

## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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**Title:** Councillors' Forum  
**Date:** Thursday 11 June 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
1	<p><b>Marcus Jones MP - DCLG's Priorities</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Members to Councillors' Forum. He also welcomed Marcus Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>The Minister stressed the importance of councillors to their local communities and drew on his own background in local government to share the challenges and opportunities he saw the sector facing.</p> <p>The Minister discussed the priorities of the Department for Communities and Local Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prudent finances as councils face further financial challenges and a need for increased certainty over funding to help councils plan.</li><li>• Devolution on the most far-reaching scale in living memory, not just for cities but also for counties, smaller towns and neighbourhoods.</li><li>• Service transformation enabled through devolution deals and joint working</li><li>• Extending Right to Buy to Housing Association Tenants, alongside measure to ensure more houses are built.</li></ul> <p>Members asked for clarification around the funding of the extension for Right to Buy to Housing Association Tenants, expressing concern that many councils are not in a position to be able to sell their high value homes.</p> <p>The Minister responded that no definition of high value homes has been set, and that lots of conversations are being had in the coming months to work out the details of the Bill.</p> <p>Members asked whether an elected mayor was needed in every devolution deal.</p> <p>The Minister replied that a Mayor would be an essential structure of accountability in devolution deals of the ambition they envisage, however in devolution deals of a smaller scale may not be a requirement.</p> <p>Members asked about the future of Sector Led Improvement. The Minister acknowledged the important and excellent work of Sector Led Improvement and would be looking at it closely in the context of the spending review.</p>	

## 2 Chair's Update

Members **noted** the Chair's report.

## 3 LGA Boards & Panel Chair's Reports

Members **noted** the reports from each of the LGA Board Chairs.

- a) Children and Young People's Board – Councillor David Simmonds
- b) City Regions Board – Councillor Sir Richard Leese CBE
- c) Community Wellbeing Board – Councillor Izzi Seccombe
- d) Culture, Tourism, and Sport Board – Councillor Ian Stephens
- e) Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – Councillor Peter Box CBE
- f) Improvement and Innovation Board – Councillor Peter Fleming
- g) People and Places Board – Councillor David Hodge
- h) Resources Board – Councillor Claire Kober
- i) Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Councillor Ann Lucas OBE

## 4 Digest of the last meeting

The minutes were **agreed**.

### Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Sparks OBE	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council

Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge District Council
Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ron Round JP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Cllr Claire Kober	Haringey Council
Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Mark Brunt	
Cllr Colin Organ	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Cllr Edith Bald	
Cllr Colin Riley	Castle Point Borough Council
Cllr Catherine Rankin	
Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Tudor Evans	Plymouth City Council
Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
Cllr Chris Saint	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Cllr Michael White	Havering London Borough Council
Cllr Andy Moorhead	
Apologies	
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council

Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Jim McMahon	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Lord Peter Smith	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Cllr Cathy Bakewell MBE	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Norman Bradbury	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
Cllr Mahroof Hussain MBE	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Elaine Atkinson	Borough of Poole
Cllr Mike Eathorne- Gibbons	Cornwall Council
Alderman Sir David Wootton	City of London Corporation

In Attendance

LGA Officers

