LGA members have called for an incremental closure to minimise or avoid redundancies.

C: INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

UK and Mexican local government trade and investment links project

22. The success of the LGA UKTI Mexico Trade Opportunities reception (13 September 2012) and Cllr Richard Kemp's subsequent representation at the International "from the Local" Forum in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, (26-28 September 2012) has led to a number key developments in the last month.
23. Cllr Richard Kemp wrote to the Rt Hon Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister and Rt Hon Vince Cable, Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to highlight the success of the Mexico initiative. The letter also calls for UKTI support for LGA to secure direct opportunities stemming from the project, and look at the potential of more local to local work to aid our trade opportunities.
24. In addition, LGA officers have scheduled discussions with UKTI representatives in mid-November and are developing an LGA 'offer' document, which will explore how the LGA aligns some of the work that councils are already doing locally with the national work of UKTI. Some key issues for us to discuss with UKTI include the huge potential for UK firms to gain business from emerging public-private partnerships to deliver services in developing economies. In many cases, initial UK contact seems to be council-to-council, with Mexico work as prime example.

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25. Officers will feedback on the discussions with UKTI and will also circulate a draft of offer document for comment.

African Peer Review Project

26. The LGA has been commissioned by United Cities & Local Governments Africa (UCLGA) through a programme funded by Luxembourg, to pilot peer review in five African countries.
27. Since June the LGA has now successfully supported UCLGA to deliver three pilot peer reviews; Otjiwarongo Municipality in Namibia, the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana and the City of Yaoundé in Cameroon. The fourth peer review will be of the Ugandan LGA in November 2012.
28. The UK's model of self-regulation and peer challenge is highly regarded abroad as a transferable model of development to help enhance the capacity of local government abroad. So far the principles and methodology of the African peer review model have proven to be a valuable learning experience for the receiving organisations, as well as the UK and African peers.

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	European & International Board
Date and time:	Monday 17 September 2012, 11.00 am
Venue:	Smith Square Rooms 1&2, Local Government House, London

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chair	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
Vice Chair	CLlr Richard Kemp OBE	Liverpool City
Deputy Chair	CLlr Shirley Flint	North Kesteven DC
Members	Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC
	Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB
	Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City
	Sue Murphy	Manchester City
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC
	Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
	Phil Grove	Malvern Hills DC
	Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe BC
	Sir Simon Day	Devon CC
	David Shakespeare OBE	Wycombe DC
	Joanne Beavis	Braintree DC
	Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB
	Sian Reid	Cambridge City Council
Apologies	Marco Cereste	Peterborough City
	Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC
	Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City
Observer Officers	Nick Woolfenden	South East England Councils
	Ian Hughes, Jasbir Jhas, Nick Porter, Drago Djekovic and Frances Marshall	

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with a round of introductions, noted the apologies received and welcomed everyone present. He noted his intention to write to former Board Members to thank them for their contribution and commitment to the work of the Board during their tenure.</p> <p>On behalf of the Board, the Chair congratulated Cllr Cereste whose wife had recently given birth to a baby boy.</p>	
2.	<p>Membership & Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Board noted the report which set out its Terms of Reference for the 2012/13 meeting cycle.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>That the Board noted the report.</p>	
3.	<p>Overview of the LGA's European and International Work</p> <p>Ian Hughes (Head of Programme) provided a verbal overview of the report which set out the European and International (E&I) Board's offer to councils and the Board's priorities for the forth coming year. Members were asked to provide a steer on the Board's 2012/13 work programme.</p> <p>A detailed discussion arose in which Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by officers, relating to the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members welcomed the recent amendment to the EU's Directive on Energy Efficiency which excluded local government buildings from the annual 3% renovation target for public buildings and thanked officers and Member for their lobbying work in this area. • A discussion arose regarding mechanisms for supporting local authorities to secure investment from EU funds and the role of the LGA. With reference to the LGA's EU funding tracker service, Members asked that officers explore how best to promote this to all member councils and requested that E&I Board Members receive funding tracker updates. 	

- With reference to a recent LGA, UKTI and FCO joint event exploring Trade Opportunities in Mexico, the Board discussed the role of local authorities in promoting international trade and investment. In discussing the next steps for taking this work stream forward, it was suggested that the work of the E&I and Economy and Transport Board be joined up through the local growth campaign.
- In discussing the 2012 EU work programme, comments were made relating to: the role of civil society and local authorities in development; European Neighbourhood Policy and Eastern Partnership; and freedom of movement for workers. Members asked that a report be brought to a future meeting on the LGA's EU's lobbying priorities arising from the European Commission new work programme and that this include further detail on the role of civil society and local authorities in development.

Decisions

That the Board:

- noted** the report; and
- asked** that officers develop the programme in line with the progress made and taking into account Members' comments.

Actions

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| That a report be brought to a future meeting on the LGA's European Union lobbying priorities arising from the European Commission 2013 work programme. | Jasbir Jhas |
| That the work of the E&I and Economy and Transport Board on the enhanced role of local authorities as an enabler of local economic growth be progressed and joined up. | Ian Hughes |
| Explore how best to promote the LGA's EU tracker service to all member councils. Add E&I Board Members to the tracker email update mailing list. | George Moody |

4. EU Funds update and Brussels lobby, September 2012

Nick Porter (Advisor) outlined the report which provided background to the structural fund reforms and an update on the LGA's work on EU funds to date. With reference to a Member delegation to Brussels to lobby MEPs on future EU funding, the Board was asked to provide their views on the key issues to be raised during these meetings.

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

- The Board discussed the EU decision making framework, the ‘codecision’ decision-making procedure and the anticipated timescale for agreement of the EU budget and structural fund allocations. In doing so, a Member expressed the view that prior to the EU budgetary authority adopting the budget, the LGA’s lobbying activity should be predominantly Whitehall focused.
- A discussion arose regarding how best to manage EU funds to achieve the greatest impact, whilst minimising cost and risk. In doing so, Members asked for further clarity on the role of the EU investment Bank as well as the implications of new EU instruments such as Jessica and Jeremy. The emergence of different localised delivery models across different areas and how best to shape the LGA’s lobbying campaign given the different stages of development across the sector was discussed at length. Officers noted that these issues would be picked up as part of a wider report on future EU funding to the next Board meeting.

Decisions

That the Board:

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **asked** that officers develop the programme in line with the progress made and taking into account Members’ comments.

Action

That a report be brought to a future meeting on future EU funding.

5. EU Financial Sanctions

Jasbir Jhas (Senior Advisor) and Lord Tope introduced the report which provided an overview of the LGA’s work to influence the EU fines policy in the Localism Act. In doing so they highlighted the opportunity the legislation provided for local government to renew its partnership with Government in Parliament and Whitehall. Particular reference was made to the potential to raise the profile of the sector through building a relationship with parliamentarians in relevant scrutiny committees in the Commons and Lords.

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

- In discussing the value of regular meeting with key politicians, Members requested that the Minister for Europe be invited to attend an annual meeting with the LGA to discuss matters of common interest.
- The Board thanked Lord Tope for his lobbying efforts which helped secure key concessions to the Bill.
- A Member expressed the view that whilst it was important to engage with central Government given its role in negotiating, signing, and transposing EU laws, it was equally important to seek to influence the EU legislative decision-making bodies, particularly at the pre-legislative stage.

Decisions

That the Board:

- i. **noted** the report;
- ii. **agreed** to lead a local/central EU summit with key Government departments focusing discussions on 2013 EU work programme proposals which most affect council services;
- iii. **agreed** to build a **relationship with parliamentarians** in relevant scrutiny committees in the Commons and Lords, with key Whitehall department with an interest in EU developments; and
- iv. **asked** that the Minister for Europe be invited to attend an annual meeting with Board representatives.

Action

Circulate the membership of the relevant scrutiny committees in the Commons and Lords.

Frances Marshall

Officers to develop the programme in line with the Members' comments.

Jasbir Jhas

6. European Bodies Update

Ian Hughes briefly summarised the report which gave an overview of recent developments in Congress, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and the Committee of the Regions. Particular reference was made to the renewal of the Congress mandate and plans to relocate CEMR to Brussels permanently.

Decision

That the Board **noted** the report.

7. Notes of the last meeting

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

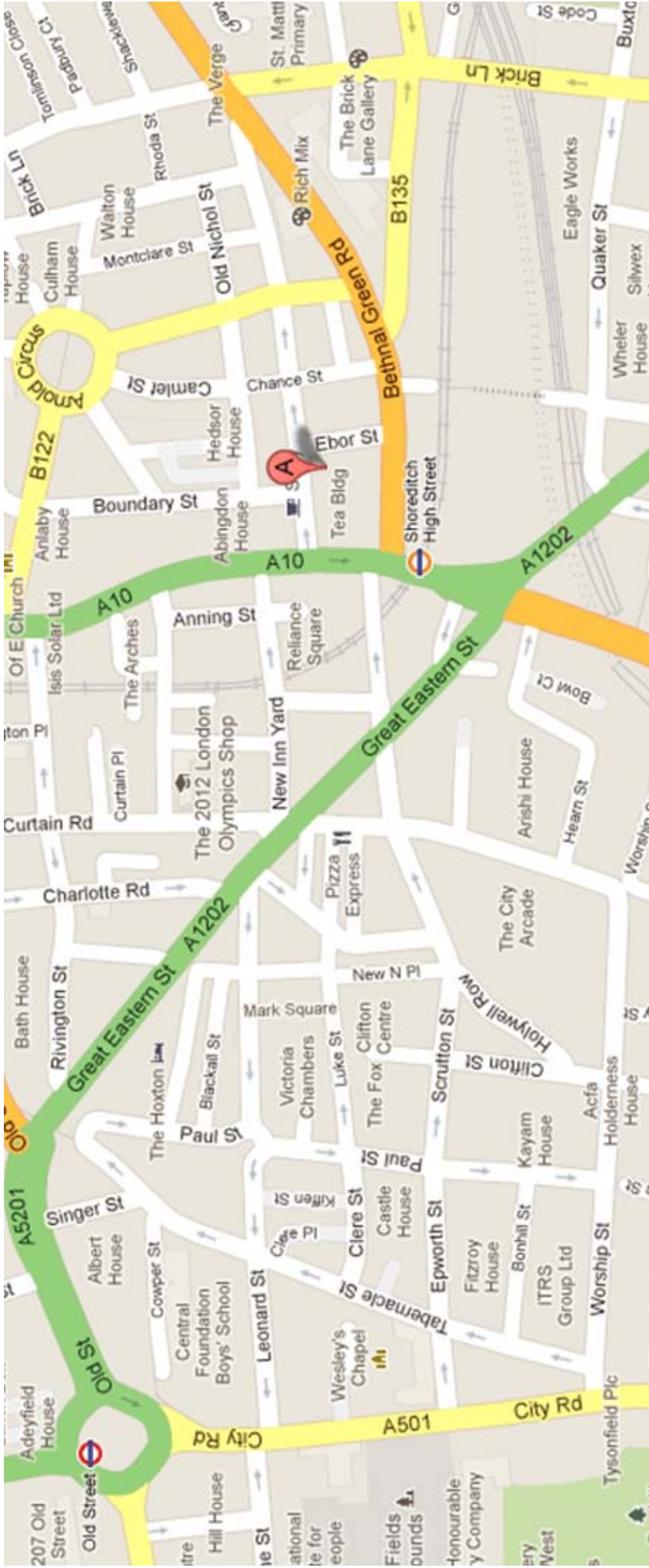
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Friday 9 November 2012 at 11am in Hackney, London.

Map of meeting venue

A - Biscuit Building, 10 Redchurch Street, E2 7DD

Contact number: 020 7012 1999



Directions from Shoreditch High Street Overground Station to the venue

1. Turn left immediately at the exit of Shoreditch High Street station.
2. Walk up to the road ahead, Bethnal Green Road (the area immediately outside of the station is pedestrianised).
3. On joining Bethnal Green Road continue left along the edge of Box Park which is a shipping container shopping area.
4. At the end of Bethnal Green Road turn right onto Shoreditch High Street. Remain on the same side of the road (the Tea Building will be on that corner).
5. Take the next right onto Redchurch Street.
6. The Biscuit Building (the offices of Mother Advertising Limited) is a few doors along on the right hand side.