

# People & Places Board

## Agenda

Thursday, 12 March 2015  
11.00 am

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local  
Government House, Smith Square, London,  
SW1P 3HZ

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People & Places Board  
12 March 2015

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There will be a meeting of the People & Places Board at **11.00 am on Thursday, 12 March 2015** in the Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, 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.

**Political Group meetings:**

The group meetings will take place from 10.00 -11.00am. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

**Apologies:**

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

<b>Labour:</b>	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk">aicha.less@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Conservative:</b>	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: <a href="mailto:luke.taylor@local.gov.uk">luke.taylor@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk">Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

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

**LGA Contact:**

[david.symonds@local.gov.uk](mailto:david.symonds@local.gov.uk)  
020 7664 3107

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The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgappb

## People & Places Board – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
<b>Labour ( 5)</b>	
Cllr Anne Western (Vice-Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Jennifer Mein	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Eion Watts OBE	Bolsover District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
<b>Conservative ( 12)</b>	
Cllr David Hodge (Chair)	Surrey County Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
Cllr Andrew Bowles	Swale Borough Council
Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE (Vice-Chair)	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Paul Diviani	East Devon District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Christopher Knowles-Fitton	Craven District Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Cecilia Motley	Shropshire Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 3)</b>	
Cllr Heather Kidd (Deputy Chair)	Shropshire Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Simon Galton	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr David Bill MBE	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr John Cordwell	Gloucestershire County Council
<b>Independent ( 3)</b>	
Cllr John Pollard (Deputy Chair)	Cornwall Council
Cllr Diane James	Waverley Borough Council
Cllr Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council

## LGA People and Places Board Attendance 2014-2015

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>16.10.14</b>	<b>15.01.15</b>		
<b>Labour Group</b>				
Anne Western	Yes	Yes		
Vince Maple	Yes	Yes		
Jenny Mein	Yes	Yes		
Alan Rhodes	Yes	Yes		
Eion Watts	No	Yes		
<b>Conservative Group</b>				
David Hodge	Yes	Yes		
Philip Atkins	Yes	Yes		
Roger Begy OBE	Yes	Yes		
Andrew Bowles	Yes	No		
Gillian Brown	Yes	Yes		
Paul Carter CBE	Yes	Yes		
Neil Clarke MBE	Yes	Yes		
Paul Diviani	Yes	Yes		
Mark Hawthorne MBE	No	Yes		
Michael Jones	No	Yes		
Chris Knowles-Fitton	Yes	Yes		
Ken Meeson	Yes	Yes		
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>				
Heather Kidd	Yes	Yes		
Stan Collins	No	Yes		
Simon Galton	Yes	Yes		
<b>Independent</b>				
John Pollard	Yes	No		
Diane James MEP	Yes	No		
Angela Lawrence	Yes	Yes		
<b>Substitutes</b>				
Colin Lloyd	Yes	Yes		
Leigh Redman	Yes	Yes		
John Cordwell	Yes			
Roy Perry		Yes		

## Agenda

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### People & Places Board

Thursday 12 March 2015

11.00 am

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Item		Time
1.	<b>Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest</b>	11:00
2.	<b>Non-Metropolitan Commission: Final report</b>	1 - 4 11:05
3.	<b>Final report of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance</b>	5 - 14 11:30
4.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	15 - 20 11:55

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 12 March 2015, 11.00 am, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



## **Non-Metropolitan Commission: Final Report**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The Non-Metropolitan Commission, chaired by Sir John Peace, launched its final report on 5 March 2015. It made seven specific recommendations for reform around prosperity, infrastructure and governance that a new Government can take and implement early in its term.

This report was considered at the LGA Executive on 5 March 2015.

### **Recommendation**

Members of the People & Places Board are asked to consider the findings of the report and the Chairman's feedback from the LGA Executive.

### **Action**

Officers take note of Members' comments in taking forward the recommendations.

**Contact officer:** John Wright  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3146  
**Email:** [john.wright@local.gov.uk](mailto:john.wright@local.gov.uk)

## **Non-Metropolitan Commission: Final Report**

### **Background**

1. The non-metropolitan commission was established early last year and asked to seek ways to stimulate economic growth regionally, create new jobs and help people live their lives better. It published an interim report in November and the final report, *Devolution to Non-Metropolitan England: Seven steps to growth and prosperity*, on 5 March. The report was presented to the Executive later that day.

### **The Commissioners**

2. The Commission was chaired by Sir John Peace, the Chairman of Standard Chartered Bank and the Burberry Group and also the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire. He was joined on the Commission by:
  - 2.1. Penelope, Viscountess Cobham CBE, the Chairman of Visit England.
  - 2.2. Stephen Gifford, an independent economic advisor and Head of Economic Regulation at the Civil Aviation Authority.
  - 2.3. Sir Tony Hawkhead, Chief Executive of Action for Children.
  - 2.4. Professor Henry Overman, Professor of Economic Geography at the London School of Economics and Director of the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth.
  - 2.5. Jane Ramsey, Chair of the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
  - 2.6. Lord Teverson, Liberal Democrat spokesman for energy and climate change and Chair of the Rural Coalition.
  - 2.7. Grania Long, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, was an active participant in the work of the Commission until an appointment as Chief Executive of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in the autumn meant that she was unable to continue

### **The remit of the Non-Metropolitan Commission**

3. The Commission specifically undertook to:
  - 3.1. Review the economic, social and demographic trends facing non-metropolitan areas.
  - 3.2. Assess their strengths and challenges, and identify in particular where their most powerful potential for future economic prosperity lies.
  - 3.3. Review steps taken so far by businesses and the public sector to meet those challenges and promote growth.



- 3.4. Make recommendations about the most effective further steps which business and the public sector could take to promote growth, jobs, and improvements in people's lives.

### **The Final Report**

4. Building on the interim report, the final report makes seven clear recommendations around prosperity (skills and foreign direct investment); infrastructure (planning and transport, housing, digital connectivity and investment in infrastructure); and governance and is based on evidence received from nearly 60 organisations, including councils, representative bodies, businesses and LEPs.
5. These seven specific recommendations for reform aim to shape the way economic growth and public service transformation are supported in the future. The report points out that the non-metropolitan areas are the most economically productive regions of the national economy, driving growth, foreign direct investment, competitiveness and employment. In drawing its conclusions, the Commission has been clear that it only wanted to make recommendations that a new government can take and implement early in its term in order to give the country a further boost along the road to economic recovery.
6. A copy of the report can be accessed via the following link:  
<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/6869714/Devolution+to+Non-Metropolitan+England+-+Seven+steps+to+growth+and+prosperity.pdf/d2154c5b-230d-4680-905f-6c06b49e268c>

### **What next?**

7. This is the third of three reports, and follows those delivering the findings of the RSA's City Growth and Finance Commissions. At the January Executive members agreed that officers, in developing a vision of local governance and accountability in 2020, would bring together the conclusions from the three reports and define the principles (rather than prescriptive models) that underpin models of local accountability and governance. This work is currently being developed.

### **Next steps**

8. Members are asked to:
  - 8.1. Consider the findings of the report and the Chairman's feedback from discussions in the Executive

### **Financial Implications**

9. None.



## **Final report of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The Independent Commission on Local Government Finance published its final report, *Financing English Devolution*, on 18 February 2015. This report provides a summary of the Commission's conclusions and recommendations.

This report was considered at the LGA Executive on 5 March 2015.

### **Recommendations**

Members of the People & Places Board are asked to consider:

1. The recommendations of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance in the context of the Executive's broader work on devolution in England; and
2. How the Local Government Association can promote the Commission's recommendations with member authorities, MPs, civil servants and other stakeholders, as it seeks to influence the policies of the next government.

### **Action**

Officers will take action as directed.

**Contact officer:**

Eamon Lally/Stephen Hughes

**Position:**

Senior Adviser/Executive Director

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## **Final report of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance**

### **Background**

1. The Independent Commission on Local Government Finance was established by the Local Government Association and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in May 2014.
2. The Commission's terms of reference were to:
  - 2.1. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the local government finance system.
  - 2.2. Bring forward practical options for reform in the next Parliament.
  - 2.3. Develop and test those proposals against the key challenges facing the country: growth; housing supply; effective welfare provision; affordable health and social care; and early support to families and children.
3. The Commission has been Chaired by Darra Singh OBE, Partner at Ernst and Young. Other members of the Commission are: Alan Downey; Anita Charlesworth; Bridget Rosewell OBE; Jonathan Portes; Paul Gray CB; Stephen Hughes; Stephen Lewis and Professor Tony Travers.
4. The Commission's interim report, *Public money, local choice*, was published on 30 October 2014. The interim report set out: what the Commission had been told; the Commission's vision for the local government finance system; emerging conclusions; and areas that it was keen to explore further.
5. The LGA Executive received a presentation from Darra Singh on 22 January 2015 in which he set out the key areas on which the Commission would make recommendations.
6. The final report of the Commission, *Financing English Devolution*, was published on 18 February 2015 can be found at the following link: [http://www.cipfa.org/-/media/iclgf/documents/iclgf\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.cipfa.org/-/media/iclgf/documents/iclgf_final_report.pdf).

The LGA's initial response to the report is shown at **Appendix A**.

### **The Commission's proposals**

7. The Commission has set out plans for a 10 year programme of devolution that would see more than £200 billion in annual public expenditure being controlled by groupings of local authorities. The proposals balance the desire for incentives for growth with the continuing need for equalisation within the finance system. Its proposals would see a significant transfer of responsibilities for equalisation to sub-national groups of local authorities.
8. The Commission notes that the problems with the local government finance system have been long standing, but that two developments have given reform a new urgency. Faced with the long-term reductions in local government funding, councils and their partners

could be far more efficient, effective and creative in their use of the totality of public money, if they had the freedom. In addition, the debate over more powers for Scotland and the near universal acceptance that decisions are best taken as close to the citizen as possible, have created a rare opportunity to secure devolution within England.

9. The Commission's vision is for a finance system that:
  - 9.1. Promotes self-reliance and self-sufficiency.
  - 9.2. Encourages entrepreneurialism and innovation.
  - 9.3. Promotes local decision-making on service delivery.
  - 9.4. Is transparent in how it works and in the division of responsibilities between central and local government.
  - 9.5. Maintains support for the most vulnerable.
10. In setting out its longer-term vision and programme of reforms the Commission has also been conscious of the concerns about the sustainability of local government and has called for a review of functions and sustainability in advance of the next spending review. The commission calls for the establishment of an independent funding body to carry out the review of sustainability and to have a permanent role in advising central government on funding matters for local authorities and reporting to Parliament on the reasonableness of central government's funding decisions.
11. The Commission recognises that some groupings of authorities are already well placed to take on greater devolution of powers, funding and ultimately taxes, but that others will require a longer period of time to be ready for these reforms. A variable speed approach to reform is set out by the Commission. It makes two broad sets of proposals for change to the local government finance system. The first will apply to all local authorities and the second set of additional changes will support those authorities which are termed 'Pioneers' that are able to and wish to reform at a faster pace.
12. Reforms for all include:
  - 12.1. An independent body to: review the functions and sustainability of local government assessing the capacity of the sector to meet its key responsibilities including those on adult social care in advance of the next spending review; and advise central government on funding for local government — reporting to Parliament on the reasonableness of central government's decisions.
  - 12.2. Freedom to set council tax and council tax discounts and the retention of 100 per cent of business rates and business rate growth.
  - 12.3. Multi-year settlements.
  - 12.4. The ability to raise additional revenue through relaxation of the rules on fees and charges.

13. Reforms for Pioneers include:

- 13.1. Single place-based budgets covering a full range of public services beginning with Employment and Skills, and progressing perhaps through Health, welfare and ultimately assigned taxes and fiscal devolution.
  - 13.2. The opportunity to manage equalisation across a sub-national area.
  - 13.3. Further council tax reforms including the ability to vary council tax bands and to undertake council tax revaluations.
  - 13.4. New local taxes such as tourist taxes, and newly assigned taxes such as stamp duty and airport taxes.
  - 13.5. The establishment of Local Public Accounts Committees to oversee value for money across the totality of the place-based budget.
14. The LGA has previously supported both the ability to introduce new local taxes such as a tourism tax, in its 2014 Autumn Statement submission and elsewhere, and the hypothecation of existing taxes, in the *First 100 Days* and elsewhere.
15. The LGA is supportive of a variable speed approach on issues such as devolution but where all options are available to all local authorities to choose from. The LGA generally supports “pilot” projects only insofar as they will inevitably lead to an eventual roll-out to all local authorities, or all authorities that want it. The commission report sees all authorities having the opportunity of following pioneers over a 10 year period. The Chairman of the LGA, in his response to the findings of the Commission, pointed to the importance that the pioneer areas represent a broad spectrum of authorities.

**The Commission’s recommendations**

16. The Commission’s full list of recommendations is below. The text in italics after each recommendation shows the LGA’s current position.
- 16.1. That an independent review of the functions and sustainability of local government be undertaken in advance of the next government’s first spending review, to assess whether local authorities are appropriately funded to meet their statutory duties and to certify that all places are sufficiently funded.  
  
*The LGA has pointed to the disparity of funding levels in different areas, and the resulting risk to sustainability. It has also called for greater devolution of functions and the required funding to councils (in “100 Days” and elsewhere). Although the LGA has not to date called for an independent review of functions and sustainability, ensuring that councils are adequately funded to meet their statutory duties is line with existing LGA policy.*
  - 16.2. The establishment of an independent body to advise government on the funding needs of local government and on the allocation of funding to local authorities and sub-national areas.  
*“100 Days” calls for an independent body to distribute funding to local authorities, rather than sub-national areas, while the Commission’s recommendation is that the body advise government on distribution.*

- 16.3. That the incoming government ends the policy of setting referendum limits on council tax and leaves the decision to local politicians.

*This is existing LGA policy which is reflected in a number of LGA publications including "100 Days".*

- 16.4. That the incoming government should devolve council tax discount setting and the power to determine who receives council tax support to local authorities.

*This is existing LGA policy which is reflected in a number of LGA publications including "100 Days".*

- 16.5. That 100 per cent of business rates and business rate growth should be retained by local government.

*This is existing LGA policy which is reflected in a number of LGA publications including "100 Days".*

- 16.6. That the incoming government consults on the detail of the business rates retention reset as a matter of urgency, exploring options for a partial reset. The Commission also recommends that the independent funding body should advise government on the reset and report on the reasonableness of the government's decisions.

*The LGA has not to date taken a position on how the business rates reset should be executed. How any reset is implemented, whether full or partial, will have a distributional effect on councils but asking for the government to engage with the sector, and allow enough time to ensure that the review is comprehensive would be in line with existing LGA policies.*

- 16.7. The review of business rate administration that has been announced by this government must look at the appeals process and propose ways to reduce the time it takes to resolve an appeal, as well as proposing options for reducing the time from valuation in which an appeal can be launched. This needs to be done in advance of the 2017 valuations.

*This is existing LGA policy which is reflected in a number of LGA publications including "100 Days" and "Business Rates: the Story so Far" (January 2014) which calls for a streamlined appeals process.*

- 16.8. That as part of the review of business rates, the government should consult on options for the localisation of business rate relief.

*This is existing LGA policy which is reflected in a number of LGA publications including "100 Days".*

- 16.9. That the incoming government commits to full and clear multi-year settlements to enable effective long-term planning for local authorities and other public sector services.

*This is existing LGA policy which is reflected in a number of LGA publications including "100 Days".*

- 16.10. One of the key roles for the proposed independent review of the sustainability of local government will be to assess the required level of social care funding and to advise government on the amount of money that will be required to fund social care appropriately in the next spending round.

*The LGA has highlighted the inadequacy of social care funding through the Future Funding Outlook and other work. Although the LGA has not to date called for an independent review of this ensuring that councils are adequately funded to meet their statutory duties is line with existing LGA policy.*

- 16.11. The Commission supports councils having the freedom to determine fees and charges locally.

*This is existing LGA policy which is reflected in a number of LGA publications including "100 Days".*

- 16.12. That the incoming government commits to the introduction of place-based budgets for sub-national areas that are willing and able to take on this reform.

*The LGA supports the four community budget pilot areas, and its 2015 Budget submission asks that the government "make place-based finance the default method of service funding and delivery."*

- 16.13. That sub-national Pioneer areas should be given the power to determine the number and value of council tax bands and when properties are revalued.

*Current LGA policy on council tax makes no reference to a variable speed approach but supports this proposal for all councils.*

- 16.14. That the incoming government should work with local government to agree a timetable for fiscal devolution, adopting the Smith Commission's principles as a basis for reform.

*The LGA's 2015 Budget submission asks that the government "engage in true, meaningful devolution of decision-making powers and funding to the local level."*

- 16.15. That Local Public Accounts Committees should be established in Pioneer sub-national areas to scrutinise value for money for all public services.

*The LGA has not taken a public position on this but the issue of local accountability will be considered in forthcoming reports to the LGA's City Regions Board and People and Places Board.*

- 16.16. That the government should develop additional freedoms for Pioneer areas in support of national policy objectives such as economic growth and increasing the housing supply. These could include enabling Pioneers:



- 16.16.1. To develop new approaches to health and social care integration

*Current LGA policy is to support this proposal for all councils.*

- 16.16.2. To collaborate with Local Enterprise Partnerships in being entirely responsible for further and adult education, skills and apprenticeships, regeneration and employment support

*Current LGA policy is to support this proposal for all councils.*

- 16.16.3. Ultimately to take on responsibility for some welfare to working age adults and some fiscal devolution.

*The LGA has, in its review of the 2014 Universal Credit pilots, pointed to the vital role for councils in establishing, leading and commissioning partnerships to deliver support for claimants.*

### **Next steps**

17. The People & Places Board is asked to consider:

- 17.1. the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Local government Finance in the context of the Executive's broader work on devolution in England; and
- 17.2. how the Local Government Association can promote the Commission's recommendations as it seeks to influence the policies of the next government.



## **Appendix A**

### **LGA Press Release responding to the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance's final report**

Responding to the independent Commission on Local Government Finance's final report 'Financing English Devolution', LGA Chair Cllr David Sparks said:

"This report from the independent commission raises issues which will have a bearing on everyone in this country, now and for generations to come.

"With rising demand, more complex needs and less money to go round, the time for merely talking about changing the way we do things is fast running out.

"The services councils provide will not be able to withstand another five years of cuts without radical reform, and it will be people who rely on good roads, public facilities and care who pay the price.

"It will be vital that this and the next government take heed of the Commission's recommendations. The Commission's call for a variable pace of reform is an entirely sensible one. As this report makes clear, it will be important that pioneer areas which first take on new freedoms represent a broad range of types of local authority across all parts of the country.

"For many areas it's now devolution or bust."

#### **Notes to editors**

1. The Independent Commission on Local Government Finance publishes its final report 'Financing English Devolution' today (Wednesday). The report and press release can be found on the [commission's website](#).
2. The commission was set up in June 2014 and was tasked with making recommendations for the reform of local government finance and finding better ways to fund local services and promote economic growth in England. It was established by the LGA, the national voice of local government, and the Chartered Institute for Public Finance (CIPFA), the professional body for public finance professionals. Its views and recommendations are independent of those two organisations.



## Note of last People & Places Board meeting

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**Title:** People & Places Board  
**Date:** Thursday 15 January 2015  
**Venue:** Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest</b>  The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and also members of the RAND and Peer Review Teams. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Bowles, Andrew Rhodes, Diane James and John Pollard.  There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Peace Commission: Discussion of Interim report</b>  The Board discussed the Interim report for the “Peace Commission” and welcomed Lord Teverson to the meeting in his capacity as one of the Commissioners. He briefly introduced the report before the discussion.  Lord Teverson, in introducing the report, stated that the Commission considered that something needed to be done about English devolution, particularly in light of the recent Scottish referendum and that fundamental change was needed in England without being bogged down in structures.  Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councils would be keen to undertake greater powers on economic development and skills. Non-metropolitan areas needed to be empowered.</li><li>• Local authorities have done a great deal of valuable work in public service integration and multi-agency working. This was particularly the case in areas such as LEP, social care and health.</li><li>• Democratically elected authorities should ‘hold the ring’ and a rebalancing of powers between central and local government was needed. There should not be an emphasis on structures and governance alone.</li><li>• Local authorities cannot raise monies as they see fit and a financial model needed to be acceptable and accountable to local</li></ul>	

electorates. What were the areas that we would like to see devolved from central government?

- There was potential for devolving to non-metropolitan areas, e.g. LEP boundaries should be redefined. The LGA should have been consulted on this.
- Local Government needed to offer central government ways to demonstrate clearly how it had been cost-effective and had borne cuts of 40% but increased efficiency. Local Government had been successful in making savings and can demonstrate to central government that it could be trusted to undertake more devolved tasks.

Thanks were accorded to Lord Teverson for attending to the meeting and representing the Commission.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the interim report and submitted their views to Lord Teverson as one of the Commissioners.

### **Action**

Any further comments should be sent to John Wright via e-mail in the next seven days, for the Peace Commission to consider.

## **3 The Future Governance of England- Confidential**

## **4 People and Places Programme- Update**

Lead Members have worked with officers to develop the agreed work programme priorities.

The Chairman invited Lead Members to present briefly on progress before opening to Board discussion.

### **a) Public Service Transformation**

This paper mainly updated Members on progress with the “One Place One Budget” research project to refresh the evidence and develop a model for public service transformation across the local public sector in non-metropolitan and city areas. It also briefly updated Members on the Independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel report, which was published in November 2014.

Dr Jeremy Lonsdale, Senior Research Leader at RAND Europe attended the Board and updated Members on progress. Leaders of Surrey and Derbyshire County Councils shared their emerging transformation case studies at the Board meeting.

Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed:

- A continuing focus needs to be made in ensuring outcomes for residents, e.g. reducing violence and children in care. What are the benefits for them?
- Dealing with cultural changes and ensuring different agencies were able to collaborate at all levels and new ways of working/redesigning working methods.
- This publication will be taken forward in the context of the LGA's wider work on devolution and the Independent Commissions.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the progress update on public service transformation, which would be taken forward as part of the LGA's wider work on devolution.

#### b) Planning and Infrastructure for growth, including broadband

This report set out recent LGA activity in relation to the agreed work programme in these areas and set out proposed next steps.

Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed:

- Access to fast and reliable broadband is essential for the rural economy to thrive.
- The lack of competition in the supply chain remains a major concern for councils. Members said it was important that public investment in phase 2 was targeted at places where there was evidence of market failure.
- Members requested further detail on the recent mobile phone voluntary agreement that will increase access to basic text and voice coverage in rural communities.
- There are some concerns about BT's capacity to keep the broadband rollout on track.
- Members noted that upload speed is as important as download speed for businesses.
- Advertising should be clearer about the broadband speeds that will be delivered to consumers and businesses.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the report and agreed with the paragraphs 5, 8

and 21 contained in the report.

The Board expressed concern about what they considered was BT's unacceptable business practices about Broadband speed and deliverability in rural areas.

**Action**

Officers to take forward the recommendations in line with Members' steer.

c) Employment and Skills update

The report summarised recent LGA activity and developments in relation to the Board's agreed work programme in employment, skills and economic growth issues. It also included a confidential appendix from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR).

Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed:

- Powers needed to be returned to local authorities who were best placed to deal with employment and skills matters in their own localities.
- There needed to be greater business involvement to ensure that business views were taken into account concerning skill requirements.
- A continuing emphasis needed to be made concerning vocational skills.

**Decision**

The Board noted the report and progress against each of the key work programme areas.

**Action**

Any comments on the CESI report should be sent to Rose Doran within ten days.

d) Housing update

The report summarised recent LGA activity and developments in relation to the agreed work programme on housing issues and included an appendix setting out Sir Michael Lyons' Housing



Review briefing.

Members were concerned about changes to planning regulations.

## 5 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2014 were agreed.

### Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Members	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Jennifer Mein	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Eion Watts	Bolsover District Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Paul Diviani	East Devon District Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Christopher Knowles-Fitton	Craven District Council
	Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	
	Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Simon Galton	Leicestershire County Council	
Cllr Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse District Council	
Apologies	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Andrew Bowles	Swale Borough Council
	Cllr John Pollard	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Diane James	Waverley Borough Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		



# LGA location map

## Local Government Association

Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)

Website: [www.local.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

## 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.

## 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.

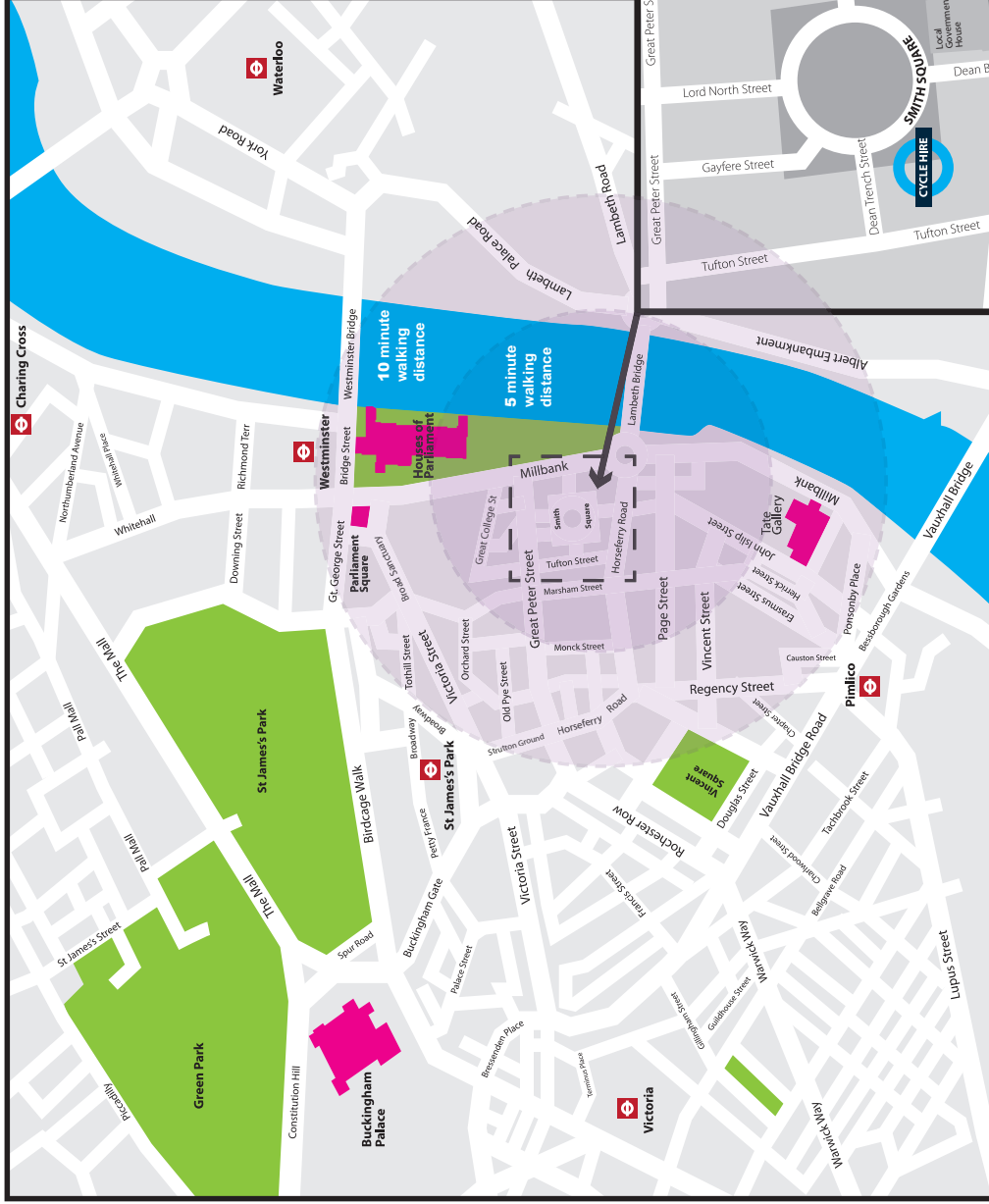
Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

## Bus routes – Horseferry Road

**507** Waterloo - Victoria

**C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

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



## Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com)

## Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park  
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at [www.westminster.gov.uk/parking](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

