

European and International Board

Agenda

Tuesday 21 May 2013
11.00am

Smith Square 1&2 (Ground floor)
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

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

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European & International Board

21 May 2013

The European & International Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 11.00am**, Smith Square 1&2 (Ground Floor), Local Government House.

Timings

11.00am – 12.00pm: Formal Board Meeting

12.00pm – 1.00pm: Informal Board discussion on European policy on Roma communities and accession states to the European Union

1.00pm: Sandwich Lunch

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 Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact

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

Guest WiFi in Local Government House

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European & International Board

08.05.13

European & International Board - Membership 2012-2013

Councillor	Authority	Role
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	
David Shakespeare OBE	Wycombe DC	
<i>Vacancy*</i>		
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	
Substitute:		
Dave Allan	Sunderland City	
Sue Whitaker	Norfolk County Council	
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	

<i>Substitute:</i>		
Roger Dennison	Lancaster City Council	
Linda Gillham	Runnymede BC	

*stood down 02.05.13	
Sir Simon Day	Devon CC

LGA European & International Board Attendance 2012-2013

Councillors	18.09.12	9.11.12	07.02.13		
Conservative Group					
Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI	No	Yes	Yes		
Gordon Keymer CBE	Yes	Yes	No		
Keith Glazier	No	Yes	Yes		
Sandra Barnes MBE	Yes	No	Yes		
Liz Eyre	No	Yes	No		
Neil Clarke	Yes	Yes	No		
Sir Simon Day	Yes	No	No		
David Shakespeare OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Labour Group					
David Wilcox OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sir Albert Bore	No	No	No		
Guy Nicholson	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sherma Batson MBE DL	Yes	No	Yes		
Roger Lawrence	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sue Murphy	Yes	Yes	No		
Lib Dem Group					
Richard Kemp CBE	Yes	No	Yes		
Lord Graham Tope CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sian Reid	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Independent					
Shirley Flint	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Substitutes					
Joanne Beavis	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Phil Grove	Yes				
Nigel Mermagen		Yes			
Sue Whitaker			Yes		
Dave Allan			Yes		

Agenda

European and International Board

Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 11.00am

Smith Square 1 & 2 (Ground Floor), Local Government House, Smith Square, London

PART 1: FORMAL BOARD

11.00 am – 12.00 pm

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FOR DECISION		
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Presentation by Jeremy Smith Director at Advocacy International Ltd.		
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3. LGA EU Lobbying	17	
4. International Development Opportunities and International Trade and Development Update	23	
FOR INFORMATION		
5. Round-up of activity: Board EU lobbying priorities, institutions and international activities	29	
6. Notes of the last meeting	33	
7. Date of next meeting		
Thursday 11 July 2013, 11am at Local Government House, London.		

PART 2: INFORMAL THEMED SESSION

12.00 pm – 1.00 pm

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8. Informal Board discussion on European policy on Roma communities and accession states to the European Union	41	

Council of Europe review of UK Local Democracy

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report summarises a planned Council of Europe (CoE) peer review of local democracy in the UK in late May 2013.

Recommendation

That the European and International Board note the forthcoming peer review by the Council of Europe to scrutinise UK compliance with the Charter of Local Self-Government and consider an independent report on UK compliance which has been commissioned by the LGA.

Action

LGA officers to take forward Member recommendations.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Programmes
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E-mail: ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

Council of Europe review of UK Local Democracy

Summary

1. This report summarises a planned Council of Europe (CoE) peer review of local democracy in the UK in late May 2013.

Background

2. The Council of Europe (CoE) has forty nine member nations and was founded in 1949 at the initiative of Sir Winston Churchill to build democracy and good governance. Its local government arm, the Congress, is responsible for 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. Congress is made up of a 49 nation assembly of local councillors to whom the LGA nominates 14 members

UK Monitoring visit

3. There is a five year cycle to monitor member nations' compliance with the Charter. The only report on the UK was in May 1998 and a new review has been commissioned for May 2013.
4. The review involves a small fact-finding visit comprising two Congress politicians (the rapporteurs), an independent academic expert in constitutional matters, and staff of the Congress. The UK review team is set out in **Appendix A**.
5. They will meet LGA leaders, Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) ministers, the London Mayor, individual councils and the local government associations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
6. After the visit, the leading members will deliver a report on UK Charter compliance in the UK to the Council of Europe.

Independent Report on UK compliance with the Charter

7. In advance of the review, an independent report on UK compliance has been commissioned by the LGA European and International Board, 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. The report has been commissioned from Jeremy Smith, a barrister by profession, who has held Chief Executive positions in both English and European local councils and associations. Mr Smith prepared a similar evaluation from the UK review in 1998.
8. A copy of this independent report will be circulated separately and Jeremy Smith will be at the meeting to present his findings.

APPENDIX A

Congress delegation to UK

Rapporteurs:

Mrs Angelika KORDFELDER , Mayor of Rheine (Germany, Socialist Group).
Mr. Alexander USS, Chairman, Krasnoyarsk Regional Legislative Assembly (Russian Federation, Christian Democrat Group).

Expert:

Mr Jens WOELK, Associate Professor in Comparative Constitutional Law at the Law Faculty of the University of Trento (Italy) Dept. of Legal Sciences.

Congress Secretariat:

Mr. Jean-Philippe BOZOULS, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities.
Ms. Sedef CANKOÇAK, Co- Secretary of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress.

The Charter of Local Self-Government

The purpose of the European Charter of Local Self-Government is to identify common European standards for measuring and safeguarding local democracy. The Charter commits central governments to applying basic rules guaranteeing the political, administrative and financial independence of local authorities.

The Charter has two main parts:

- 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.
- 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.

EU funds, 2014 – 2020

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The process for negotiating and establishing the 2014 – 2020 EU funding programmes is at a critical point. Recent guidance to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) on developing their EU investment plans marked a significant success for the Board's activity in Brussels and Whitehall, and by the end of the summer each local area will have its own notional allocation of EU funds for the full seven year period.

The extent to which the operation of EU funding programmes is locally responsive in practice depends on the negotiations of fine detail with government.

This paper updates members on key issues and seeks steer on messages and next steps, and seeks member update on progress within their own LEP area.

Recommendation

Members offer steer on next steps.

Action

To be taken forward as directed by members.

Contact officer: Nick Porter
Position: Adviser
Phone no: 0207 664 3113
E-mail: nick.porter@local.gov.uk

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EU funds, 2014 - 2020

Background

1. The European and International Board has led the LGA's negotiation and lobbying effort on the EU Structural Funds for 2014 – 2020.
2. Structural funds provide significant resources for local regeneration and training. Over £6 billion of EU funds will be available to English areas from 2014 – 2020, to spend on a mix of economic development, skills and social inclusion measures.
3. In the Autumn last year Government proposed an outline LEP-based growth model for delivering EU funds. Since then it has consulted on this with local authorities and partners, confirmed the model within the Autumn Statement, and recently issued guidance to LEPs on developing their local plans for spending EU funding.
4. This represents success for the Board, however there is a lot of detail to be negotiated over the course of 2013 which will have a fundamental impact on how locally responsive spending will be in practice.
5. This paper updates main issues, and outlines proposed activity.

EU structural funds delivery model, local investment strategies

6. On 12 April 2013 the Minister wrote to all Local Enterprise Partnerships, and copied in local authority Chief Executives, inviting local partners to develop a local investment strategy for EU funds for 2014 – 2020, and providing initial guidance to support the process. This letter is appended as **Appendix A**.
7. The new programme will combine the two structural funds, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). It will also include part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and will be aligned with the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. This funding should begin to come on stream in mid-2014.
8. Local Enterprise Partnerships will be in the driving seat. They will each receive a notional allocation for the seven years 2014-2020, to be determined towards the end of the Summer. They will be responsible for:
 - 8.1. coming up with an investment strategy for spending their allocation;
 - 8.2. finding projects to deliver that strategy, using a mixture of commissioning;
 - 8.3. bidding and co-financing as best meets local need;
 - 8.4. finding match funding for those projects;

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- 8.5. ensuring those projects deliver their targets;
 - 8.6. making sure their allocations are spent on time; and
 - 8.7. monitoring how well they are delivering against their strategies and the programme priorities.
9. In developing their strategies Local Enterprise Partnerships will need to decide how much they intend to spend on different priorities, including: innovation, research and technological development, support for small businesses, the low carbon economy, skills, employment, and social inclusion.
10. LEPs will not however be responsible for administering the funds themselves; this will remain with Managing Authorities in central government to ensure compliance with EU rules.
11. The paper at Item 3 deals with the issue of the distribution of EU funds between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland where there is a proposed transfer of resources away from England.

Timetable ahead

12. The Government will publish further detailed guidance around the time of the Spending Round in June, though this is likely to slip. Local Enterprise Partnerships will then want to start work on the detail of their strategies, which need to be submitted to Government in draft by the end of September.
13. It is Government's view that this process will remove the need for formal consultation on the Partnership Agreement, which will be informed by emerging local strategies and responses to questions set out in guidance issued.
14. The Government will submit the Partnership Agreement to the European Union by the end of 2013 so that Operational Programmes can be up and running as soon as possible in 2014.
15. The Government will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to review local plans and offer advice on what else to do to deliver final Investment Strategies. These will need to be submitted to Government in January 2014.

Issues / risks for local authorities

16. Local authorities and LEPs are getting on with agreeing and setting the local investment strategies. Board member updates on their own local partners progress is sought at the meeting, with some reflections on the opportunities and threats within this process.
17. In responding to LGA calls for evidence, local authorities are raising a number of key issues still to be addressed over the coming months, including:

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- 17.1. **Negotiation on detailed functions of local and national partners** in relation to who does what with regards the appraisal, approval of funding to projects, and the commissioning of provision – there is a risk that administrators in government will be able to easily trump and block local strategic investment plans in favour of administrative processes that better serve their interests. And that, while LEPs will be judged on the performance of investment outcomes, they have little leverage to actually achieve them.
- 17.2. For instance, specific issues around European Social Fund include 1) proportion to be aligned towards LEP priorities 2) the way in which the 20% ESF earmarked for social inclusion activities will be managed and 3) how co-financing organisation will adapt their practice to be more locally responsive.
- 17.3. **Genuine opportunity for increased devolution to places that make an effective case for it.** Government has invited places to submit proposals for more devolved spending, perhaps through Integrated Territorial Investments, but is not keen on relinquishing any genuine control – there is a risk that government do not treat submissions seriously and do not devolve despite strong cases being made by places.
- 17.4. **Match-funding and alignment with Local Growth Deals** will be fundamental to the successful delivery of future EU funding programmes, but there is a risk that the national pots will not offer sufficient flexibility or alignment with local aspirations for EU funds (as has been the experience of the Regional Growth Fund).
- 17.5. **Reducing fragmentation** has been a priority for the EU, Government and local authorities, but the EU has not followed through with meaningful alignment, and there is a risk that, in practice, separately bureaucracies for managing ERDF, ESF, EAFRD funds in England will perpetuate this, putting the onus and difficult task on local authorities to knit together various bureaucracies in their area.
- 17.6. **Support for LEPs and local partners** will be important to ensure local investment strategies are effective, and that all local partners have been sufficiently involved in developing them. This should include effective support from local/regional departmental teams, and also Technical Assistance funding.
- 17.7. **Influencing a range of EU guidance** materials currently being developed in Brussels to steer the spend of funds locally. EU guidance must make sense in the context of the proposed English delivery model and reflect the way councils' regeneration activities are structured.

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Local Government Association activity

18. The LGA has continued to represent the interests of councils in the development of the programmes, and has the following activity planned:
- 18.1. Cllr Dave Wilcox (European and International Board Chair) is meeting with Michael Fallon, Minister for Business and CLG Minister Baroness Hanham to discuss the issue raised in this paper on 16 May 2013 (Cllr Wilcox to brief at the Board).
 - 18.2. Full day Government seminar with local authorities and LEPs on 17 May 2013 (Ian Hughes to feedback).
 - 18.3. Possible peer-to-peer work with the LEP network, offering support to councils and LEPs to develop effective investment strategies.
 - 18.4. Continued lobbying on the role of EU funds in the wider local growth and skills agenda, in the lead up to Local Growth Deals from 2015, and as part of the wider English devolution debate.
 - 18.5. On-going communications with councils, and lobbying on the behalf of the sector throughout the process.

By email

Our ref: PreGuide

Your ref: N/A

12 April 2013

Dear LEP Chairs

STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGIES: PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE TO LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS

The 2014-2020 EU Structural and Investment Funds open up a new chapter in enabling greater opportunities for locally-driven, inclusive growth. For the first time, Local Enterprise Partnerships will have direct influence over most of these funds.

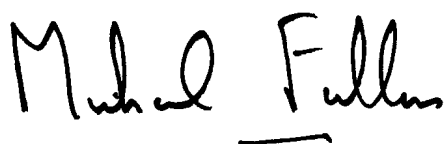
Over the last three years, the Government has set a clear path for greater devolution of decision making to a local level, enabling those who know best what works in their localities to deliver jobs and growth and a revitalised economy. That means local business leaders working with our world-class universities, civic leaders, civil society and other partners to identify where to invest and lever in vital private sector finance.

Therefore, for the 2014-2020 period we will be devolving the vast majority of the €6.17 billion of European Regional Development Funds and European Social Funds to Local Enterprise Partnerships in England, along with part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. This will form a new Growth Programme. We believe that with local knowledge and leadership, this vital source of investment can play an important role in exploiting enterprise, innovation, entrepreneurship and skills to boost local economies and long-term growth, and in promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

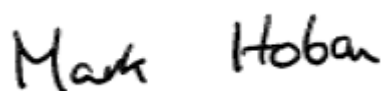
Local Enterprise Partnerships have said to Government that they want the next EU programmes to be designed to fit this ambition. They have also said that they need a more efficient and streamlined administrative model that enables them to deliver jobs and growth without unnecessary burdens and administrative complexity. So we have set out a new single England Growth Programme, and made a commitment to strip out layers of complexity in the application and management process. We have agreed that long-term stability is an essential ingredient of a successful EU programme over 2014-2020. So we intend to make allocations to your area for the full duration of this seven year period.

To implement this, we are asking that you provide us with a local investment strategy to set out how it is proposed to invest this money over 2014-2020. Further to our letter of 7 February 2013, we now want you to work with partners in your area to develop your priorities.

The attached guidance explains the outline model and administrative arrangements for the Growth Programme during 2014-2020 and invites you to begin developing your local investment strategies for this important new opportunity. We look forward to seeing these over the coming months and to having your ideas for a new phase of locally-led growth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Fallon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Michael Fallon MP, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise (with UK responsibility for the Structural and Investment Funds)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hoban". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark Hoban MP, Minister for Employment (with responsibility for the European Social Fund)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Baroness Hanham". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (with responsibility for the European Regional Development Fund)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Heath". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Heath, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food (with joint responsibility for the Rural Development Programme for England)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Benyon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Richard Benyon, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment, Water and Rural Affairs (with responsibility for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and joint responsibility for the Rural Development Programme for England)

LGA EU Lobbying

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

In April, the LGA Chairman and Chief Executive undertook a series of lobbying meetings in Brussels to highlight the impact of the 2013 EU legislative programme on English local government.

This report sets out the key issues for consideration: the distribution of EU funding across the UK, and strengthening English local government influence over current and future EU regulation.

The LGA Executive will be considering these issues at its meeting on 16 May and is recommended to ask the European and International Board with investigating the possibility of closer working between English local government offices in Brussels and to report back to the Executive.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the issues raised in the report.

Action

Officers to take forward any actions agreed by Members.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes

Position: Head of Programme

Phone no: 020 7664 3101

E-mail: Ian.Hughes@local.gov.uk

LGA EU Lobbying

Background

1. In November 2012, the LGA Leadership Board considered a report on the European Union's legislative programme for 2013. The Board agreed a set of priority issues to focus our lobbying work and asked the Chairman and Group Leaders to lead some of this work in Brussels.
2. In mid-April, the LGA Chairman and Chief Executive undertook a series of lobbying meetings in Brussels to highlight our priority issues to EU decision makers. They met a number of LGA MEP Vice-Presidents, senior officials from the European Commission and representatives of UK Government in Brussels. The Chairman also addressed the UK delegation of the Committee of Regions which was meeting in plenary session in Brussels that week.
3. A range of policy issues were raised by the Chairman in his meetings, including waste regulations, air quality standards, procurement and state aid reform and the working time directive. From these discussions, there are two issues which need to be brought to Members' attention as they have significance beyond Brussels and EU policy and provide a perspective on the "English question".

EU growth and skills funding

4. Structural funds from the EU provide significant resources for local regeneration and training. In the current EU budget (2007-13), over £8 billion of EU funds were invested in the UK. Whilst much of these resources have been used to fund national schemes (such as the Work Programme), they have also been a significant contributor to local regeneration projects. The LGA has argued strongly that the next round of funding (2014-20) should be localised and we have gained a significant victory for the sector in this area. Recent guidance from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) asked each Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area to produce a plan to localise and align the delivery of EU funding. Given that councils will lead this work in their LEP areas (as accountable bodies), it will be important that each plan submitted is distinct and demonstrates that each local economy has different needs and ambition.
5. Whilst we have won the argument to localise EU fund delivery, the distribution of EU resources throughout the UK is a problem. The new EU funding rules agreed in Brussels (for 2014-20) were a significant victory for England with the introduction of funding for "transition regions" (regions with 75-90 per cent of EU average GDP per capita). In the past, the EU funding map had been divided fairly starkly between rich and poor regions. New transition regions will now allow for parts of England (such as Merseyside, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and E Yorkshire) to gain additional funding.
6. In theory, the new EU deal meant a transfer of resources to England from the devolved administrations. Draft figures from the EU in February (based on new 2014-20 rules) confirmed that England should gain. However, this resulted in vociferous lobbying of No. 10 by Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh. The EU rules allow national government some flexibility in

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allocating funds and a decision was taken by the UK Government to use this flexibility so that England “lost” €784 million of its tentative allocation for 2014-20.

	EU funding allocations 2007-13	Allocation of EU funds for 2014-20		
		EU draft figures (Feb 2013)	UK Government decision (April 2013)	Loss/gain
England	€6.379b	€6.958b	€6.174b	-€784m -11.3%
Scotland	€0.820b	€0.567b	€0.795b	+€228 +40%
Wales	€2.200b	€1.770b	€2.145b	+€375m +21.6%
N Ireland	€0.472b	€0.276b	€0.457b	+€181m +66%

7. Whilst, the Government’s decision equalises losses for all four nations from one budget period (2007-13) to the next one (2013-20) to approximately -3%, it cuts England’s 2014-20 allocation by three quarters of a billion.
8. After the announcement on the re-distribution in the UK, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Moore MP stated that “now we can confirm that an independent Scotland would face that 32% cut - and only an independent Scotland - because it would not have the UK’s flexibility. On structural funds, €228m is the price of leaving the UK family.”
9. During his Brussels visit, the Chairman raised the deep concern of English local government with the European Commission. In the press, the Chairman pressed for an urgent need for English councils to have the devolved powers and influence over national policy as enjoyed by the people of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
10. Whilst it must be stressed that the UK Government’s decision to distribute European resources in this way is probably within the scope of the flexibility contained in EU rules, this redistribution needs to be highlighted to LEPs and our business partners. An opportunity to raise the issue will be in June 2013 when draft allocations of EU resources to each LEP will be announced by BIS. The LGA will provide details of the funding that would have been available (based on the February 2013 draft allocations). This will provide LEP areas with the ability to highlight the local losses.
11. A further opportunity to challenge the UK allocations will be on the presentation of the UK Partnership Agreement (the delivery plan for EU funds in the UK) to the European Commission in late 2013. Based on an LGA drafted amendment to EU funding rules, the UK Government will need to demonstrate formally a partnership with local authorities for agreeing funding for essential local infrastructure and skills projects. During his recent visit to Brussels, the Chairman secured an early meeting with the European Commission in advance of the UK submission to discuss how such partnerships had been developed with English local government. The UK Government’s funding distribution has not been agreed in partnership.

UK's fragmented influence over EU decision making

12. The EU funding issue exemplifies how England's influence is weakened under the current devolution settlement. However, there is a wider issue to discuss here.
13. During his lobby in Brussels, the Chairman met officials from the UK Representation to the EU (UKRep) which leads for the UK in EU negotiations. Asked to describe the development of a typical UK negotiating line in Brussels, officials described getting a national line from a Government department such as BIS and then, consulting officials from devolved administrations (who sit within UKRep) for particular issues from Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. A UK line would then be formed. In terms of gaining view from English local government, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) was described as "not a Europe facing department" and any English aspects to legislation were usually gathered as a result of lobbying from the small LGA office in Brussels. In terms of quantum, the devolved administrations have up to ten people each and form part of UKRep.
14. Whilst this style of negotiations is typical of Whitehall and Brussels, there is a particular Brussels issue that needs debate, given the number of draft EU regulations which are in discussion and which could add costs to English councils. Increasing the English representation is not an option under current financial circumstances. Therefore we have to maximise our influence in other ways.
15. Members may wish to discuss the following options:
 - 15.1. After the devolution of EU fines, we have committed to sitting down with Government on the publication of the annual EU legislative programme in October to ensure that ministers are acting on English local government interests in EU negotiations. This is currently envisaged at senior civil service level. We should escalate this to a ministerial level and insist on guarantees on key EU proposals.
 - 15.2. The Dutch local government family has collective representation in Brussels, with Dutch cities and the Dutch LGA sharing accommodation. This allows the Dutch LGA and cities to act on individual interests, but to take a collective brief when there is a national interest, with one city leading on an agreed (task and finish) lobby on behalf of the collective interest. This allows small resources to be maximised. We could consider a similar model for the small number of offices representing English councils in Brussels.

Conclusion

16. English local government has good formal representation through our members on the Committee of Regions. The Chairman, Group Leaders and Board Chairs will continue to lobby in Brussels on behalf of the councils. However, we need to develop new ways of working to maximise our influence, especially as the needs of the devolved administrations will be foremost in the minds of ministers as September 2014 approaches.
17. Members are asked to consider this paper, and subject to the Executive's recommendations at its meeting on 16 May, discuss investigating the possibility of closer working between English local government offices in Brussels with a view to reporting back to the Executive.

Item 4

International Activities

Purpose of report

For information and comment.

Summary

This report provides an update on the LGA's international cooperation work, as well as its support to councils in promoting trade and investment.

Vice Chair, Cllr Richard Kemp will also present a verbal report on the recent biennial conference of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the progress of the project and to provide comment and direction as necessary.

Action

Officers to take actions as directed.

Contact officer:

Russell Reefer / Ivor Wells / Drago Djekovic

Position:

Advisors

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Item 4

International Activities

SECTION A: COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

1. There is growing recognition both internationally and within the UK that councils are important partners in tackling underdevelopment and promoting economic growth. This is becoming particularly pertinent at a time of global economic downturn. Yet British local government still enjoys a strong reputation abroad and there is increasing demand upon the skills and expertise of our councils from around the world.
2. Through a range of international networks the LGA actively pursues trade and economic development opportunities with local government and its stakeholders abroad, where it has the capacity to do so. Where the LGA engages in development project work to support local government abroad it is demand led, externally funded and delivered by practitioner-to-practitioner support, rather than expensive consultants.
3. One such network of which the LGA is an active member is the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) which brings together councils, national LGAs and local government Ministries from over 40 countries across the Commonwealth. CLGF provides a platform for mutual learning and cooperation for councils across a wide range of themes. CLGF has also recently received £4.5m from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for a three year programme to build the capacity of local government in southern and western Africa and south Asia. The LGA is working with CLGF to determine the role of English councils in this programme.
4. CLGF also hosts a biennial conference which, this year was held in Kampala from 14-17 May. The details of the DFID £4.5 million will be discussed at the conference and other local authorities will set out their calls for UK expertise. Board Vice-Chair, Cllr Richard Kemp, who is attending the conference, will give a verbal update on the event to the Board.

SECTION B: UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROJECT

Introduction

5. This section provides an update on the work to support UK trade through developing "local to local" relationships between the UK and overseas partners.
6. Members are invited to note progress and to provide comment and direction as necessary.

Council's role in supporting International Trade and Investment

7. An example of how local-to-local work can support UK trade is seen in Mexico.
8. Public sector reform in Mexico have led to the opening up of formerly closed internal market to external competition, this is alongside the devolution of key roles and responsibilities for the commissioning of public services from central to local level.

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9. Today, 70 per cent of all public sector spend in Mexico is now made by regional and local government. In terms of purchasing power therefore, this makes mayors and other local government leaders the key economic actors within their locality and very important contacts in terms of international trade growth.
10. Mexican local government has been proactive in seeking links with UK councils to understand the ways in which they commission services and to understand what this means for elected members.
11. Between 11 to 15 March 2013, the LGA co-hosted a trade delegation of senior political and executive representatives from three states of the Republic of Mexico (Hidalgo, Veracruz or Puebla). This delegation was run in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI).
12. The key objective for the delegation was to explore potential trade and investment opportunities for UK firms. Mexican local leadership have come to us to develop such relationships based on three factors:
 - 12.1. Trust in “local to local” relationships between UK and Mexican local government.
 - 12.2. A strong desire to diversify international trading partnerships beyond just the United States.
 - 12.3. The very high regard held for British services, product and innovation.
13. The LGA helped to set up some good working examples this during the week. For example, two companies Carbon Trust and ARUP are already following up with Mexican partners on a number of opportunities’ generated by the visit.
14. While this latter point equates to new opportunities for UK firms to gain business from Mexico, Mexican politicians also identified a need for political capacity building in developing private and third sector partnerships for public service delivery. The Mexican LGA has asked for support from the UK peer model to build capacity in this area.

Council’s role in supporting International Trade and Investment (UKTI)

15. In order to highlight how local-to-local relationships can help UK trade, on 19 March 2013, Cllr Dave Wilcox chaired a meeting between the LGA and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) regional directors to explore opportunities for better integration of national and local inward investment and trade efforts.
16. It was agreed that both organisations would set out a framework for better co-ordination, engagement and intelligence-sharing between UKTI, local authorities, business and LEPs. This included the following actions:

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Follow up

Joint UKTI / LGA publication

17. There was consensus for developing a joint publication to demonstrate to local areas, (who are not as active on supporting trade and export activity as others), the benefits of working with UKTI.
18. LGA officers are meeting with Michael Boyd, Managing Director, Strategic Investment and Accounts and Kate Marshall, Director Strategy, Policy and Local Engagement, Inward Investment later this month to discuss in more detail.

LGA Chairman meeting with Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, Minister of State for Trade and Investment

19. A meeting between Lord Green and Sir Merrick Cockell is confirmed for 25 June 2013.
20. This will be an opportunity to discuss the overall project, a closer, more strategic relationship between the LGA and UKTI and new opportunities for more effective intelligence-sharing on local trade and investment prospects across the UK.

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

Purpose of report

For information.

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.

Attached at **Appendix A** is the Chairman's monthly report to Councillors Forum which covers the above activities from 26 February – 26 April.

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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European & International Board – report from Cllr Dave Wilcox OBE (Chair) to Councillors’ Forum

Delivering Our Lobbying Priorities

1. It is said that a week is a long time in politics, so it is not surprising that a lot has happened since my last report two months ago. In that time, there have been significant developments on the next phase of EU funding for 2014-2020, the LGA has responded to a number of important European Commission and UK Government consultations, and significant progress has been made in taking forward our work stream on councils’ role in supporting international trade and investment. This is to mention but a few of the European and International Board’s activities.

Future EU funding powers for councils

2. It is great news that for the first time, the EU is set to recognise that local authorities must be closely involved in the preparation of the UK’s spending plan for the next round of EU funding. The new rules, which the LGA lobbied hard to secure, will require Government to formally organise and demonstrate a partnership with local authorities for agreeing funding for essential local infrastructure and skills projects.

2014 - 2020 EU funding blow to England

3. However, there is still lobbying work to be done, as last month saw Ministers allocate England a proposed £6.174 billion of EU funding, which represents 65% of the total UK pot. The majority of this will be devolved to local areas to determine spend. We have expressed concern that this is a considerable shift in resource from England to the devolved administrations. The LGA Chairman raised this personally with the European Commission and MEPs, and has sought further clarification on the funding methodology.

EU Structural and investment funds: preliminary guidance for LEPs

4. On 12 April, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) recently released preliminary guidance on how Government envisages the new EU Structural and investment funds programme working. Given that EU funds will support key local responsibilities, it is vitally important that councils strongly articulate their expertise so that LEP plans are grounded in local innovation and supported by council leadership. Once the detailed guidance is published in June, the LGA will be bringing councils together to discuss these issues, so watch this space.

Future European Social Fund delivery

5. On 18 April, BIS published results of a research study on the effectiveness of European Social Fund (ESF) delivery, concluding that current provision is too generic with limited local impact, which is in part due to the large contracts. Many of the report’s recommendations reflect the LGA’s views, including that future ESF provision should: support economic growth and employment opportunities within a locality based context; governance and management mechanisms should be sufficiently attuned and responsive to local priorities and needs; and that procurement and contracting should be more flexible and that aligning ESF and the ERDF guided by a ‘place based’ needs should be a priority. The LGA is working with councils to develop ideas on the future design of ESF.

Future public procurement rules

6. Negotiations on the new EU procurement rules continue between the European Parliament and national governments. With the new rules scheduled to be adopted by the EU in the Autumn 2013 and coming into force in the UK at some point during 2015, we have written to the key

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players to ensure certain shared services agreements between local authorities can be clearly exempted from the need to conduct a costly and lengthy EU-wide tender process.

European Commission and UK Government Consultations

7. The LGA have responded robustly to two consultations over the past month. On the European Commission's consultation on Regional Aid Guidelines, we made the case that now is not the time to reduce public bodies' ability to support large companies given the need to create and safeguard jobs and tackle the on-going effects of the economic crisis in local areas of all types. Whilst in our response to the Government's consultation on the national applicability of licences under the Services Directive, we expressed deep concern that the approach taken by BIS prevents us from understanding what the impact of proposed changes will be on council services and reminded Government of the need to work in partnership with us on this issue.

International Links: Learning and Sharing

Platforma Forum

8. On the 3 and 4 March 2013 I spoke at the Platforma Forum, hosted at the European Parliament in Brussels. Platforma is a network of European local and regional government associations promoting the role of local government as a partner in EU international development policy. Within the context of rapid political and economic change in European policy making, I was pleased to represent the LGA in calling for a more decentralised approach to European aid spending.

Council's role in supporting International Trade and Investment

9. From the 11 - 15 March 2013, Board colleagues and I (in partnership with the British Embassy in Mexico and UKTI) co-hosted a trade delegation of senior political and executive representatives of three states Republic of Mexico. This formed part of the Board's on-going work to nurture trading links with emerging markets via local government.
10. The delegation were very interested in learning about new methods of local service delivery, in particular how to develop better public private and NGO partnerships. There was also strong interest in establishing trade links with British business and a high regard for British innovation. We are currently exploring how we can support this project through developing an international potential peer review model, around the theme of capacity for public sector working with private and third-sector partners and local economic growth.
11. On 19 March, I chaired a meeting between the LGA and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) regional directors to explore opportunities for better integration of national and local inward investment and trade efforts. The LGA's work with Mexican and African local government, alongside other examples from within the sector, provided strong examples of why this was important. It was agreed that both organisations would set out a framework for better co-ordination, engagement and intelligence-sharing between UKTI, local authorities, business and LEPs.

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Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	European & International Board
Date and time:	Thursday 7 February 2013, 11.00 am
Venue:	Westminster Suite, Local Government House, London

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chair	Dave Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
Vice-Chair	Richard Kemp	Liverpool City
Deputy Chair	Cllr Shirley Flint	North Kesteven DC
Deputy Chair	Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI	Peterborough City
Members	Guy Nicholson	Hackney LB
	Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City
	Keith Glazier	East Sussex CC
	David Shakespeare OBE	Ycombe DC
	Joanne Beavis	Braintree DC
	Sandra Barnes MBE	South Northamptonshire DC
	Lord Graham Tope CBE	Sutton LB
	Sian Reid	Cambridge City Council
	Sherma Batson MBE DL	Stevenage BC
	Dave Allan	Sunderland City
	Sue Whitaker	Norwich
Apologies	Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City
	Sue Murphy	Manchester City
	Liz Eyre	Worcestershire CC
	Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC
	Sir Simon Day	Devon CC
Speakers	Sue Baxter	Department for Business, Skills and Innovation
	Kenroy Quellennec-Reid	Greater London Authority
Officers	Ian Hughes, Richard Kitt, Ivor Wells, Jasbir Jhas, Nick Porter, Drago Djekovic, Russell Reefer and Frances Marshall	

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and noted the apologies that had been received.</p>	
2.	<p>Update on future EU funding 2014-2020</p> <p>Jasbir Jhas (Senior Advisor) outlined the report which provided an update on the LGA's recent lobbying activities to secure local delivery of EU funds as well as practical examples of the innovative use of EU funds to secure local growth. She drew particular attention to the publication of an LGA commissioned report '<i>EU Funds for Local Growth</i>.' The publication identified a number of key questions for discussion over the coming months and a series of recommendations, aiming to inform national and local thinking around determining a model that delivers maximum local impact. Members were invited to comment on the next steps for taking this work stream forward.</p> <p>Kenroy Quellenec-Reid, the Senior Financial Engineering Manager at the Greater London Authority, provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation about a range of Financial Engineering Instruments which can help to secure growth in local areas, with particular focus on JEREMIE and JESSICA. In doing so, he outlined the structure of these innovative delivery mechanisms and the advantages they provide in terms of: sustainability; flexibility; and leverage from other funding sources. By drawing on his experiences of setting up a JESSICA in London as part of the London Green Fund, he provided some practical advice and key lessons for councils looking to use these Financial Engineering Instruments.</p> <p>Sue Baxter, the senior civil servant leading the UK negotiations on structural fund reform, provided an update on the latest position in the EU-wide negotiations. In doing so, she highlighted the key messages that had come out of the Government consultation, and outlined the proposed structure which had been developed based on consultation feedback and in line with the Heseltine Review 'single pot' notion. Whilst noting that the timescale for implementation was subject to EU budget negotiations, she expressed cautious optimism that should the EU budget be approved on schedule, the new 2014-2020 programmes should be on target to go live by mid/late 2014.</p> <p>A detailed discussion arose in which Members made a number of comments, relating to the following issues:</p>	

European Investment Bank (EIB) Loans

- A number of questions were asked regarding the differences in interest rates, timescales and risk between EIB loan schemes compared with alternative private sector loan schemes. It was noted that whilst no investment was without risk, the length of the EIB loan schemes, which were often up to 20 years, could provide lower interest rates than the market.
- Members discussed the flexibility within the JEREMIE and JESSICA loan structures and the options this provided for local authority involvement, such as: co-financing; commissioning; and potentially strategic overview.
- With reference to the functional similarity between an EIB holding fund and a private sector bank, Members queried what regulations were in place to govern EIB schemes and the ability of individuals to invest in them.

Future EU Funding

- Members expressed concerns regarding the disparity in skills, capacity and accountability of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) across the country and discussed how to address these inconsistencies. Members welcomed the work being undertaken by the Economy and Transport Board to map what powers and responsibilities LEPs will be responsible for by 2015, with a view to raising the profile of the debate around the need for appropriate resources to ensure effective local delivery. Members asked that the European and International Board be kept apprised of this work stream as it progresses.
- In discussing the timescale for the operation of the 2014-2020 funding programmes, Members asked for guidance on what priorities they should focus current funding applications on.

Decisions

That the Board:

- i. **noted** the report;
- ii. **endorsed** the proposed next steps; and
- iii. **asked** that a report be brought to a future Board on the Economy and Transport Board's Local Enterprise Partnership work.

Action

That the Board receive a report on the Economy and Transport Board's work on Local Enterprise Partnership as it progresses. Ian Hughes

3. International Development Report

Ivor Wells (Advisor) introduced the report which provided an update on the delivery of the externally funded African Peer Review Project. He highlighted the successful completion of four out of the five planned reviews, however noted that due to a number of logistical problems, the fifth review remained outstanding, pending confirmation as to whether the LGA would receive an extension to enable the final review to be completed. He outlined the next steps which included, external evaluation, audit, disseminating the learning, and noted that as the project had been positively received, it was likely to lead to further international demand of the LGA's peer review model. It was also noted that the LGA was seeking to initiate a new dialogue with the Department for International Development (DIFID), through which the LGA hoped to make the case for the role of local government in sustainable municipal development, particularly in areas relating to governance.

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

- On behalf of the Board, Councillor Kemp thanked Ivor Wells for his outstanding contribution to the successful delivery of the complex and time intensive project thus far.
- Members discussed how best to build on the success of the project and highlighted the transferable value of the peer review model. They highlighted the unique contribution that local government can offer due to its ability to make political and diplomatic links and emphasised the importance of making this case to the Foreign Office. Members expressed optimism for taking this work stream forward and asked that a report be brought to a future meeting capturing the current and future opportunities and objectives for the LGA in international development work and how these fit within the business plan.
- In discussing the international development funding opportunities through the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), it was suggested that the General Secretary of CLGF be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board.

Decisions

That the Board:

- i. **noted** the report;
- ii. **asked** that their comments inform the development of the work stream;
and
- iii. **asked** that a report be brought to a future meeting capturing the current and future opportunities and objectives for the LGA in international development work.

Action

That a report be brought to a future meeting capturing the current and future opportunities and objectives for the LGA in international development work.

Ivor Wells /
Drago Djekovic

4. Council's role in supporting International Trade and Investment

Russell Reefer (Advisor) introduced the report which provided an update on the work to support councils' role in trade and investment, being led jointly by the LGAs' European and International and Economy and Transport Boards. In outlining the project, which sought to align local council's international trade and inward investment activity with the national role of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), he asked Members for their steer on the future development of the work stream.

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

- A number of suggestions were made regarding how the LGA could progress the work stream to the deliver practical benefits to local councils, however in doing so, Members were mindful of the finite level of LGA resources and capacity. Suggestions included: developing a database of local authorities' current or past international trade and development activities, expertise and contacts; and developing practical, outcome focused best practice case studies.
- Whilst Members welcomed the collaboration between the LGA and UKTI, they emphasised the importance that central government provide funding towards the joint venture.
- Members asked that the Board be kept appraised of progress, as the discussions with UKTI develop.

Decisions

That the Board:

- i. **noted** the report;
- ii. **asked** that their comments be taken into account in the development of the work stream; and
- iii. **asked** that as the work stream progresses, that a report be brought to a future meeting.

Action

That a report be submitted to a future meeting as the work stream progresses.

Russell Reefer

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

The Chair briefly summarised the report which gave an overview of recent developments: in the Board's key priority topic areas; in the European and international bodies to which the Board nominates members; and the LGA's international activities. In the ensuing discussion, the following issues were raised:

- Implications of widening EU Membership
Members asked that the LGA pull together the existing work in this area and report back to the Board.
- Working Time Directive
Councillor Dave Allan provided an update on the negotiations around the new Working Directive that had broken down in December.
- UK review of EU competences
In discussing the Government's audit of what the EU does and how it affects the UK, Members asked that the Whitehall official leading on the review attend a subsequent Board meeting to provide an overview of the review.
- Congress - Peer review of local democracy in the UK
It was noted that the external evaluation of UK compliance with the Charter, with specific reference to English local government, would be brought to a future Board meeting.

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- EU Committee of the Regions

Assurances had been received from Government that appointments to the Committee of the Regions would be dealt with in a timelier manner going forward.

- Local Government Pensions

With reference to European Commission's work programme, it was noted that the proposed review of the Pension Directive was a priority on the LGA's EU lobbying programme.

- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

It was noted that Councillor Kemp was working with UCLG to support them address a number of governance related issues.

Decision

That the Board **noted** the report

Action

Bring together existing work on approaches to Roma integration and European migration.

Richard Kitt /
Emma Jenkins

Invite the Whitehall official leading on the UK review of EU competencies to a future Board meeting.

Jasbir Jhas

7. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were **agreed** subject to the inclusion of Cllr Nicholson listed as attending.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 11am, Local Government House, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Informal Board discussion on European policy on Roma communities and accession states to the European Union

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

At the last European and International Board meeting, members requested a more detailed discussion on the lobbying work that the Board could undertake at a European Union level in light of proposals from the EU on the rights of Roma children.

Recommendation

Members are asked to discuss the issues and provide a steer as to the focus of the LGA's lobbying going forward.

Action

In line with Members' direction.

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Position: Head of Programme
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Informal Board discussion on European policy on Roma communities and accession states to the European Union

Background

1. At the last European and International Board meeting, members requested a more detailed discussion on the lobbying work that the Board could undertake at a European Union level in light of proposals from the EU on the rights of Roma children.

The Issue

2. In the 2013 EU Commission work programme, there is a proposal for a policy initiative to address the diverse situations concerning Roma within the EU and identifying good practice and effective approaches to Roma integration.
3. Board members asked for further detail on this work - which was being undertaken at a European level by UK councillors - in order to identify the focus of any LGA lobbying. Members involved in such debates at a European level have been invited to lead discussions at the Board meeting. The speakers are:
 - 3.1. Cllr Roger Stone (Leader of Rotherham Council) is a member of the National Roma Network and has developed a number of transnational initiatives in this area. He will brief the Board on local issues and national policy debates.
 - 3.2. Cllr John Warminsham (Salford Council and leader of the UK delegation to the Congress of the Council of Europe) had led policy work on Roma issues at the Council of Europe and will brief the Board on the wider international issues.
4. Whilst the issues related to the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Union are separate policy issues, the issues of Roma communities and accession states are often merged in public debate. Therefore officers will be available to provide briefing these issues at the meeting. For example, there have been recent approaches to the LGA by the Romanian Embassy in the UK to look at new trade opportunities for UK firms from the expanded EU.

Conclusion and next Steps

5. From Members' discussions, officers are asked to arrange focused lobbying on behalf of the Board.

LGA location map

Local Government Association

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Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

Bus routes – Millbank

87 Wandsworth - Aldwych

3 Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria

C10 Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

