

LG Group Executive

Agenda

Thursday 15 September 2011
2.15pm

The Westminster Suite (8th floor)
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the LG Group Executive
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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LG Group Executive

15 September 2011

There will be a meeting of the LG Group Executive at:

2.15pm on Thursday 15 September 2011 in the Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance Sheet

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

Apologies

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

Labour: Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative: Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: angela.page@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Location

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Lucy Ellender Tel: 020 7664 3173; Fax: 020 7664 3232;
e-mail: lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance: As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £5.93 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

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http://www.parkplaza.com/hotels/gbriver?s_cid=se.bmm2175

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-1785-novotel-london-waterloo/index/shtml>

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LG Group Executive

Thursday 15 September 2011

2.15pm

The Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House

Part 1

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4.	The future of health and social care	15	2.50pm
5.	Education reform and schools funding	31	3.15pm
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9.	Pensions – Verbal Update		4.00pm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13 October, 2.15pm, LG House

Item 2

Membership and Terms of Reference 2011-2012

Purpose of report

To ask the LG Group Executive to note its Membership and Terms of Reference for 2011-2012.

Summary

The Executive's Membership (**Appendix A**) and Terms of Reference (**Appendix B**) are attached to this report.

Recommendation

That the LG Group Executive notes its Membership and Terms of Reference for 2011-2012.

Action

No further action necessary.

Contact officer: Cathy Boyle
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LG Group Executive - Membership 2011/2012

Councillor	Authority	Position/ Role
Conservative		
Sir Merrick Cockell *	RB Kensington & Chelsea	Chairman
Gary Porter	South Holland	Vice-Chairman/ Group Leader
Robert Light	Kirklees Council	Deputy-Chairman
Andrew Lewer *	Derbyshire CC	Deputy-Chairman
Robert Gordon DL*	Hertfordshire CC	Deputy-Chairman
David Simmonds *	Hillingdon LB	Chairman, CYP PB
David Parsons CBE	Leicestershire CC	Chairman, Env & Housing PB
Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Council	Chairman, LGR
Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks DC	Chairman, Improvement PB
Labour		
David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC	Vice-Chairman/ Group Leader
Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC	Deputy-Chair
Steve Reed	Lambeth LB	Deputy-Chair
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham LB	Chair, Workforce PB
Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Council	Chair, E&T PB
Mehboob Khan	Kirklees Council	Chair, SSC PB
Liberal Democrat		
Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City	Vice-Chairman/Group Leader
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE*	Watford BC	Deputy-Chair
David Rogers OBE	East Sussex CC	Chair, CWB PB
Chris White	Hertfordshire CC	Chair, CTS PB
tbc		
Independent		
Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire CC	Deputy-Chair
Regional Representatives (10)		
Peter Martin	Essex CC	East of Eng. LGA
Paul Carter	Kent CC	SE Eng Councils
Angus Campbell	Dorset CC	SW Leaders
Philip Atkins	Staffordshire CC	WM Councils
Martin Hill	Lincolnshire CC	EM Councils
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney LB	London Councils

Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council	NE Councils
Ian Greenwood	Bradford MDC	LG Yorks & Humber
Sir Richard Leese	Manchester City Council	North West Regional Leaders' Board
tbc		Welsh LGA
Named substitutes		
Simon Henig	Durham County Council	NE Councils
Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge DC	SE Eng Councils
Paul Watkins	Dover DC	SE Eng Councils

Non-voting Members of LG Group Executive

Cllr/Local Authority	Political Group	Representing
tbc		LG Leadership
Stephen Castle (Essex CC)	Cons	Resources Panel
Neil Clarke (Rushcliffe)	Cons	District Councils Network
tbc		SIGOMA
Roger Phillips* (Herefordshire CC)	Cons	County Councils Network

* new members

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LG Group Executive

Terms of Reference

The purpose of the LG Group Executive is to provide strategic direction to the work of the Local Government Association and the central bodies, having regard to any advice from the LGA Leadership Board and the boards of the central bodies and representing the views of local government.

The LG Group Executive will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring that the LG Group is focused on councils and councillors.
2. Setting the strategic direction and priorities for the Group through the LG Group Business Plan and ensuring overall delivery.
3. Ensuring activity across the LG Group is coordinated and integrated.
4. Determining LG Group policy as appropriate for cross-cutting policy issues eg. finance and efficiency and local democracy, after consultation with member authorities.
5. Holding LG Group Programme Boards to account.
6. Maintaining strong links to the wider membership to ensure priorities are based on the views of all member councils, including through:
 - regional representatives holding a specific responsibility to represent the views of councils in their region;
 - inviting Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Rural and Urban Commission Chairs to report on an annual basis to raise issues of concern, influence priorities and hear views.

The LG Group Executive may:

- establish member task groups to contribute to policy development work within its remit, in accordance with guidelines in the LGA Group Political Conventions (paragraph 2.4);
- allocate responsibility to one or more of its members for particular areas within the remit of the Group Executive.

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Civil Disorder

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This paper updates members on the actions taken by central and local government following the civil disorder in early August and outlines how the LG Group will be shaping and influencing national discussions about how to prevent further civil disorder in the future.

Recommendations

Members are invited to:

1. Commend the work of councils in responding to the civil disorder in August and the short-term measures put in place to help councils and communities recover from the affects of the disturbances; and
2. In the context of the wider policy response to underlying long-term issues, agree the importance of council-led community budgets in addressing the needs of problem families and agree the LG Group's role in promoting that.

Action

As directed by the LG Group Executive.

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Civil Disorder

Background

1. Between 6–10 August there were widespread civil disturbances in London, the West Midlands and Greater Manchester, as well as areas like Merseyside, Nottingham, Bristol, Gloucester, and Wiltshire. This disorder affected over 1,800 businesses, and a significant number of residential properties in those authorities that experienced disturbances.
2. Local authorities played a vital role in responding to the disturbances, both at the time they took place and immediately afterwards, and this fantastic example of community leadership has been commended and congratulated by Ministers and the media. Activity has been wide-ranging and included providing financial and other support to local businesses, assisting residents left homeless, printing CCTV images of looters to aid investigation, intensive work by trading standards to recover stolen property, making buildings safe, and leading the clear up of their streets. Mobilising and organising residents to help in the aftermath has also been important.
3. The Local Government Group has been involved at a national level in response to the disturbances in Cabinet Office Briefing Room meetings, and has been in contact with authorities (including fire authorities) to offer support. This involvement is on-going through the LG Group Chairman's place on the Ministerial Recovery Board chaired by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. In addition to the Secretary of State's Leaders' Summit on 8 September, the LG Group will be hosting a Chairman's Summit on 27 October.

Short-term assistance for affected communities and their councils

4. In the aftermath of the disturbances, in addition to local recovery activity, Whitehall's efforts have concentrated on helping affected residents and businesses, in particular providing them with financial support. A one-off package of measures has been put together to help rebuild communities, open shops, rebuild damaged buildings, re-house those made homeless and assist councils in returning their areas to normality. The Government is also keen to harness the enthusiasm of communities that turned out to clean up their local areas. Our work here has focused on ensuring councils' needs are championed in Government and that central Government effort is channelled to best effect; and ensuring swift and communications advice to councils about the various support packages.

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5. The measures include:
 - 5.1. A £10 million recovery fund to help councils with the immediate costs of making their areas safe, clear and clean. As well as being used to make repair damage such as that to pavements and roads it can also be used to cover the costs of offering council tax discounts or relief to homes that have been damaged but are habitable.
 - 5.2. Homelessness Support funding to meet the immediate costs of emergency accommodation for homeless families with the funding provided by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
 - 5.3. A £20 million High Street Support scheme, administered by councils, which is designed to help businesses start trading again and to meet short term costs. It can be used to reduce business rates, finance building repairs, and encourage customers back to affected areas.
 - 5.4. In London the Mayor of London's Fund will provide £50 million to make major long-term improvements to the capital's town centres and high streets damaged by the disturbances, while the London Enterprise Fund will provide specific, targeted support for Tottenham and Croydon to reverse economic decline and boost the local economies.
6. Individuals, homeowners or small businesses (whether or not they are insured) that have suffered damage to or loss of their building or property as a result of rioting are also able to seek compensation under the Riot Damages Act from police authorities, with the government stating they will ensure police authorities have the funds they need to meet the cost of claims.
7. For councils themselves the long-standing Bellwin scheme is available to meet immediate and sizeable recovery costs, although the thresholds in the scheme mean that most councils would only receive assistance above costs in excess of around £1 million.

Longer-term recovery for communities

8. Now that the immediate consequences of the disturbances are being addressed, the focus for councils and government is on addressing the underlying societal issues which led to the disorder. As a first phase, the Cabinet Office has set up a Ministerial Recovery Group to develop a Recovery Plan, starting to look at why riots took place in some areas, but not others, to analyse differences and make evidenced decisions about future work.
9. The Prime Minister is considering which Cabinet Committees should be established to address particular longer term policy issues such as tackling gangs, further legislation, the impact of social media, implications for policing and the treatment of young people in the criminal justice system. We also have the independent Communities and Victims Panel announced at the end of August, which will be chaired by Darra Singh, and will look at the causes of the

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riots and what can be done to prevent future problems. This will publish interim findings in November and a final report in March. The LG Group has a place on the Ministerial Recovery Group and members of Programme Boards will play an important role in influencing specific workstreams as they are established.

10. The Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions will head a cross-government group to develop a plan of action for dealing with gang culture, and which will report to Parliament in October. We are already involved in the Home Office's Ending Gang Violence team which feeds in to this, and are pressing for implementation of injunction measures for under 18s. This is also an opportunity to highlight the existing good practice and experience of councils in tackling gangs and violence among young people.
11. There is wide recognition that a locally-led response to the wide and differing issues communities face is the most effective and efficient in these types of circumstances. It is important to continue to register with Ministers the excellent work done to date; how important it is that local democratically elected representatives continue to address the deep seated problems in their communities; and how a localist central Government can ensure local authorities have the freedom, flexibility and tools to do this. The challenge will be to persuade the Government to take community budgets to a much more ambitious operational level, e.g. full roll out and the inclusion of significant funding streams which have previously been resisted.
12. In order to influence the developing national agenda, there are a number of issues which will help councils build community relations, ensure communities are more resilient and reduce the likelihood of further public disorder. Councils have already built up a range of innovative good practice often in partnership with a number of different local bodies, and key changes in government policy could make the work of councils more effective.
13. At the core of the Group's narrative is the fundamental point that the best placed people to address underlying social problems, which resulted in disorder in some places, are local democratically elected representatives, and the legitimacy of this should be uppermost. Stronger, more resilient communities will only be created if everyone in the community feels they have opportunities, that they have a stake in their community, but are also accountable to their community for what they do.
14. Central and local government's declared ambition to turn round the lives of the worst problem families is even more pressing after the events of early August. We already know the approaches that work best – for example, the Family Recovery Programme in Westminster and the LIFE programme in Swindon – are local ones tailored to the circumstances of the families and communities they live in. This is an opportunity for the LG Group to challenge Whitehall to

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embrace council-led community budgets, including making real progress with funding streams and action, rather than process.

15. The LG Group has made an offer to Government to take a sector-owned approach to the roll out of community budgets to ensure better outcomes for families with complex needs. In parallel we have identified a range of measures to build social capital and harness community spirit, some of which require changes in Whitehall. Initial thoughts include:

- 15.1. Giving councils the tools they need to invest in both existing and new housing stock.
- 15.2. Establishing a genuinely local planning system that provides flexibility for councils, including a lighter touch approach to neighbourhood planning.
- 15.3. Providing councils with the means to grow their local economies by getting the localisation of business rates right, and developing a market for municipal bonds to provide councils with the investment needed to generate growth.
- 15.4. Making a better public service offer to young people by bringing together services and funding and making them more locally accountable with young people having a greater say in the services they receive.
- 15.5. Explore volunteering as both a route into experience of adult life and building a stake in local life for young people by making it easier for young people on benefits to volunteer.
- 15.6. Ensuring offenders take responsibility for their actions and give back to local people, and also ensuring councils and the police have the tools to tackle gangs and anti-social behaviour.

Conclusion and next steps

16. The LG Group Executive's views are sought both on the response to the public disorder; and on the proposed way forward from paragraph 11 onwards.

Financial Implications

17. Any work on around the national discussions on the civil disturbances will be met from existing resources and budgets.

The future of health and social care: Update on progress of the Health and Social Care Bill, the return of public health to local government and on the Dilnot Commission on the Funding of Long Term Care

Purpose of report

To inform the LG Group Executive on the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill, the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission and the LG Group activity on the wider health and social care reforms. Taken together, this represents a significant opportunity for local government to ensure better health is rooted in a dignified, locally based context.

Summary

This report:

1. updates the LG Group Executive on the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill following the consultation phase introduced after Second Reading in the Commons;
2. summarises the LG Group parliamentary activity on the Health Bill;
3. summarises other current and planned LG Group activity related to the health reforms;
4. outlines the findings of the Dilnot Commission; and
5. summarises current LG Group activity to maintain the momentum for reform of social care funding.

Recommendation

The LG Group Executive confirms that the LG Group's position, as set out in this report, reflects the priorities of councils and endorses the current and proposed LG Group activity in relation to the Health and Social Care Bill, the Dilnot Commission and the wider action on health and social care reforms.

Action

LG Group officers to action as necessary.

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Health and Social Care Bill: update on progress of health reforms

Update on passage of the Bill

1. The LG Group Executive last discussed the Health Bill on 16 June after the publication of the Future Forum report, on which Cllr David Rogers was the only councillor representative, and the Government's response to the report.
2. Following this, Simon Burns MP, the Health Minister, announced that 63 clauses would be re-committed, 35 of which would require amendments whilst the others will be considered to give context to the alterations. There would also be five new clauses introduced by Government. The Government's 160 amendments were tabled on 23 June. The amendments focused on subjects including the role of the Secretary of State, clinical commissioning, the role of Monitor, and Health and Wellbeing Boards.
3. On 28 June, Cllr Gareth Barnard, Vice Chair of the Community Wellbeing Programme Board, and Andrew Cozens gave evidence to the Public Bill Committee on the LG Group's views of the Government amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill. The key messages from the evidence session formed the basis of our lobbying and briefing on further stages of the Bill, as agreed by the Community Wellbeing Programme Board at its meeting on 20 July. The LG Group also submitted written evidence to the Public Bill Committee on 8 July 2011.
4. The Local Government Group has lobbied hard for a much greater role for Health and Wellbeing Boards and for a higher focus on a place-based approach and on integration of health and care services to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. As such we were pleased to see progress in relation to the powers for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs), a greater focus on place-based and whole population approaches, and stronger requirements to integration. But there is still more we can do to ensure the Bill is fit for purpose. We believe that many of the revisions (suggested by the Future Forum and agreed in principle to by the Government) to the Bill have the potential to strengthen the role of local authorities and put far greater emphasis on local health and wellbeing needs but we are worried that the amendments do not always reflect the rhetoric accurately.
5. We welcome the following three changes:
 - 5.1 **The renewed focus on a place-based approach to health and wellbeing** commissioning, as suggested by the Future Forum and supported by the Government in its initial response, through the alignment of boundaries between first-tier councils and clinical commissioning groups; and the requirement that clinical commissioning groups will have to plan for the whole population of an area, rather than just their patient

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list. The Government response to the Future Forum recommendations states: *"We accept the recommendation in the Forum's report that the boundaries of clinical commissioning groups should not normally cross those of local authorities. Any departure from this will need to be clearly justified"*. We do not see this commitment expressed clearly in the Bill amendments however and we continue to urge that this is displayed on the face of the Bill.

- 5.2 **The strengthened emphasis on patient and public involvement** which is now embedded in the governance structure of all local bodies, including foundation trusts, clinical commissioning groups and health and wellbeing boards.
- 5.3 **The commitment to greater transparency** and standards of good governance for all NHS commissioners and providers. This includes the requirement that commissioning groups and foundation trusts have public meetings. We will seek to ensure that all health commissioners and providers are subject to the same standards of good governance to which all local authorities comply.
6. We recognise however that not all of the changes that the Government highlighted in its response to the Future Forum have made their way into the Bill at this stage. It is interesting to note Lord Crisp (former NHS Chief Executive) has intervened in the debate by saying that the Bill does not concentrate on what really needs to be done, which is building a different sort of NHS that is less hospital and consultant focused and more geared to community services and an ageing population. We want to see improvement in three areas:
- 6.1 **Health and Wellbeing Boards** – We welcome the Government's recognition that the powers of HWBs need to be strengthened in order to ensure coordination and joining up of commissioning plans with the health and wellbeing needs of the area but we feel that proposals need to go further. The Future Forum recommended that HWBs 'agree' clinical commissioning group plans. The Government amendments require consortia to involve HWBs 'at all stages' and to be able to refer back to the commissioning consortia or upwards to the NHS Commissioning Board. However we feel this falls short of the power of sign-off and in the LG Group's opinion, this is not sufficient to ensure that commissioning plans are firmly based on the health and wellbeing needs and priorities of the local community.
- 6.2 **Clinical Commissioning Groups** – We have a number of concerns regarding the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), formally known as GP commissioning consortia. First, the name sends the wrong message with a focus on clinical issues rather than health and wellbeing. We suggest they are renamed Local Health Commissioning Groups to underline the fact that services will need to go further and wider than NHS

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treatment and include social care, public health and prevention. Second, we support the Government's view that GP-led commissioning is the way to re-engage commissioning plans to addressing local health needs and improving health outcomes. Adding clinical experts from providers weakens the focus on commissioning for health improvement and is more likely to concentrate on NHS provider interests. Also, we understand that the clinical representatives will be drawn from outside the local area in order to avoid conflicts of interest. But this means the representatives will lack the local expertise and knowledge, which is one of the main aims of this reform. On a broader point, we feel that GP-led commissioning will need to take advice from a wide range of health, social care and other professionals but their role should be to give advice, not to make commissioning decisions. As such it is inappropriate for them to be members of CCGs.

- 6.3 **Integration** – We welcome the renewed focus on integration but we feel that most of the changes simply reinforce the benefits of integration to the NHS rather than taking a whole-systems and person-centred approach, which looks at integration from the perspective of service users. The Ministerial announcement regarding revisions to the Health and Social Care Bill acknowledged the Future Forum's recommendations regarding the need for greater integration but we feel that this is not reflected in the revisions to the Bill. The revisions also do nothing to address our concerns regarding safeguarding issues, and ensuring the particularly vulnerable groups do not fall through the cracks between services – such as homeless people and people in need of emergency mental health services.
7. The Government amendments were debated in the Public Bill Committee (recommitted) in the Commons prior to the recess. The report stage and third reading in the Commons are likely to take place when the House returns in the week beginning 5 September. The Government published a further 363 amendments to the Bill on 31 August for consideration at the Report stage. None of these address the core concerns set out above. An update on progress in the Commons after this report was prepared will be provided at the meeting.
8. The second reading in the Lords will be in the second week of October. Peers have requested 12 Committee days for this Bill but are likely to get ten. Then there will be four to six days of Report Stage debates and third reading at the earliest two weeks after that. That means the Bill is unlikely to be completed and receive Royal Assent before February 2012.

Current and future parliamentary activity

9. On 6 July Cllr Linda Thomas met key members of the Labour Bill Team (Baroness Thornton, Baroness Margaret Williams and Richard Bourne) to discuss the Health and Social Care Bill. A similar meeting has been organised with the Liberal Democrat leads in the Lords for 14 September.
10. The Chairman is due to meet with the Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley MP, this month. We have organised a briefing session for all peers on 26 October, after second reading and before the committee stage, to explain the LG Group's concerns and proposed key amendments.

Progress on other health reform activity

Public Health Policy Update

11. The Secretary of State for Health has published a policy statement setting out the progress on public health and identifying issues that require further developments required, along with a clear timeline. Given the White Paper was published eight months ago, we had been expecting a fuller Government Command Paper, setting out the response and way forward on all aspects of public health reform. It is disappointing that we still only have a partial picture of the change programme. That said we welcome further clarity on some aspects of public health reform. The key proposals are summarised below.
12. The policy document reiterates the Government's commitment to focusing on outcomes rather than process through the development of a national outcomes framework for public health. This has not been published to accompany the policy update but the document makes clear that the Government still intend to have three separate but overlapping frameworks. They make a commitment to reducing the data collection and analysis burden on local authorities but we will comment further on this when the framework is published in autumn 2011. We have consistently argued for a single outcomes framework to encompass the NHS, public health and social care. However, we welcome the further work proposed on interdependencies and will support any further focus on how they can be integrated at HWB level.

Local government

13. The updated document maintains the emphasis of *Healthy Lives, Healthy People* on the pivotal role of local government in driving forward improved health outcomes through tackling the wider determinants of health. It gives further details on local government responsibilities and states that: "We plan to give local authorities new functions through regulations for taking steps to protect the local population's health, and for providing clinical commissioning groups with population health advice".

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14. The update gives further details of the ring-fenced public health grant. To maximise flexibility, the conditions will be minimal: to ensure it is spent on the public health functions for which it has been given, and ensuring a transparent accounting process. It is expected that the public health budget will fund the NHS to commission some public health services such as immunisation programmes, contraception programmes in the GP contract, screening programmes, public health care for prisoners and those in custody, and children's public health services from pregnancy to age five, including health visiting.

Role of the Director of Public Health (DPH)

15. The update document clarifies the role of the DPH as the principal adviser on health to elected members and officials, responsible for delivering the new public health functions and a statutory member of the health and wellbeing board. The DPH will also be required to produce an annual report on the health of the population. The DPH will retain responsibility for the three domains of public health: health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health. Directors of Public Health (DsPH) will also be represented on clinical senates – a new proposal made by the Government in their response to the NHS Future Forum recommendations.
16. DsPH will be employed by local authorities and recruited through a joint appointment process with Public Health England, and professional standards will be maintained. Though the update recognises it is up to individual local authorities to determine their corporate management arrangements, there is an expectation that they will form part of the senior management team with chief officer status and direct accountability to the chief executive. The Group welcomed the commitment for DsPH to retain all three domains of responsibility and within local government. We argued strongly that DsPH should be directly employed by local authorities and that their accountability and place within the management structure is an issue for local decision. It is important that these responsibilities reflect the organisational imperatives of individual local authorities.

Health and Wellbeing Boards

17. The update emphasises the central role of HWBs in holding together the new public health system and maximising the opportunities for integration to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. They will have a new duty to promote patient and public involvement in developing the joint strategic needs assessment and the health and wellbeing strategy.

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Public Health England (PHE)

18. The major change is that PHE will be established as an Executive Agency, outside the Department of Health (DH). It will bring together the functions of the Health Protection Agency, the National Treatment Agency, Regional Directors of Public Health and their teams that are currently located in the DH and Strategic Health Authorities, Public Health Observatories, Cancer Registries and the National Cancer Intelligence Network, the National Screening Committee and the Cancer Screening Programmes.
19. PHE's role in relation to local authorities is to:
 - 19.1 provide information on the state of public health in England to support local information in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments;
 - 19.2 building an evidence base of effective public health interventions;
 - 19.3 provide intelligence on how best to tackle public health challenges and support the development of Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWS);
 - 19.4 report on local government contribution to improving health outcomes as part of the public health outcomes framework;
 - 19.5 provide resilience and local response capabilities to respond to public health threats;
 - 19.6 provide professional support for DsPH.
20. PHE will have a major role in health protection, including infectious diseases, biohazards and emergencies. It will work with the National Institute for Clinical and Health Excellence (NICE) to develop a robust evidence base for innovative and efficient public health interventions. PHE will have a close relationship with the NHS Commissioning Board to ensure the NHS plays an active role in health improvement. It will also commission national campaigns such as Change4Life.

Issues not covered by the update

21. **Workforce issues** - The policy update does not include any detail on the future development of the public health workforce, which is still in development. It does, however, give a commitment to developing a high level concordat with NHS and local government employers on the transition of public health staff between the NHS and local authorities. The document estimates that around 5000 public health staff will transfer from PCTs to local government. This will clearly have major implications for councils and must be fully funded from the public health grant.
22. **Public health funding** – There is still no detail on funding for public health. A further policy document on funding is promised, which will outline the overall public health budget and the distribution between the NHS Commissioning Board, PHE and local authorities. It is also still working on the allocation

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formula to local authorities and the details of the Health Premium. The document states: "We are committed to ensuring that local authorities are adequately funded for their new responsibilities and that any additional net burdens will be funded in line with the Government's New Burdens Doctrine".

23. During the autumn, further proposals for implementing the new public health system will follow.

Meeting with Public Health stakeholders – 7 July

24. Cllr Richard Kemp chaired the third meeting of the Public Health Stakeholders Roundtable, which also included representatives of all major GP stakeholders. The meeting focused on the following issues: the Government announcement on public health and the commitment to agreeing a joint response between the LG Group and the participating stakeholders; the need for greater communication to local authorities and health partners in order to aid mutual understanding and promote positive behaviours; the development of joint support to promote joint working; and a progress update on discussions regarding the transfer of the public health workforce to local government, with the intention of signing a joint concordat. The Roundtable agreed to meet again in September 2011.

Joint LG Group, DH and NHS Confederation meeting – 28 July

25. John Wilderspin, DH Lead for Health and Wellbeing Boards, chaired a meeting of senior stakeholders to discuss operating principles for Health and Wellbeing Boards and to agree a common approach to supporting local authorities and their key partners in putting these principles into practice. Community Well Being Programme Board Lead Members were invited to participate in this meeting. It is the intention that the operating principles will promote positive and collaborative behaviour between HWBs, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the NHS Commissioning Board, local Health Watch and Public Health England. The operating principles are currently being amended and the final version will be considered and cleared by the Lead Members of the Community Wellbeing Programme Board.

Development of implementation support for Health and Wellbeing Boards

26. The Secretary of State for Health announced at the LG Group Annual Conference that £1 million will be available to support the development of HWBs. LG Group senior officers are currently in discussion with DH on developing sector-led support for HWBs.

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The Commission on Funding of Care and Support

Background

27. The Commission on Funding of Care and Support (CFCS) was announced by Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley, on 20 July 2010. It was charged with making recommendations on how to achieve an “affordable and sustainable funding system for care and support, for all adults in England, both in the home and other settings”. This included:

- 27.1 The best way to meet care and support costs *as a partnership between individuals and the state*.
- 27.2 How *an individual’s assets are protected* against the cost of care.
- 27.3 How public funding for care and support *can be best used to meet needs*.
- 27.4 How to *deliver the preferred option* including implementation timescales and impact on local government.

28. The final report of the Commission, ‘Fairer Care Funding’, was published on 4 July.

LG Group engagement

29. There has been very good engagement with the CFCS over the last twelve months and Andrew Dilnot has been very clear in thanking the LG Group for its contribution.

LG Group initial activity on Dilnot

30. The main recommendations of the report were:

- 30.1 To protect people from the potentially catastrophic costs of care there should be a cap on an individual’s lifetime contribution between £25,000 and £50,000 (the Commission asserts that £35,000 is an appropriate figure, which is used throughout the report for example purposes). Any costs incurred above the cap should be fully met by the state.
- 30.2 Means-tested support should continue for those with lower means who may not be able to cover £35,000.
- 30.3 The asset threshold above which individuals are expected to fully-fund their residential care should increase from the current £23,250 to £100,000.
- 30.4 Those entering adulthood with a care and support need would not be expected to make a contribution.
- 30.5 Universal disability benefits should continue for people of all ages but Government should consider how to better align benefits with a reformed social care funding system, including a re-branding of Attendance Allowance to clarify its purpose.

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- 30.6 Personal contributions would be standardised to between £7,000 and £10,000 to cover the 'hotel costs' associated with residential care.
 - 30.7 Standardised national eligibility criteria to improve consistency and fairness alongside portable assessments.
 - 30.8 In the short term a minimum eligibility threshold should be set nationally at 'substantial' under the current Fair Access to Care system.
 - 30.9 Government investment in an awareness raising campaign to help inform the public about the proposed changes and the importance of planning ahead.
 - 30.10 A Government-led information and advice strategy produced in partnership with local government, charities and others to ensure people have the information they need when care needs arise.
 - 30.11 Carers assessments should take place alongside the assessment of the person being cared for.
 - 30.12 A Government review of the scope for improving the integration of adult social care with other services in the wider care and support system
31. Our response agreed that the Dilnot report provides a good set of answers to the questions originally posed by the Government; namely how to make the care and support system fairer and simpler. The report must not be seen as an end in itself and should instead be viewed as part of a wider reform movement, which includes: the Law Commission's recommendations for developing a simpler legal framework for care and support; a political vision for reform; and developing cross-party consensus on the best way forward.
32. We have long said that our care and support system is underfunded so are pleased to see that the report clearly highlights the urgent need to bring more money into the system. In today's financial environment, and recognising the demographic shifts we are seeing, we believe a shared responsibility between the individual and the state for increasing available funding is appropriate. We are pleased to see the Commission recommend that a safety net should continue to exist for those who would not be able to afford the individual contribution; reform must work for everyone. We will want to conduct a thorough analysis of the financial implications for councils before commenting further.
33. It is essential that these proposals are portrayed accurately in the media and we must work hard to ensure that common misconceptions are not perpetuated. Adult social care is not free for everyone at the point of need so ideas around individual contributions must not be portrayed as something radically new. Such an approach risks alienating the public who we know already find the system confusing.
34. The LG Group also developed a declaration on adult social care reform (included at the end of this report as **Appendix A**). Entitled 'Time to Act', the statement sets out a clear message that reform cannot be delayed any further

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and acknowledges the current optimum alignment of conditions for meaningful change: an outlook of consolidated legislation through the work of the Law Commission; realistic options for increased funding through the work of the Dilnot Commission; and political vision as set out in the Government's publication 'Capable Communities and Active Citizens'. The declaration calls on the Government to develop cross-party consensus to deliver reform and set out a clear programme for action.

35. Through various communications the support of top-tier Leaders was sought for the declaration. Very encouragingly, when the declaration was submitted to the three national party Leaders on 19 July more than 80 top-tier Leaders had added their name as a signatory. One response, from Rt Hon Ed Miliband, has been received thus far. This welcomed the LG Group's approach and made a clear offer to work with us, and across the three parties, to tackle the issue of adult social care with the urgency required.

Next Steps

36. The coming twelve months look set to be an incredibly busy period as the adult social care reform agenda is taken forward and culminates in a care and support Bill. We anticipate this being an issue of significant interest to member authorities and we therefore want to ensure that the LG Group is actively involved in contributing to, and shaping, the debate.
37. Initial ideas for future activity (including provisional timings) include:
- 37.1 A 'Frequently Asked Questions' online publication exploring the Dilnot proposals in greater depth. This is now complete and has been developed in collaboration with the Dilnot Commission.
 - 37.2 Following on from the successful session held in March, a further roundtable with Leaders and Chief Executives to consider the implications of the Commission's recommendations for local government. [September]
 - 37.3 A series of roundtable events in Parliament, and in partnership with relevant organisations, to explore different elements of the Commission's reform proposals. [Three events between September and December]
 - 37.4 Emanating from the roundtable events, and ahead of the Government's White Paper, a more detailed discussion paper setting out local government's views on reform. [January-February]
 - 37.5 Written (and hopefully oral) evidence to the Health Select Committee's recently announced inquiry on Dilnot's proposals. [Autumn]
 - 37.6 Briefing papers and meetings for Parliamentarians, particularly in advance of a Lords' debate on Dilnot's recommendations that we expect after summer recess. [Autumn]
 - 37.7 A one-day event on Dilnot/reform. [December]
 - 37.8 Session/s at this year's National Children and Adult Services Conference. [November]

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- 37.9 Input to the proposed Government Working Groups – particularly those that will focus on: designing a national eligibility framework; and designing a national/local framework for information and advice. [TBC]
- 37.10 A response to the Government's White Paper. [TBC]
- 37.11 Influencing and lobbying on the Government's Bill. [TBC]

Financial Implications

- 38. The health reforms will have major financial implications for first-tier councils. The Department of Health is currently determining the base line spend on public health in order to determine the overall level of the Public Health Grant, to be allocated to local authorities from 2013. A figure of £4 billion was given in the public health White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People, but the BMA has suggested that the real cost of adequately funded public health services is closer to £5 billion. The Command Paper for the public health proposals is expected to be published in June and will provide details on the overall level of the grant, the basis for allocation and details of the ring-fence.
- 39. The LG Group has repeatedly raised its concerns regarding the overall level of the Public Health Grant, the basis on which it will be allocated, the division of resources between Public Health England and local authorities, and which services local authorities will be expected to commission. We will continue to make strong representations that all new public health responsibilities should be adequately financed and that councils should have maximum flexibility to use the grant to address local priorities.

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Time to Act: reforming adult social care

1. The fact that more and more people are living longer in old age or with a disability is something we should all celebrate. The reality that those additional years can often feel more of a burden than a joy is something we can help rectify. And we must do so now.
2. For too long we have toyed with adult social care reform. Different parts of the system have been tinkered with but there has been no fundamental reworking of the foundations. That approach has, just about, sustained the system and the countless thousands of people who rely on it. But today we face the stark reality that major change is needed if we are to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding older population that, quite rightly, has higher expectations of the services and support it receives.
3. Unlike with previous attempts to reform care and support, the opportunity before us today sees an optimum alignment of conditions for lasting, positive change. First, we have political commitment at a national level with the Government's 'Vision for adult social care: capable communities and active citizens', and the recent statement from the Leader of the Labour Party making a clear offer of cross-party talks to consider the best way forward. Second, through the work of the Law Commission, we have an outlook of consolidated legislation and a simpler legal framework. And third, and perhaps most important, with the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission, we have realistic options for future funding of care and support.
4. With these three pillars in place we have the best chance to meaningfully reshape care and support for the future. This is the best opportunity for reform in a generation, and it is for the next generation that we must act now. We know that it will be impossible to design a system where everyone agrees on the detail and specifics, but these differences must be put aside and seen as secondary to the bigger prize of securing a care and support system that is fit for the twenty first century.
5. Maintaining a focus on this ultimate goal will require political consensus. And political momentum at a national and local level is what will drive this consensus forward. This declaration is a clear signal from local government – of all parties – that we are ready to play our part. We have a strong and proud history in adult social care and play a key role in meeting the needs of our communities. We remain committed to providing the highest quality services and support to ensure adults of all ages have the opportunity to live independent, fulfilling lives, throughout their lives.

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Appendix A

6. The publication of the Dilnot Commission's report must be seen as the start of the next phase of reform – moving from independent inquiry to political debate. Local government is ready to work with central government on this crucial agenda and we urge you not to let another opportunity pass by. We urge you to forge a national consensus in line with the local one we are building. It is time to act.
7. As signatories to this declaration we are calling for:
 - 7.1. cross-party recognition that it is time to act, and cross-party support for the Early Day Motion 2051 on 'delivery of adult social care'.
 - 7.2. cross-party consensus to deliver the meaningful reform that is needed.
 - 7.3. a clear programme for action from the Government, to include a care and support reform white paper by the end of 2011, and a care and support reform bill in the first six months of 2012.

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Education reform and schools funding

Purpose of report

To provide background information for the LG Group Executive's discussion on education reform and schools funding.

Summary

This report provides an update on recent developments in education policy and schools funding, covering the council role in education in a system with more autonomous schools; the future role of new Education Funding Agency (EFA); and the recent consultations on schools revenue and capital funding and on the funding of academies' central functions.

Recommendations

The LG Group Executive is invited to discuss education reform and funding and identify the priority areas for LG Group work.

Action

Officers to report the outcome of the discussion to the Children and Young People Programme Board and take account of any comments.

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Education reform and schools funding

Background

1. Since the General Election, schools and education policy in England has been the focus of much debate and significant Government activity. The Academies Act 2010, which makes it easier for schools to become academies, was fast-tracked through Parliament immediately after the election. A Schools White Paper was published in December and was followed by an Education Bill, currently before Parliament, to implement proposals on school discipline and to reduce the number of education quangos.
2. The number of academies – schools directly funded and overseen by central government and the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) - has risen from 200 to over 800, with 20% of secondary schools now academies and 24 Free schools opening this academic year. Some authorities are approaching the point where they no longer maintain the majority of schools in their area and the future council role in education in a system with more autonomous schools will change and become more strategic.
3. The White Paper promised a radical reform of the system for funding schools to make it fairer and more transparent and detailed proposals are now out to consultation. The funding of the central costs of academies that no longer require council support has become a significant issue for councils. Twenty-three authorities sought a judicial review of the initial Government proposals for top slicing this funding from revenue grant. In response, the Government decided to run a fresh consultation on this subject.
4. The LG Group has raised very significant concerns about the revised proposals for funding academies' central costs issued by the government in late July, arguing that they breach the Government's own New Burdens doctrine, which says that the funding transfer should be made on the basis of savings to councils, rather than the additional costs to the Government of directly maintaining academy schools. Our concerns echo similar points made across the whole range our member authorities potentially significantly affected by these proposals.

The future council role in education

5. Much of the LG Group lobbying since the election has focussed on securing a strong, continuing role for local councils in education. We have welcomed the move to greater school autonomy, but have pointed out that councils no longer control schools and that the weight of central direction and control in recent years means that schools need to be freed from central, not local control.

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6. We set out our vision for a future strong, but more strategic council education role in our report *Local freedom or central control?*, which was aimed at influencing the education white paper. So we welcomed the Schools White Paper's proposals for a strong, strategic role for councils in local education "as champions for parents and families, for vulnerable pupils and of educational excellence".
7. Work since the publication of the White Paper has focussed on fleshing out what this new role will mean in practice, taking account of councils' statutory education duties (which the Government is not proposing to change) - for example to secure sufficient school places and "promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential" of local pupils. Our most recent policy report, *Local freedom or central control II*, launched at this year's LG Group Annual Conference, suggested the following broad elements:
 - 7.1. supporting school improvement
 - 7.2. bringing forward new provision
 - 7.3. championing educational excellence
 - 7.4. championing the needs of vulnerable pupils
 - 7.5. ensuring every child has access to a place at a good school
8. Work is already underway in a number of areas to identify the key issues facing councils in fulfilling these roles, including piloting a new approach to school exclusions, in which schools take greater responsibility for arranging alternative provision for pupils they exclude and remain responsible for their attainment.
9. On school improvement, the Department for Education (DfE) has raised the floor for acceptable levels of pupil attainment in primary and secondary schools and in March asked councils to submit improvement plans for turning around the schools in their area below the floor. The Department is also working with the council in each region that has the most schools below the floor, to tackle underperformance.
10. The DfE is also planning to carry out a piece of rapid 'action learning research' involving a small group of councils that have significant numbers of academies in their area, to explore the issues facing councils as they approach the position where the majority of the schools in their areas become academies. This work is being overseen by a small steering group of representatives from councils, schools and the DfE and will report to the Ministerial Advisory Group on the council role in education established by the Education Secretary Michael Gove. Cllr Stephen Castle from Essex County Council will represent the LG Group on the steering group.
11. The Children and Young People Programme Board is developing its own programme of improvement support for councils to help them take on a more strategic role in education. The LG Group Executive may wish to give a view on the areas for support that it considers to be of the highest priority.

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The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA)

12. The YPLA is responsible for establishing and funding academies and Free Schools and for oversight of their performance and intervention to tackle underperformance. It also funds post-16 education provision in school Sixth Forms, Further Education colleges and Sixth Form colleges. In the run up to the publication of the Schools White Paper the LG Group lobbied intensively for the abolition of the YPLA, with its functions devolved to councils or taken on by DfE without the need for an additional bureaucratic tier.
13. The Government announced in the Schools White Paper that the YPLA will be abolished but many of its functions (and staff) will simply be transferred to a new Education Funding Agency (EFA), which is an Executive Agency, rather than an arm's length body. The EFA will have a wider remit than the YPLA because it will be responsible for channelling schools funding to councils - this flows directly from the DfE to councils at present, without the need for an additional bureaucratic tier. It will also have a role in allocating schools capital funding, with the staff of the disbanded Partnership for Schools, responsible for the Building Schools for the Future programme, also transferred.
14. The Children and Young People Programme Board is continuing to press the case for the outright abolition of the YPLA, with most of its functions devolved to councils as part of their new strategic role in education. It cannot be a good use of public money for a national agency to duplicate the functions of councils in relation to academies – for example applying the locally agreed funding formula to academies, rather than letting councils do the calculation for all local schools. And if councils are to fulfil the role proposed for them in the White Paper “as champions for parents and families, for vulnerable pupils and of educational excellence”, they should have the same powers in relation to academies as maintained schools, rather than having to raise issues about local academies with the EFA and the Secretary of State.
15. However, if the Department cannot be persuaded of the case for outright abolition of the YPLA without it being replaced, one suggestion from the Children and Young People Programme Board is that we should propose that councils should take over the functions of the EFA that relate to individual academies and Free Schools once more than, say, half of local secondary schools have converted. This would position the EFA role as transitional while the number of academies increases in an area, with responsibility for issues such as school improvement and funding reverting to councils once they take on a more strategic role.

Schools funding consultations and the academies top slice

16. At the end of July the Government launched a number of consultations on education funding, covering: schools capital funding; schools revenue funding; and the transfer from formula grant to take account of academies' central functions.

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17. The LG Group has been lobbying hard on schools capital and revenue funding in recent months, to ensure that any new funding system retains a council role in reflecting local needs and priorities in allocating schools funding. The proposals in the consultation papers contain a number of welcome concessions to our arguments including: a clear recognition of the continuing need for an element of local authority discretion in allocating revenue funding; and a proposal that schools capital funding should move towards being allocated through a single flexible budget in local areas as opposed to tightly controlled central ring-fenced budgets.
18. The academies funding consultation was restricted to 4 weeks, ending on 16 August, despite a letter to the Secretary of State for Education from Baroness Ritchie requesting an extension to reflect the fact that the consultation period fell during the school holidays.
19. The LG Group response to the consultation highlights our serious concerns about the methodology the Government propose to adopt, which is not in accordance with the Government's own New Burdens Doctrine. This is because they still propose to calculate the top slice to be removed from local government on the basis of the additional amounts to be paid to academies as opposed to the actual savings in local government, which are substantially lower. Our response provides detailed evidence of this.
20. In developing the response, we worked with 32 member authorities, of all types, and with different numbers of academies, to estimate the real savings as well as the additional costs to authorities of setting up academies. The conclusions are reflected in our response to Government and present clear and compelling evidence that any savings to be made in local authorities when schools transfer to academy status are far less than the figures suggested by the Department for Education.
21. The Government's response to the consultation is expected within the next month and we have requested an urgent meeting with Michael Gove to discuss this.

Financial Implications

22. This programme of work is a key business plan priority for the LG Group and will be resourced from within existing budgets.

LG Group governance arrangements

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

New LG Group member governance arrangements came into effect on 1 September 2010, as part of the Getting Closer programme. The new arrangements:

1. established an LG Group Executive with a broader membership and a remit that covered the whole Group.
2. brought together all policy, improvement, workforce and regulatory work within the role of the newly constituted programme boards.

This paper sets out the current governance arrangements, along with any feedback received over the past 12 months, as the context for LG Group Executive's planned Autumn review.

Recommendation

Members to consider the current governance arrangements and make recommendations for change.

Action

Officers to put together a further report to the LG Group Executive in October, setting out proposed revisions to LG Group governance structures that reflect the views of the LG Group Executive.

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LG Group governance arrangements

Background

1. New LG Group member governance arrangements came into effect on 1 September 2010, as part of the Getting Closer programme. The new arrangements:
 - 1.1. established an LG Group Executive with a broader membership and a remit that covered the whole Group.
 - 1.2. brought together all policy, improvement, workforce and regulatory work within the role of the newly constituted Programme Boards.
2. The Executive agreed to carry out a review of the new arrangements once they had been in operation for 12 months. A summary of the current governance arrangements is attached at **Appendix A**.

Feedback and comments received

3. In July 2011 the LG Group Executive committed to further discussions to strengthen partnerships between the LG Group and the sub-national partnerships. In addition the following comments have been received in relation to the existing arrangements:

3.1. LG Group Executive/LGA Leadership Board

There is currently confusion between the respective roles of the LGA Leadership Board and the LG Group Executive, particularly since the integration of the wider Group. The role and remit of the two bodies needs to be sharpened.

3.2. Role of the Programme Boards

There needs to be greater clarity about the respective roles of the Programme Boards and the LG Group Executive - in particular about the roles of the Workforce Programme Board, the LG Group Executive and the national negotiating bodies.

3.3. Councillors' Forum

There is no clear rationale for restricting attendance at meetings of the Councillors' Forum to a designated number of members. Meetings, which regularly attract senior Government representatives and other high profile speakers, could be opened up to any interested member to attend.

3.4. Resources Panel/wider finance policy

The Resources Panel is responsible for LG Group resources, with responsibility for finance policy resting with the Group Executive. We need to ensure that a Group of members have specific responsibility for finance policy. This could be done for example by expanding the brief of the Resources Panel, or by creating a finance sub-group of the LG Group Executive.

3.5. Fire Services Management Committee

We have received a proposal from the Combined Fire Authorities that the chair of the Fire Services Management Committee should in future be elected by the Fire Forum, which comprises all fire and rescue authorities, rather than be appointed through the usual political process.

3.6. LACORS/LGR company board

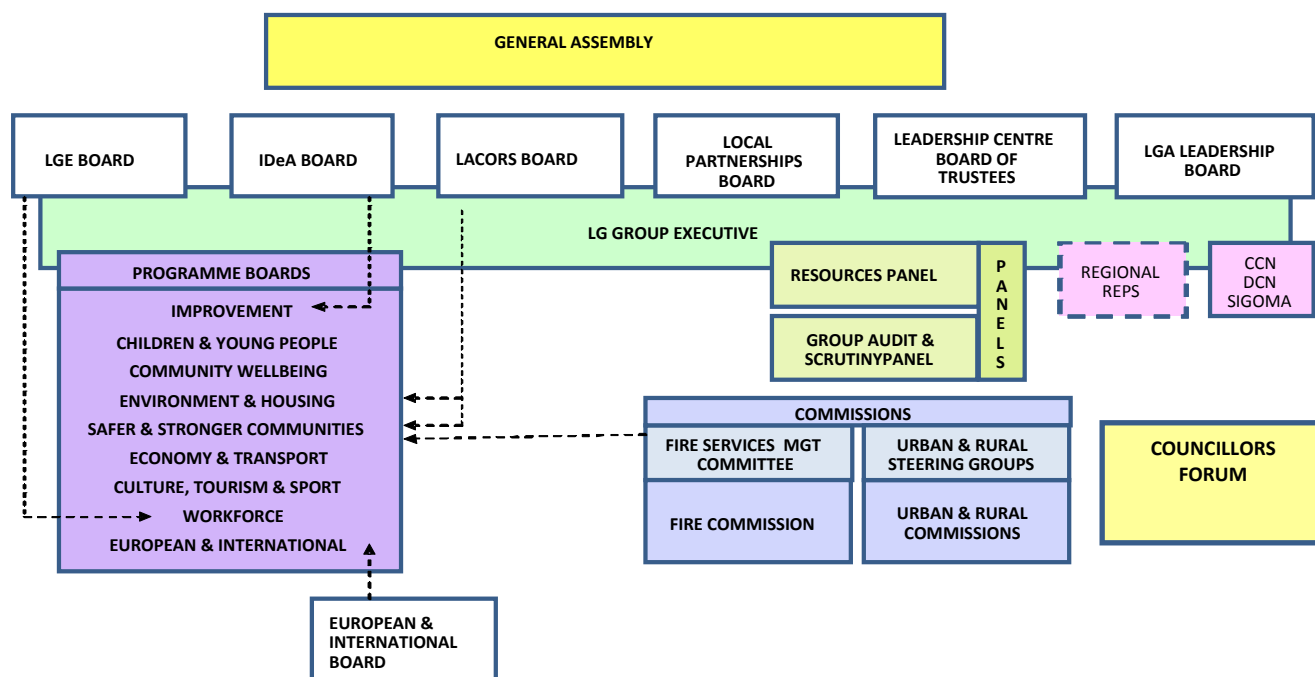
Much of the policy and improvement work of the company boards has now passed to the relevant Programme Board. In recognition of this, the chairman of the Improvement Programme Board also chairs the LGID company board, the chair of the Workforce Programme Board chairs the LGE company board and the chair of the European & International Programme Board chairs the LGIB company board.

In future the chairman of the Safer and Stronger Communities Programme Board could also chair the LACORS board.

Next steps

4. Members are invited to consider each of the existing Governance Structures set out in **Appendix A** and to make recommendations for change where appropriate.

Appendix A - Current governance arrangements



LG Group Executive (meets monthly on a Thursday)

Provides strategic direction to the work of the LG Group, taking advice from the LGA Leadership Board and company boards, and representing the views of local government. It is responsible for:

1. Ensuring that the LG Group is focused on councils and councillors.
2. Setting the strategic direction and priorities through the LG Group Business Plan, and ensuring overall delivery.
3. Ensuring activity across the LG Group is coordinated and integrated.
4. Determining LG Group policy for cross-cutting policy issues such as finance and efficiency and local democracy, after consultation with member authorities.
5. Holding the Programme Boards to account.
6. Maintaining strong links with the wider membership to ensure priorities are based on the views of all member councils.

The Executive can allocate responsibility to one or more of its members for particular areas within its remit, and/or establish member task groups. It can invite the chairs of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to attend to present their Annual Report.

The Executive is chaired by the chairman of the LGA. It is politically proportionate and has approximately 35 voting and non-voting members.

Voting

- Office Holders of the Association
- Chairs of the programme boards/company boards
- Representative of the Welsh LGA
- One representative of each of the sub-national groupings
- Additional members to balance political

Non-voting

- Chair of the Resources Panel
- Representatives of the County Council's Network (CCN), District Councils Network (DCN) and Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)
- Chairs of LG Leadership and Local Partnerships

LGA Leadership Board (meets monthly on a Wednesday)

Directs the Association's activities and business, on behalf of its membership, in accordance with the strategic priorities and direction set by the LG Group Executive and reports and makes recommendations to the Group Executive on the LGA's activities. It is politically proportional and has 11 members. It is chaired by the chairman of the LGA and is made up of the vice and deputy chairs.

The LGA Leadership Board is responsible for:

1. Managing and maintaining relationships with member authorities.
2. Being the national voice of local government, by providing the principal spokespersons for the LGA.
3. Setting the Association's annual budget and subscriptions.
4. Monitoring the Association's Income and Expenditure against the budget.
5. Developing and delivering the LGA business plan.
6. Managing and maintaining external relationships, with other representative bodies in local government, with Whitehall, Government, the legislature and partners.
7. Representational activity on behalf of the LGA.
8. Agreeing the format of the LGA General Assembly Annual Meeting, in line with the Constitution.
9. Agreeing the programme and format of the LG Group Annual Conference on behalf of the LG Group.
10. Agreeing the LGA approach to the annual political balance.

The LGA Leadership Board may allocate responsibility to one or more of its members for particular areas within the remit of the LGA Leadership Board.

Councillors' Forum (meets monthly on a Thursday)

The Councillors' Forum receives internal and external briefings and presentations,

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and discusses key issues impacting on local government. It holds the LG Group to account by:

- Considering the monthly Chairman's and Chief Executive's reports
- Receiving reports from the LG Group Programme Boards, providing views and challenge

Programme Boards (meet 4-6 times a year)

Engage with and develop a thorough understanding of councils' priorities in relation to their particular programme area. They help shape the LG Group business plan and develop a programme of work to deliver the strategic priorities set by the LG Group Executive.

Each Programme Board has 14 members and its own terms of reference. Alongside formal meetings Boards may hold events around the country ranging from small discussions to major residential conferences. The Programme Boards are:-

- Children & Young People Programme Board
- Environment & Housing Programme Board
- Economy & Transport Programme Board
- Safer & Stronger Communities Programme Board
- Community Wellbeing Programme Board
- Culture, Tourism & Sport Programme Board
- Workforce Programme Board/Employers Organisation (LGE) Board
- European & International Programme Board/LGIB Board
- Improvement Programme Board/ IDeA Board

Panels (meet 4-6 times a year)

The two Panels, each made up of nine members, oversee and report to the LG Group Executive and the relevant company boards on the internal operation of the LG Group.

- Resources (responsible for the management of LG resources and for policies on resource management across the LG Group)
- Audit & Scrutiny (responsible for monitoring financial reporting, audit, risk, delivery of business plan and use of resources)

The chair of the Resources Panel is a non-voting member of the Executive

Commissions

Provide a forum for member authorities to discuss matters of common interest and concern, to exchange good practice and to influence the priorities and activities of the

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LG Group. Each Commission is led by a steering committee and reports annually to the LG Group Executive. The Commissions are

- Urban (Urban Commission Steering Group)
- Rural (Rural Policy Review Group)
- Fire (Fire Services Management Committee)

**Company Boards of the IDeA, LGE, LACORS & Local Partnerships;
Board of Trustees of Leadership Centre**

Direct the activities and business of the central bodies, and ensure their proper management in accordance with their Memoranda and Articles of Association and with the strategic priorities and direction set by the LG Group Executive.

- the board of the IDeA is chaired by the Chair of the Improvement Programme Board and councillors appointed to it sit on the Improvement Programme Board,
- the Board of LGE is chaired by the chair of the Workforce Programme Board and councillors appointed to it sit on the Workforce Programme Board
- the chair of the LACORS board is currently a separate appointment by the Groups, but members appointed to it sit on the Environment or Safer & Stronger Communities Programme Boards.
- The chairs of Local Partnerships and the Leadership Centre are not appointed by the LGA and sits outside our proportionality arrangements

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are not part of the formal governance arrangements of the Group but have an important role in setting priorities. Any **ten** or more councils in full membership of the LGA, with common features, interests or concerns can apply to become a SIG. There are currently 19 SIGs.

SIGs can make representations direct to Government and elsewhere on matters arising directly from their special interest, and may receive LG Group assistance in doing so. Representations should not conflict with or undermine LGA policy as a whole or damage the interests of other member authorities

SIGs are required to submit a full report at the end of April each year to the LGA Leadership Board and may be invited to report in person to the LG Group Executive, LGA Leadership Board or relevant Programme Board.

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LG Group Executive
Date and time:	Thursday 14 July 2011
Venue:	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

Attendance

An attendance list is **attached** as an Appendix A to this note.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p>Part 1</p> <p>Chairman's Introduction</p> <p>Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman, welcomed the LG Group Executive and, in particular, new members – Councillor Marianne Overton, Vice-Chairman and Leader of the Independent Group (Lincolnshire CC), Cllr Andrew Lewer, Deputy Chairman, (Derbyshire CC), Cllr Peter Martin, East of England LGA (Essex County Council) and Cllr Neil Clarke, District Councils Network (Rushcliffe District Council).</p> <p>The Chairman said that he was looking forward to working with the Executive during what he considered to be an exciting time to be in local government. It was an opportunity for the LG Group to lead the sector and play a fundamental part in changing the way the country is governed.</p> <p>The Chairman informed members that it was Cllr Richard Kemp's last meeting as he would shortly stand down as and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson had been returned unopposed and would assume his new role as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and Vice Chair of the Association from 1 September 2011. Members put on record their thanks to Cllr Kemp for his long service to the Local Government Group and wished him well for the future.</p> <p>The Chairman announced an amendment to the agenda. The item 5 report entitled 'Workforce Policy and Strategy' had been included in error and the correct report had been circulated separately. As this item was confidential, Item 5 was moved to be considered at the end of the meeting.</p>	

2 Item 2 - Report from Sparse-Rural Interest Group

Cllr Roger Begy, Chair of the Sparse-Rural Special Interest Group, introduced this report which outlined the work of the SIG and its priorities for 2011 and beyond.

In discussion Members made a number of comments:

- Members stressed that in light of the demise of the Commission for Rural Communities it was essential that the Sparse-Rural Interest Group continued to raise issues for rural communities with government, and continued to engage with its membership in order to do this.
- Members endorsed the initiatives, set out on page 9, which the SIG are seeking to introduce in light of the demise of the Commission for Rural Communities and the Regional Development Agencies.
- Members recommended that the SIG use the system of area rural forums to engage further with Welsh authorities.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Roger Begy and Graham Biggs for attending the meeting.

3 Item 3 - Independent Remuneration Panel Review of Members' Allowances – final report

John Ransford introduced this report, written by Lord Best as chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which set out the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel, which reconvened in June 2011 to review the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

Decision

Members:

1. ***noted*** this report, and
2. ***agreed*** that the LGA Leadership Board would meet with Lord Best to discuss the report in detail before returning to the LG Group Executive with final proposals for agreement.

Action

- The LGA Leadership Board to meet Lord Best to discuss the recommendations and conclusions in the report prior to consideration by the Executive

**Claire
Holloway**

4 Update on the Localism Bill

Jo Miller introduced this report which updates members on LG Group work to influence the provisions of the Localism Bill currently going through the House of Lords. The Government has offered three significant concessions in response to LG Group lobbying, but Jo highlighted to Members the likelihood that the Government would not delete their policy on EU fines.

Members discussed LG Group compromise options and amendments on EU Fines, which would see the clauses remain but in an amended form. The clauses would be underpinned by a statement of policy, to offer safeguards to indicate how and when the clauses should be used. Members stressed that decisions regarding EU Fines should be arrived at with the assistance of a panel which would offer an impartial view to the Minister, whose decision would then be subject to judicial review.

Decision

*Members **agreed** that the LG Group should pursue discussions with Government, particularly regarding EU Fines, as directed by their discussion.*

Action

Jo Miller

Officers to pursue discussions which build on this debate

5 Item 6 – Collaborative Working between the Local Government Group and Sub-National Local Government Partnerships

Cllr Martin Hill OBE introduced this report which provides context and proposals for further strengthening the collaborative partnership between the Local Government Group and sub-national partnerships of Local Government.

Members made a number of comments which were noted by officers:

- Members commented that this report was extremely timely, particularly with the demise of Regional Development Agencies which had previously provided an appropriate infrastructure for regional groupings.

- Members emphasised that different arrangements work well in different regions and that the LG Group should not try to adopt a rigid structure for strengthening links.
- Members emphasised the important role of political group offices for strengthening relationships sub-regionally.
- Regional representatives commented that they felt that there was significant value in their roles on the LG Group Executive, but that further work could be done to maximise their impact to the benefit of both the LG Group and their sub-national organisations.

Decision

*Members **endorsed** the basis for national and sub-national partnership working and the potential to strengthen collaborative arrangements.*

6 Item 7 –Note of last LGA Leadership Board meeting

Members **noted** the minute of the LGA Leadership Board held on 13 July.

7. Item 8 – Note of the last LG Group Executive meeting

Members **agreed** the note of the last LG Group Executive meeting.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 15 September, 2.15pm

Appendix A

Attendance List

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Sir Merrick Cockell	RB Kensington and Chelsea
Vice chair	David Sparks OBE	Dudley MBC
Vice chair	Gary Porter	South Holland DC
Vice chair	Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City
Vice chair	Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire CC
Deputy chair	Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Portsmouth City
Deputy chair	Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Deputy chair	Robert Gordon DL	Hertfordshire CC
Deputy chair	Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Deputy chair	Sharon Taylor	Stevenage BC
Deputy chair	Steve Reed	Lambeth LB
Members	Baroness Ritchie	Kensington & Chelsea RB
	Paul Carter	Kent CC
	Angus Campbell	Dorset CC
	Philip Atkins	Staffordshire CC
	Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire CC
	Keith Mitchell CBE	Oxfordshire CC
	Mehboob Khan	Kirklees MBC
	David Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire CC
	David Rogers OBE	East Sussex CC
	Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London
	Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney LB
	David Parsons CBE	Leicestershire CC
	Chris White	Hertfordshire CC
	Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest BC
	Neil Clarke	Rushcliffe DC
	Peter Martin	Essex CC
	Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Council
	Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Substitutes	Ann Lucas	Coventry City
	Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County BC

	Sue Murphy	Manchester City
Apologies	John Davies	Pembrokeshire BC
	Lord Peter Smith	Wigan MBC
	Roger Stone OBE	Rotherham MBC
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham LB
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City
	Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC

LG Group Executive meeting dates 2011/12

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The dates for the LG Group Executive meetings for 2011/12 are attached as **Appendix A**.

Recommendation(s)

That the LG Group Executive note the dates for 2011-2012.

Action

No further action necessary.

Contact officer: Lucy Ellender
Position: Programme Officer, Member Services
Phone no: 020 7664 3173
E-mail: lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk

LG Group Executive meeting dates 2011/12

DAY (2011)	DATE	TIME	Structure	Venue
Friday	2 September 2011	10.00am	Member Briefing (Induction) event	
Thursday	15 September 2011	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
Thursday	13 October 2011	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
Thursday	10 November 2011	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
Thursday	8 December 2011	2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
		NO COUNCILLORS' FORUM MEETING IN DECEMBER		
2012				
Thursday	12 January 2012	11.00 – 12.50	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
Thursday	9 February 2012	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite

Item 8

Appendix A

		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
Thursday	15 March 2012	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
NO APRIL MEETINGS				
Thursday	17 May 2012	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
Thursday	14 June 2012	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite
Thursday	12 July 2012	11.00 – 12.30	Political Groups	See below
		12.30 – 1.30	Councillors Forum	Westminster Suite
		1.30 – 2.00	Lunch	Terrace Lounge
		2.15 – 4.15	LG Group Executive	Westminster Suite

Contact officer:

Lucy Ellender

Position:

Programme Officer, Member Services

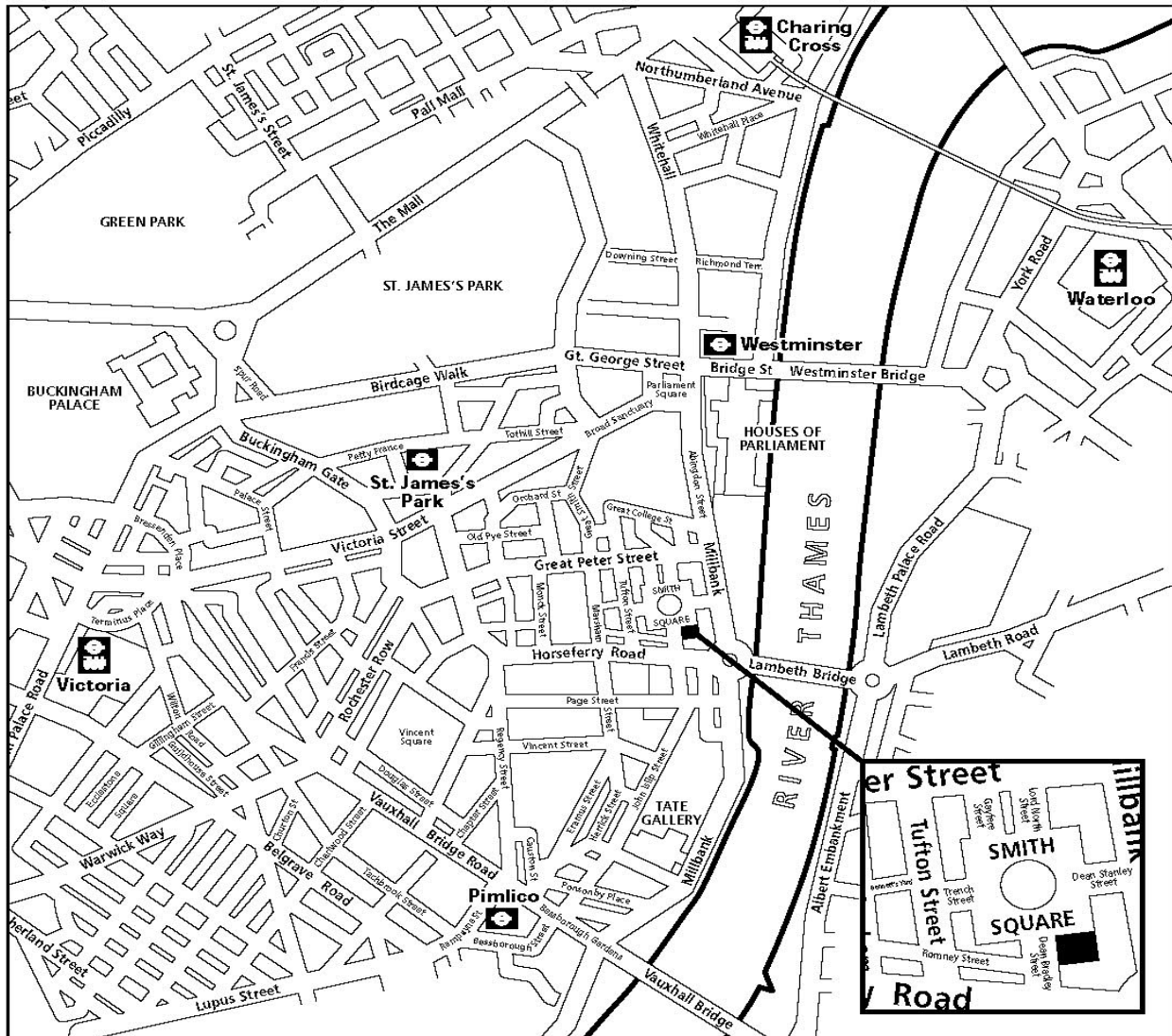
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LG Group Location Map



Local Government Group

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

Public transport

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

Bus routes - Millbank

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

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
C10 Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - Victoria
88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster-
Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling Facilities

Cycle racks are available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone. For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car Parks

Abingdon Street Car Park

Great College Street

Horseferry Road Car Park

Horseferry Road/Arneway Street