

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 11 June 2015
12.30 pm

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

To: Members of the Councillors' Forum
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Guidance notes for visitors

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

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Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your badge when you depart.

Councillors' Forum
11 June 2015

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 11 June 2015**
Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm.

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 in advance of the meeting. 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.

Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Location:

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

LGA Contact:

Hannah Boylan
0207 664 3166 hannah.boylan@local.gov.uk

Guest WiFi in Local Government House

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Social Media

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Councillors' Forum – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
Labour (41)	
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City 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 Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Jim McMahon (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City 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 David Sparks OBE (Chairman)	Dudley Metropolitan Borough 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 Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ron Round JP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Mahroof Hussain MBE	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Cllr Claire Kober	Haringey Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing	City of York Council
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council

Cllr John Clarke	Gedling Borough Council
Conservative (36)	
Vacancy	Conservatives
Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire 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 Gary Porter (Vice Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk 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 Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Elaine Atkinson	Borough of Poole
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (11)	
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh 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

Substitutes	
Cllr Tim Bick	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Flick Rea MBE	Camden Council
Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Cllr Hilary Jones	Derby City Council
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Cllr Jeff Reid	Northumberland Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Teignbridge District Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
Independent (10)	
Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Norman Bradbury	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice Chairman)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons	
Cllr Glenda Vaughan-Powell	
Cllr Norman Murphy	
Alderman Sir David Wootton	
Substitutes	
Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 22 October 2015, 12.30 pm, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Marcus Jones MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government)



Marcus Jones was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government) in May 2015. He is the Conservative MP for Nuneaton.

He has previously served as the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Prior to his election to parliament, Marcus was a councillor on Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, serving as leader of the Conservative Group from 2006 to 2009 and leader of the council. He stood down as council leader in 2009.

Responsibilities:

- local government policy, including adult social care and children's services
- local government finance
- homelessness
- community rights, including community pubs
- high streets, town centres and markets
- welfare reform
- supporting minister on the Housing Bill
- planning casework

Chair's Update

This report covers Councillor David Sparks' activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum.

Local Government Association (LGA) business

Meetings

- **Cllr Bob Wellington**, WLGA Chair, and **Steve Thomas**, WLGA Chief Executive to discuss the work of the LGA and the WLGA's membership.
- **UK Forum Meeting** to discuss the work of the four associations and joint work on **devolution** across the UK.

Speaking engagements

- **Congress of the Council of Europe Debate** to call for devolution and decentralisation across the UK.

Media

- **Local Government Chronicle** interview on the outcome of the **General Election** and expectations of the new government.
- **BBC Radio Berkshire** and **BBC Radio Oxford** interviews to discuss the local government reaction to the **General Election**.
- Joint-letter to **the Times**, proposing shifting "the balance of power and responsibility from a remote Westminster, Holyrood, Stormont and Cardiff Bay to local people".
- **BBC News**, **BBC Radio 2** and **BBC 5 Live** interviews following the Chancellor's announcement about devolving powers to English cities.
- Joint-letter to **the Guardian** proposing **an end to cuts in local government budgets** following the General Election.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

Meetings

- **Jane Hutt AM**, Welsh Government Minister for Finance & Government Business, to discuss Welsh devolution and the recommendations of the **Silk Commission**.
- **Lord Best**, Crossbench Peer and LGA President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Baroness Eaton**, LGA Vice President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Heather Wheeler MP**, LGA Vice President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Dr Julian Huppert MP**, LGA Vice President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Liz Kendall MP**, Shadow Minister for Care and Older People, to discuss **adult social care** budgets, **health and social care integration** and the **Better Care Fund**.

- **Lord Freud**, Minister for Welfare Reform, to discuss **Universal Credit** and the future role of Local Government in **welfare reform**.
- **Rt Hon Greg Clark MP** - Secretary of State, **DCLG** to introduce the new Secretary of State to the LGA and discuss **devolution, social care, financial stability** and **sector-led improvement**.

Meetings with organisations and individuals

- **Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE**, Chair, **Women's Local Government Society (WLGS)**, **Ann Reader** and **Anne Baldwin**, Advisers to the WLGS to discuss the work of the WLGS to mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2017.
- **Sir Philip Dilley**, Chairman and **Dr Paul Leinster CBE**, Chief Executive, **Environment Agency**, to share the priorities of the LGA and discuss planning and flooding policy.
- **Mike Cherry**, National Policy Chairman and **Martin McTague**, Local Government Chairman, **Federation of Small Businesses**, to discuss **devolution, business rates** and **local growth funding**.
- **Mayor Jules Pipe**, Chair, **London Councils** and Leader of London Borough of Hackney to discuss the work of London Councils and the LGA.
- **Business Services Association** Roundtable to discuss local government finance, devolution, the LGA agenda for the new Government and partnership working.
- **Sir David Wootton**, Chair and **Judith Armit**, Chief Executive, **Local Partnerships** to discuss the work of Local Partnerships.
- **Cllr David O'Neil**, President and **Rory Mair**, Chief Executive, **COSLA**, to discuss the outcome of the **General Election**.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

- **Hampshire and Isle of Wight** Leaders Meeting to update members on the work of the LGA and, in particular, on the topic of local government finance.
- **Cllr Carl Maynard**, Leader, **Cllr Martin Kenward**, Deputy Leader, **Malcolm Johnston**, Executive Director of Resources and **Tony Leonard**, Director of Services, **Rother District Council** to discuss Sector-led Improvement and the Council's transformation plans.
- **Cllr Jeremy Birch**, sadly since deceased, Leader and **Neil Dart**, Head of Paid Service, **Hastings Borough Council** to discuss Sector-led Improvement.
- **Cumbria Joint Districts Meeting** to discuss the work of the LHA and a proposal for unitary local government in the county.
- **Cllr David Hodge**, Chairman, **CCN**; Leader of Surrey County Council and Deputy Chairman of South East England Councils to discuss the work of CCN and the continued role of the LGA.
- **Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE**, Chair, **SIGOMA**; and Leader of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to discuss the work of SIGOMA and fairness in future funding.

Children & Young People Board – report from Cllr David Simmonds (chairman)

100 days school report

1. I am delighted to announce the launch of our report 'making sure every child has a place at a good local school'. This report sets out what the new government will need to do in its first 100 days to allow councils to offer every child a place at a good local school. This report can be found on the [website](#).

Child Sexual Exploitation

2. I called for the new government to introduce a bill for the introduction of a new type of banning order, where predatory men suspected of grooming children for sex could be stopped immediately. At present sanctions to prevent the grooming of vulnerable children are too limited and we need to make it easier to intervene earlier before harm is done. By making it possible for councils to apply swiftly to the courts for an order to disrupt grooming we can help prevent the lives of children being ruined by sexual exploitation.

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

3. We have worked with the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board to bring together councils with think tank IPPR to set out a local offer to help government deliver 3 million quality apprenticeships for young people, launched in advance of the Queen's Speech.
4. We also contributed to the publication '[Realising Talent](#): A new framework for devolved employment and skills with a local offer for reforming careers, employment and skills advice and support to deliver the ambitions of the new allowance. We are now beginning to take these ideas forward with the new government.
5. We launched a poll of young people that reveals their willingness to have more decisions about skills, employment and advice services to be taken locally by councils and partners rather than MPs in Westminster. The poll showed young people were particularly dissatisfied by careers advice and jobcentre plus.

Adoption

6. I represented the LGA at the March meeting of the national Adoption Leadership Board, chaired by Sir Martin Narey.

What governing boards should expect from school leaders and what school leaders should expect from governing boards

7. This joint guidance document from the Association of School and College Leaders, the Local Government Association, the National Association of Head Teachers and the National Governors' Association aims to improve the effectiveness of school governance.

Specifically, the paper addresses four key areas: the respective roles of governance and management, developing and supporting the governing board, effective ways of working, and understanding the school and engaging with stakeholders. This report can be found on the [website](#).

Recent Media

8. I responded to the Queen's Speech proposals for an [Education](#) and [Adoption](#) Bill, voicing our concerns that the Department for Education is unable to effectively support a rapid expansion in schools converting to academy status and encouraging the government to build on the success of recent years on adoption, which has seen record numbers of children adopted and delays cut significantly.
8. In May I spoke to the [BBC](#) on the consequences for children's centres as funds are cut. "We welcome the fact that more children and families are using children's centres but at a time when budgets are stretched there are limits to what can be achieved when councils are having to serve more families and children with less money."
9. My contribution to the House of Commons education committee were quoted in [The Guardian](#), where I argued that even where money was allocated under the Priority Schools Building Programme, local authorities have still been expected to meet significant parts of the cost for rebuilding projects – including asbestos removal.
10. I was quoted across numerous [media](#) on how "councils face an uphill battle when their hands are tied by red tape" and funding shortages to provide enough school places.

Contact officer: Ian Keating
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3032
Email: Ian.Keating@local.gov.uk

City Regions Board – report from Sir Richard Leese CBE (chair)

Cities Devolution Bill

1. On 14 May, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that a Cities Devolution Bill would be part of the first Queen's Speech. The Bill is expected to offer cities that are prepared to adopt directly-elected mayors greater control over local transport, housing, skills and healthcare. The Chancellor also promised to extend a form of the City Deals programme to cover counties and towns.

English Devolution: Local Solutions for a successful Nation

1. The City Regions Board played a lead role in the development of the Local Government Association's [white paper on devolution](#), which calls for an "English Devolution Bill" as an alternative to the Cities Devolution Bill. The paper sets out an overarching view from across local government on what could be achieved through devolution and how progress can be made across the country over the course of this parliament.
2. The paper identifies key decisions that need to be taken by Government in the first Queen's Speech and next Spending Review to accelerate progress on devolution. It also recognises that local areas need to strengthen their governance arrangements in order to be able to take on substantial new responsibilities. To that end, the paper pushes for places to be able to bring forward proposals that reflect the arrangements that would be most appropriate for their area, rather than having a single model imposed on them.
3. Members of the Board will be discussing the Bill, the Government's other commitments and our future work on devolution at our final meeting of the year on June 15th. Our aim is to ensure that we are pushing the Government to be as ambitious as possible, while helping city regions to capitalise on the tremendous opportunity the Bill presents.

Skills, Employment and Welfare Reform

1. At the end of March, the LGA put forward the case for groups of councils to have the power, funding and responsibility to integrate and commission employment and skills provision to plan employment and skills investment across places to get more people into work, help low paid people progress in work, and address the skills demand for achieving local growth.
2. Alongside the chairs of the City Regions, People and Places and Children and Young People Boards, I championed the recommendations in [Realising Talent: a new framework for devolved employment and skills](#). This includes a call for the introduction of Local Labour Market Agreements across England by 2016/17 as the basis of a deal between groups of councils and central government on what is needed and how it can be achieved. This should, as a minimum, include devolution or co-commissioning of at least £13.6 billion employment and skills funding over the next five years
3. A National Employment and Skills Partnership should bring together central and local government, business, voluntary and community sector and other stakeholders to drive efforts to enable integrated funding and services to put people and places first, rather than institutions.



Councillors' Forum

11 June 2015

Contact officer: Carolyn Downs
Position: LGA Chief Executive
Phone no: 020 7664 3213
Email: carolyn.downs@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Board –from Cllr Izzi Seccome (Chair)

Conservative Manifesto Commitments

1. Following the General Election, a link to the Conservative Party's manifesto commitments is shown below:
<https://www.conservatives.com/Manifesto>

Health and Wellbeing Systems Improvement Programme

2. The Shared Intelligence evaluation has provided us with a state of the nation piece on HWBs and is a firm foundation for developing the programme next year. A link to "Stick with It", a review of the second year of the Health and Wellbeing Improvement Programme is shown below:
['Stick with it'](#)
3. The final 2014/15 health and wellbeing board (HWB) chairs/vice chairs Leadership Essentials was held in February again proving to be a most valuable and well received opportunity for attendees, many whom are clinical commissioning group (CCG) representatives. I fully support the direction of the 2015/16 grant funded sector led improvement programme to engage more fully with CCG leaders in developing HWBs to reach their full potential post-election.

Comprehensive Spending Review

4. In addition to the LGA's main, corporate submission on the Comprehensive Spending Review, a separate, thematic submission is being developed that will focus just on adult social care and health.
5. This thematic submission will be produced jointly between the LGA and ADASS, allowing use of the latter's most recent annual budget survey data. The submission will set out clearly what has happened to adult social care over the last Parliamentary period, and articulate the key pressures that are being felt within the care and support system currently. Again, there will be helpful evidence from the ADASS budget survey to support this.

The thematic submission will then explore the main submission's asks in more detail.

Future of Health and Wellbeing Boards

6. The LGA is working in partnership with NHS Clinical Commissioners to develop a shared vision for Health and Wellbeing Boards. The document will be launched at the LGA Annual Conference on 30 June. It is a challenge and a call to action to local commissioners, government and national bodies to support health and wellbeing boards in bringing about a radical transformation in the health of their communities.

7. Our proposals for action by boards themselves and by government, and our commitment to support draw on two national consultative workshop and a summit meeting with HWB Chairs, CCG representatives and other key stakeholders, a review of the LGA's health and wellbeing improvement programme and discussions with the board of NHS Clinical Commissioners and the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members.

If you would like to know more about this initiative, please contact alyson.morley@local.gov.uk .

Inquiry into the role of health scrutiny in integration plans

8. The LGA and Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) organised three local inquiry days in Devon, South Tyneside and Wiltshire in February and March to facilitate a series of discussions on the extent to which health scrutiny could contribute to more effective integration. We are currently finalising the publication, which will be launched at the CfPS conference in June 2015.

Integrated Personal Commissioning Programme (IPC)

9. In March 2015, after an extensive selection process of around 100 applications, NHS England and LGA announced the nine successful IPC demonstrator sites. They are: Barnsley, Cheshire West & Chester, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, Luton, Portsmouth, South west consortium, Stockton on Tees and Tower Hamlets. Each site has now produced a detailed action of how they will make progress during 2015/16 and beyond for the three years of the programme.
10. IPC is a partnership between NHS England, the LGA, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Think Local Action Personal and a new voluntary approach to joining up health and social care for people with complex needs. It aims to shift power to people who use health and social care services to help them shape care that is effective and meaningful to them in their lives. It aims to bring health and social care together, identifying the totality of expenditure at the level of the individual, giving people more control over how this is used and enabling money to be spent in new ways to achieve the three programme goals.
11. The Programme Board overseeing the IPC is co-chaired by Ian Dodge, National Director of Commissioning Strategy for NHS England and Carolyn Downs.

Public Health Update

LGA called on soft drinks firms to commit to sugar reduction in popular drinks to combat obesity

12. Last month the LGA called on drinks industry to go further and faster with reducing sugar in popular drinks. LGA research found some cans of fizzy drink contained up to

twice the recommended daily sugar limit, while some fruit juice drinks and ginger beers commonly sold in supermarkets contain more sugar than cola drinks.

http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/7171018/NEWS

Local Solutions, Healthy Lives: council's role in drug and alcohol services

13. Last month the LGA published a new resource that describes how public health in a number of councils has started to use the opportunities of a local government setting to improve health and wellbeing. The case studies were chosen because they show a range of ways in which public health in councils is approaching drug and alcohol services. They include councils spread across England, covering both rural and urban environments and with varying levels of deprivation and affluence.

http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/7160134/PUBLICATION

Sector Led Improvement Public Health

14. Improvement in public health practice will be founded on Sector Led Improvement principles but there is a recognition that there may be occasions where things go wrong and more focused support will be needed. LGA, Association Directors of Public Health (ADPH), Department of Health and Public Health England have developed a protocol that describes arrangements for identifying councils that may be facing performance challenges in public health in order that the sector can offer early support for improvement. http://www.adph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Managing-the-risk-of-underperformance-in-PH-FINAL_07-10-14.pdf

0-5 Public Health Commissioning

15. In March 2015 The Department of Health published the final regulations for the five mandated universal health checks delivered by health visitors. We successfully influenced the wording of the regulations to make it very clear that councils are expected to only take a reasonably practicable approach to delivering the checks and to continuous improvement over time. The regulations are also time limited and will be reviewed after 12 months, following a successful review they will expire after 18 months. Link to regulations <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/921/contents/made>
16. LGA responded to the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) consultation with councils on the 0-5 element of the public health grant and argued for it to urgently move towards a needs-based formula from 2016-17 because the current allocations do not relate to need but are based on existing provision.

17. In March, LGA sent out a local authority self-assessment on the state of readiness for the transfer. We received a 100% response rate from local authorities, the results showed that 97% of councils are confident that commissioning arrangements will be fully operational in their council from 1st October 2015 and that there is good joint working with NHS England to transfer these services. Whilst it showed that there are few remaining issues outstanding, it identified issues around data quality and reporting arrangements and issues relating to the move from registered to resident population that need to be addressed. Local authorities also requested examples of good practice to be shared more widely to support them to transform and embed these services. The LGA with national partners will work together to resolve outstanding issues and to develop support tools for councils.

Update on Child and Adolescent Mental Health

18. In March the Department of Health and NHS England published the Report of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce, which sets out the changes which need to take place at both local and national levels to improve the system. The CWB lead members played an active role in contributing to this work. We are very keen to work with the Department and NHS England to take forward work on children and young people's mental health as a joint endeavour and are working with them to establish next steps. We need an approach that promotes strong and accountable local leadership to ensure co-ordinated commissioning arrangements at local level which genuinely improves outcomes in children and young people's mental health.
19. The Government announced in the budget a package of funding to improve child and adolescent mental health services this included investing over £1 billion over the next 5 years to start new access standards, providing £118 million by 2018- 19 to complete the roll-out of the Children and Young People's Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies.
20. Investing £75 million over the next 5 years in maternal mental ill health services, the he Department for Education will also provide an additional £1.5 million towards piloting joint training for designated leads in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and schools to improve access to mental health services for children and young people, including the most vulnerable. We have long called for more money to support children and young people's mental health services and we are pleased to see that there are plans to invest additional funding into these services which could improve much needed access to these vital services for thousands more young people. However, we desperately need to see the whole system properly funded and national and local partners working together to implement the recommendations from the Taskforce.

An Ageing Population

21. The LGA Task and Finish Group on Ageing, chaired by me has finalised the report. – Ageing: The Silver Lining, a report in to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population for local government. The report is being launched on 24th June from 7pm at the House of Commons, hosted by Baroness Greengross. The report

highlights the increasing contribution an older population could make to society and the economy through empowered local government and challenges the commonly-held belief that an ageing population is a burden.

22. These findings are being fed into wider work such as improving crisis care for older people.
23. The LGA has responded to a **consultation from the Centre for Ageing Better**. We submitted a positive and collaborative response to foster close partnership working and encourage them to fund work with councils. We strongly advocated a sector-Led approach and offered LGA insight and partnership – dependent on our resources.

Dementia

24. The LGA is launching a revised **guide on Dementia Friendly Communities** at the Alzheimer's Society annual conference on 9th July 2015. The guidance updates the original guidance, published by the LGA in May 2012. Shortly before the original publication, the concept of dementia friendly communities was given a boost by the launch of the Prime Ministers Challenge on Dementia. Since then, more than 70 communities have committed to become dementia-friendly and more than a million people have signed up to become Dementia Friends. At the same time there has been a rise of 17 per cent in diagnosis rates, against the backdrop of significant financial pressures on public services, including those for people with dementia. The original guidance, and the tools it contained, has been widely used and adapted both in the UK and overseas, making a significant contribution to the creation of dementia friendly communities. With the introduction of health and wellbeing boards, the return of public health duties and powers, and an increased focus on prevention and information and advice in the Care Act, new guidance was required. The guidance looks at current best practice and learning in the creation of dementia friendly communities, how it fits within the broader policy landscape, and what actions local authorities can take, and are already taking.
25. The LGA has signed up to a **declaration on post-diagnosis support for people with dementia**. The aim of the declaration is to encourage particular focus on the experiences of people diagnosed with dementia and their families immediately after diagnosis. This covers the process of diagnosis, information, advice, the roles of local professionals and services, integration and the role of voluntary services.

Think Local Act Personal

26. The LGA has submitted an annual report on its contribution to the 'Think Local Act Personal' (TLAP) initiative, led by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). The LGA is represented on the Board of TLAP by Cllr Colin Nobel from the CWB Board. TLAP have worked with the joint LGA-ADASS-DH programme to develop and produce significant guidance on meeting new duties, in areas such as; Information and advice, building community capacity, market development, workforce and inclusive communities. A key agreed priority for the Community Wellbeing Board for

2014/15 was to influence national policy and local practice in supporting personalisation. The LGA also worked with TLAP on developing a 'must know' for lead members on personalisation and Making it Real. For the forthcoming year, the LGA has committed to continuing to work with TLAP, DH and ADASS and other partners to promote the care and support reform programme, helping local government and partners implement the Care Act and to help prepare the sector for introduction of phase 2 of the Act in 2016. The LGA will continue to champion the work of TLAP to elected members through our Community Wellbeing Board and the Building Community Capacity Steering Group. This will assist members to support TLAP priorities of personalisation, coproduction and community capacity building in their local communities. An LGA Board Member will continue to attend TLAP Partnership meetings.

Autism

27. The deadline for councils to return their **self-assessments** against their statutory duties under the Autism Strategy has now finished, and the data is being analysed by Public Health England. The LGA are liaising with PHE about the results of the data and possible implications for councils. The intention is to launch an LGA and ADASS-led case study publication on Autism to coincide with the release of the results of the self-assessment later in the summer.

Armed Forces

28. The LGA CWB Board was represented by Cllr Andrew Gravells at the Armed Forces Community Covenant Reference Group meeting on 26th March, The MOD has undertaken a number of regional events for councils and their partners and is meeting regularly with the LGA with the intention of increasing the profile of the community covenant and the needs of the armed forces community within local government. A paper to further analyse issues for the armed forces community, and the role of the LGA, is due to be presented to the CWB Board at their October meeting.

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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)

New Government

1. The new Government will need to work closely with councils to achieve its manifesto commitments for culture, tourism and sport. A number of CTS Board priorities are reflected in the manifesto, including supporting libraries, investing in grassroots football, school sport, promoting tourism, building on the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, and growing the creative industries. The Board will work to ensure that Ministers deliver their commitments and that national policy reinforces and supports the locally-led nature of much of this agenda and LGA priorities. The Board will take this forward in partnership with the LGA Chair, Leadership Board, and other relevant policy boards.
2. I have written to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Ministerial Team to welcome new and returning Ministers and to set out how we can work in partnership to deliver shared policy goals. In particular, I emphasised the significant impact further cuts to local government funding will have on local culture and sport provision, and that this will also impact negatively on other policy areas including health, social care and economic growth. I highlighted the strong partnerships between LGA and the DCMS national agencies and the importance of continuing to support effective local political leadership by seeking out and sharing good practice.

Libraries for Leadership Task Force

3. I attended the second meeting of the Libraries for Leadership Task Force on 19 May. The Task Force, which is jointly accountable to LGA Members and Ministers, was set up earlier this year to implement the recommendations from William Sieghart's Independent Review of Public Libraries. As well as local government chief executives, the Task Force brings together The Reading Agency, Society of Chief Librarians, BBC, British Library, Public Health England and others to support locally-led transformation. I emphasised the opportunity for the Task Force to provide timely and practical support for libraries in line with the sector's needs. Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, also attended the Task Force and confirmed his department's strong support.
4. Paul Blantern, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council and Chair of the Task Force, updated on progress against the priorities agreed by LGA Members and Ministers: rolling out Wi-Fi to more libraries, supporting sector-led best practice, raising awareness about the contribution of libraries to wider community outcomes and workforce development. In particular, £7.4 million has been secured to fund the rollout of Wi-Fi to public libraries not already connected.
5. Prior to the Task Force, Paul Blantern met Culture, Tourism and Sport Lead Members.

Magna Carta

6. Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800th Committee on 21 April and 20 May. As preparations enter the final phase, the LGA has continued to promote the LiberTeas event on 14 June far and wide through LGA social media, e-bulletins and member networks. Where appropriate, the LGA's letters to new Ministers emphasised the relevance of the Magna Carta anniversary to local government and how we are involving communities to make the most of the opportunity for democratic renewal. We have confirmed a Magna Carta inspired fringe session at LGA Annual Conference on 1 July and this will be an opportunity to reflect on legacy and how councils can keep up the momentum on civic engagement. CTS Lead Members, the LGA Chair and LGA Group Leaders are attending the national commemoration in Runnymede on 15 June.

Sport and Physical Activity

7. I was delighted to welcome Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, to the Isle of Wight on 21 May. The meeting was an opportunity to further strengthen our positive partnership. I highlighted that in the face of continued budget pressures, we need to support and emphasise the significant contribution of sport and physical activity to tackling costly health and social care pressures, including obesity and mental health. I also updated Nick on the LGA's campaign to secure fairer funding for grassroots football.

Visitor Economy

8. The LGA has responded to VisitEngland's consultation on updating its growth strategy. The visitor economy is one of this country's fastest growing economic sectors and councils play a leading role maximising its growth potential. We welcomed the enhancements to VisitEngland's role that will follow the Triennial Review and said that the revised strategy must take account of devolution and the fundamental changes to English governance. Decisions about how to support the visitor economy must be taken locally and councils are best placed to coordinate the work of destination management organisations, Local Enterprise Partnerships, local Chambers of Commerce and others with an interest in the visitor economy.

2015/16 Culture, Tourism and Sport Improvement Offer

9. I am delighted to confirm that once again Sport England and Arts Council England are funding a comprehensive sector-led leadership offer for sport and culture portfolio holders. We will deliver six leadership events and three peer challenges between July and the end of March 2016, with the aim of supporting over 150 portfolio holders to lead transformational change.

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Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Peter Box CBE (Chair)

Influencing EU “Circular Economy” waste proposals and meeting EU recycling targets

1. In April, Cllr Mike Jones led a delegation to Brussels to influence the next set of EU legislation on waste and recycling. This is focused on creating a “circular economy” that makes best use of waste and resources and is a high priority for English local authorities as key delivery agents for municipal waste collection, reuse, recycling and disposal services. Cllr Jones met with MEPs, UK government representatives, the Commission official leading the work on the proposals and the CBI team in Brussels to discuss the LGA’s proposals which seek to stimulate jobs and growth in the waste and recycling industry, encourage a more rounded approach to EU policy that addresses all waste produced across the economy, a greater focus on waste prevention and avoiding the disposal of waste to landfill.
2. Cllr Jones also met Dan Rogerson MP, then DEFRA Minister with responsibility for waste, on 19 March to discuss our proposals for the Circular Economy package and proposals that would help the UK meet the existing EU recycling target. Despite delivering a 400 per cent increase in recycling rates since the turn of the century the UK is not yet on track to meet the 50 per cent EU target by 2020. We have developed a number of practical suggestions that could be implemented in relatively short order in 2015 to deliver a significant improvement in recycling rates by 2020. Following the election, we are seeking a meeting with new DEFRA Ministers to present these proposals.

Ministerial meeting: Accommodation Support for Offenders

3. On 18 March, Cllr Mike Jones attended a meeting with Andrew Selous MP, then Minister for Prisons and Probation and housing stakeholders to discuss accommodation support for offenders. The discussion focused on what is needed to ensure that offenders’ wider support needs, including accommodation are addressed while in contact with prisons and offender managers, to give them the best chance of sustaining independent living, and avoiding re-offending. It was recognised that partnership working is essential to achieving this and the LGA agreed to promote to councils evidence of good practice that currently exists in supporting homeless offenders into accommodation.

Publication of LGA research on replacing homes sold through Right to Buy.

4. On 4 April we published "Keeping Pace – replacing right to buy sales" a research report jointly with the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Federation of ALMOs. The report found that 73 per cent of councils responding to the survey said that under the current system they will only be able to replace half or fewer of homes they have sold. The report concludes that a more flexible approach to the Right-to-buy receipts is needed and makes recommendations to government aimed at ensuring that homes sold can be replaced on a one-for-one basis at a local level.

Letters to new ministers

5. I have written to a number of new ministers to request meetings following the Government's recent reshuffle. This includes: Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, Andrea Leadsom MP; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Andrew Jones MP; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Robert Goodwill MP; and Minister for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise, Rt. Hon Anna Soubry MP. A letter to a minister at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is pending subject to the confirmation of ministerial responsibilities.
6. LGA Chair Cllr David Sparks has also written to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Brandon Lewis MP, and the Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP.

Members Standing Down

7. Cllrs Ann Steward and Roger Symonds stood down as councillors at the recent local elections, and therefore will no longer be on the EEHT Board. I wrote to both members to thank them on behalf of the members and officers of the Board for their hard work and commitment, particularly as Cllr Steward was the Chair of the Task and Finish Group on Apprenticeships and Cllr Symonds was the Chair of the Task and Finish Group on Active Travel.

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Improvement & Innovation Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

Improvement

1. Thank you to all those who responded to our consultation paper “**Taking stock: where next with sector-led improvement?**”. We received 160 individual responses, which, when responses from representative regional bodies are taken into account, represent 65% of authorities. Responses were also received from a wide range of stakeholders including the National Audit Office, the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, the Committee of Standards in Public Life, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the Centre for Public Scrutiny and various professional bodies, local authority representative and improvement bodies, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Members discussed the responses at our Board meeting on 12 May and we are keen to engage the new DCLG Ministerial team.

Productivity

2. Regarding **digitalisation**, we have set up a new Digital Experts programme to help councils develop their use of technology by learning from the digital tools and approaches that have already been successfully implemented elsewhere.
3. I also addressed the LG Digital Summit on 22 April, which the LGA hosted. This provided an opportunity for a number of senior officers from councils and sector representative bodies to discuss a sector response to the March budget announcement that referenced an opportunity for the sector to put forward a ‘..... set of proposals that will enable more customer-focused, digitally-enabled and efficient local services in time to inform future budget allocations’.
4. LGA officers are now working with councils, sector representative bodies and DCLG to put together options for the future Spending Review.

Leadership

5. We have launched our range of political leadership development programmes for 2015-2016 for councillors spanning from the beginning of their political careers to being experienced leaders. I would encourage all members to take a look at what is available and to consider whether colleagues in their authorities could benefit. Details can be found on the LGA [website](#).
6. With national and local elections fresh in our memory we have launched the 2015-16 version of the Councillors' Guide, which is now available on the LGA website. The guide provides an invaluable introduction to the world of local government for new councillors and I have been in the process of sending a welcome letter to new councillors including details of the guide, which can be found on the LGA [website](#).

7. We are running a range of briefing and training events in relation to our leadership and improvement work, which we are promoting through our Improvement and Innovation Board monthly bulletin and through our networks in these respective work areas. The latest events include:

- Leadership Essentials for Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs and Vice Chairs on 3- 4 September in Coventry
- free corporate peer challenge peer briefing events throughout 2015 in various locations, facilitated by an LGA Programme Manager
- Health and wellbeing peer training events on 11-12 June and 16-17 July in Coventry.

Innovation

8. We know that councils are keen to learn from each other so we have launched our innovative councils resource. It includes a searchable database of councils involved in our Innovation Zone at our LGA annual conference last year. Knowing how difficult it can sometimes be to find such examples, we are expanding the database to include wider examples of notable practice. The database can be found on the LGA [website](#). I and LGA colleagues are also preparing for this year's Innovation Zone as part of the LGA's annual conference.

Data and Transparency

9. On 24 March, Councillor Roy Perry attended the Open Data Champions event held by the Cabinet Office. He promoted a view that, whilst there are opportunities for open data to help to transform and innovate services and provide new ways to engage and empower communities, local transparency should be based on local needs and the pace should be driven by local demand,; local authorities need support for changing their culture and technical and data infrastructure to provide a sustainable way for publishing their data.

10. We have made some changes to **LG Inform**, our on-line data comparison service, to make it easier for you to find reports, including:

- phrases prioritised over individual keywords
- author name and organisation in basic search
- searching by metric type ID
- ability to exclude words from search
- sorting options in Advanced Search.

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People & Places Board – report from Cllr David Hodge (Chairman)

Non-Metropolitan Commission

1. The Non-Metropolitan Commission published its final report [Devolution to Non-Metropolitan England: Seven steps to growth and prosperity](#), on 5 March. The Commission made seven specific recommendations for reform to shape the way economic growth and public service transformation are supported in the future. The Commission highlighted the applicability of the recommendations to not only the non-metropolitan areas but also the city regions and emphasised that the recommendations could be implemented by the new government early in its term to give the country a further boost along the road to recovery.
2. The seven recommendations covered prosperity (skills and foreign direct investment), infrastructure (planning and transport, housing, digital connectivity and investment in infrastructure) and governance making the point that the Commission considers that the way we take decisions in England is holding us back.
3. Viscountess Cobham, the Chairman of VisitEngland and a Commissioner, represented Sir John Peace, the Commission Chairman, at the March meeting of the People and Places Board. Following a short brief on the thoughts and philosophy behind the Commission's report, which was warmly received by the Board, she responded to comments from members and undertook to stay in touch with the LGA in order to hear about progress with delivering the recommendations.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

4. As part of the Queen's Speech the Government has announced a Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill. The Bill will provide the legal basis to implement the Government's 'northern powerhouse' ambitions, by devolving powers to cities with elected 'metro mayors.' Importantly, the Bill will also empower towns and counties by building on the Growth Deals, and pledges to lift the statutory restrictions on the remit of combined authorities. The inclusion of non-metropolitan areas in the Bill is a welcome step and we look forward to working with government to ensure the deals on offer for non-metropolitan areas are every bit as ambitious as those for cities.

English Devolution: Local Solutions for a successful Nation

5. The People and Places Board played a lead role in the development of the Local Government Association's [white paper on devolution](#), which calls for a broadening of devolution policy to include areas outside England's larger cities. The paper sets out an overarching view from across local government on what could be achieved through

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devolution and how progress can be made across the country over the course of this parliament.

6. The paper identifies key decisions that need to be taken by Government in the first Queen's Speech and next Spending Review to accelerate progress on devolution. It also recognises that local areas need to strengthen their governance arrangements in order to be able to take on substantial new responsibilities. To that end, the paper pushes for places to be able to bring forward proposals that reflect the arrangements that would be most appropriate for their area, rather than having a single model imposed on them. The paper was featured on the BBC evening news and has been downloaded nearly 10,000 times.
7. Members of the Board will be discussing the Bill, the Government's other commitments, and our future work on devolution at our final meeting of the year on June 18. Our aim is to ensure that we are pushing the Government to be as ambitious as possible, while helping non-metropolitan areas capitalise on the tremendous opportunity the Bill presents.

Employment, skills and welfare

8. At the end of March 2015, the LGA put forward the case for groups of councils to have the power, funding and responsibility to integrate and commission employment and skills provision to plan employment and skills investment across places to get more people into work, help low paid people progress in work, and address the skills demand for achieving local growth.
9. Championed by the chairs of the City Regions, People and Places and Children and Young People Boards, the recommendations in [*Realising Talent: a new framework for devolved employment and skills*](#) include **introducing Local Labour Market Agreements across England by 2016/17** as the basis of a deal between groups of councils and central government on what is needed and how it can be achieved. This should as a minimum include devolution or co-commissioning of at least £13.6 billion employment and skills funding over the next five years including **replacing and devolving the Work Programme worth £620 million annually with two programmes** – one for long-term Jobseeker Allowance claimants and the other to support up to 2.55 million disadvantaged claimants who have a range of barriers to sustainable jobs including ESA claimants; **devolving £2 billion a year Adult Skills Budget** to gear the skills system to the needs of businesses; co-commissioning **Job Centre Plus' annual £100million Flexible Support Fund** so local support for claimants is aligned to local economic priorities; completing the transfer of 16 to 19 education funding to local partnerships; and a **new youth offer** enabling all 14 to 21 or 24-year-olds to access independent careers and employment advice, and to coordinate and deliver services to support every young person not learning or earning. A National Employment and Skills Partnership should bring together central and local government, business, voluntary and community sector and other stakeholders to drive efforts to enable integrated funding and services to put people and places first, rather than institutions.
10. This is the final in a [*series of three reports*](#) commissioned to the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion to analyse the skills and employment challenges to be faced by an incoming or returning Government, and offer a proposed localised solution.

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Resources Board – report from Cllr Claire Kober (Chair)

Local Government Finance

Budget 2015

1. The Chancellor delivered the last Budget of the previous Government on 18 March. The LGA provided an on-the-day briefing, ran an online live blog reviewing the announcements and issued press releases reacting to key announcements. The LGA continues to build its position in advance of the revised Budget in July and the Spending Review later in the year. Members will be briefed on the announcements in the July Budget in due course.

Business Rates

2. The Lead Members of the Board and I cleared the LGA's report on the state of the business rate retention system, highlighting the financial consequences of the reform so far and gauging the views of councils about the system and how it can be improved. The report was published in March and called for additional protection of local government against old unresolved appeals and for steps to be taken to restrict new speculative appeals in the future.

EU Funding

3. The LGA Chair, along with Cllr Ian Stewart (Cumbria) and Cllr Sir Albert Bore (Birmingham) attended the first European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Growth Programme Board (GPB) following the Local and General Elections.
4. Key updates included the confirmation of the new ministerial team dealing with European Funding for respective Government departments. The appointment of The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP is an opportunity to restate the case for giving Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and their partners the ability to decide how, when and on what their share of EU funding is spent. The Secretary of State is aware of our concerns, following his recent visit to the LGA.
5. The status of Local Co-Financing Organisations (CFOs) for ESF 2014-2020 was the key discussion point for this meeting. The LGA Chair argued strongly against the Government's decision to restrict co-financing organisation (CFO) status to national public bodies, and by exception only allow local public bodies to apply if the Government devolves national funding further. We do not believe it should be conditional, and felt that in general the approach was very much out of step with current Government's thinking on devolution. Local partners were invited to submit further written representation on this issue ahead of the next GPB meeting.
6. On the draft terms of reference which will define the future ESIF Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), LGA representatives argued for greater oversight and approval of any changes which affect the local governance, or role of, local ESIF committees. We also noted our expectation that relevant Ministers attend future Board meetings.
7. Finally, the LGA called for the ESIF funding project selection criteria and final scoring methodologies to be reconsidered once the Operational Programmes are approved by the European Commission and the GPB makes a transition to full Programme Monitoring Committee.

Workforce

Local Government Services

8. The National Employers have rejected an additional pay claim from UNISON for 2015/16 which was lodged on 22 April.

Senior Officers' Discipline Procedures

9. Shortly before the general election, the last administration introduced the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Amendment Regulations 2015. These regulations amend the process that needs to be followed to dismiss a local authority's head of paid service, monitoring officer and section 151 chief finance officer. The regulations removed the previous statutory need for an independent person to carry out an investigation into an issue which could lead to the dismissal of one of the above officers, and replaced it with the requirement to appoint an independent panel which would provide advice to the authority.
10. The introduction of the regulations causes issues due to the fact that there is very little time to prepare for the change (which has to be implemented by the first ordinary meeting after 11 May 2015) and the many unanswered questions which the amendments posed. The LGA has produced an [Advisory Bulletin](#) to provide advice to local authorities on implementing these changes, and how they would relate to the current independent person disciplinary process which is contained in most chief executives', and some other senior officers', contracts.

School Teachers

11. The National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers has agreed a [response](#) to the Department for Education on the School Teachers' Review Body's recommendations on teachers' pay from September 2015.

Freedom and Choice and the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS)

12. The 'Freedom and Choice' pensions reforms announced last year took effect on 6 April 2015. Whilst LGPS members cannot access these freedoms direct from the LGPS, Scheme members can transfer their benefits to other pension schemes that do and changes have been made to the rules governing transfers from the LGPS to ensure members are fully informed before making their decision. A technical guide and Q&A documents for scheme members, employers and pension funds have been published on the [LGPS Regulations website](#).

Teachers' Pension Scheme

13. A new Teachers' Pension Scheme came into effect on 1 April 2015; teachers' pensions are now calculated on a career average basis with members' normal pension age linked to state pension age. The new scheme will not apply to all members as transitional protections are in place for those closest to retirement. Further information can be found: <https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk>

Firefighters Pension Scheme

14. On 1 April 2015 the new Firefighters Pension Scheme was introduced. This new Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, with an accrual rate of 1/59.7th of pensionable pay and normal pension age linked to state pension age is introduced following Lord Hutton's review into Public Service Pension Schemes. The new scheme will not apply to all firefighters as transitional protections are in place for those closest to retirement. There has been a wealth of information posted under the [knowledge hub](#), with a range of materials designed for communicating the new scheme to Firefighters'.

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Safer & Stronger Communities Board – report from Councillor Ann Lucas OBE (Chair)

Taxi Licensing and Child Sexual Exploitation Conferences

1. Cllr Philip Evans spoke on the importance of political oversight in licensing systems at two LGA-run conferences in Manchester and London, respectively chaired by Cllr Anita Lower and Cllr Joanna Spicer. Over 200 delegates attended, hearing about issues relating to child sexual exploitation, data sharing with the police and licensing reform. Our revised and expanded [taxi licensing handbook](#) for councillors was launched at the events, and has been well received by members.

Supreme Court ruling on licensing fees

2. Cllr Tony Page has written to all licensing authorities to update them on a critical ruling about recovering the cost of enforcement through licensing fees. The Supreme Court agreed with Westminster Council, and the LGA's written intervention, that enforcement costs are essential to ensuring the integrity of a licensing system and can be recovered under existing domestic law. This is an important decision for councils, who were facing a black hole in their licensing budgets, compounding the deficit left by the Government's decision to not permit the local setting of fees under the Licensing Act 2003.
3. Cllr Page also met with Lynne Featherstone, then Minister for Crime Prevention, to discuss the Coalition Government's decision against localising licence fees. The Minister asked the LGA to undertake further research work to build the evidence base for localisation – we have written to the new Minister to seek confirmation that this request remains current.

New Psychoactive Substances

4. The Board's Chair, Cllr Ann Lucas, highlighted the need for a ban on the sale of new psychoactive substances, also known as 'legal highs' during May. Cllr Lucas was interviewed by the BBC after work by an undercover reporter found that new psychoactive substances being sold in Worcester contained not only detergent but also dangerous chemicals known to cause heart attacks. In addition Cllr Lucas' call for the Queen's Speech to include a ban on the sale of new psychoactive substances featured in articles in national papers like the Telegraph and Daily Mail as well as BBC on-line and ITV on-line. This call was followed up by the inclusion of the Psychoactive Substances Bill in the Queen's Speech, which will ban the sale of psychoactive substances.

Committee on Standards in Public Life

5. The Board's Deputy Chair, Cllr Lisa Brett, attended the concluding roundtable in the Committee on Standards in Public Life's inquiry into its local policing inquiry in mid-March. The inquiry has been looking at the role of police and crime commissioners in providing leadership and setting the agenda around ethics and accountability in policing. In her evidence to the roundtable Cllr Brett raised the points that the Board had made in its evidence to the Committee about the important role played by police and crime panels, the need to review panels' role in dealing with complaints about the behaviour of police and crime commissioners, and changes to what commissioners have to publish so panels have greater notice of key decisions police and crime commissioners are making. The suggestion that commissioners should produce a forward plan

of key decisions generated some debate at the roundtable, so the Board will study the Committee's recommendations with interests when it reports later this summer.

National FGM Centre Advisory Group

6. In April Cllr Brett chaired the first meeting of the advisory group that the LGA and Barnardo's have established to advise the centre they are jointly establishing to improve the social work response to female genital mutilation (FGM). The group had representatives from NHS England, the National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Clinical Group attending and the Association of Directors of Children's Services will be attending the next meeting. The group received an update on progress in establishing the centre, agreed terms of reference for the group and considered the name of the centre. After discussion it was agreed that going forward the centre should be known as the National FGM Centre. The group will be meeting again at the end of June.

Home Office Letters

7. Following the general election the Chair of the Board, Cllr Lucas, wrote to the new ministerial team in the Home Office to request meetings to talk about the counter-extremism strategy, Prevent, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, licensing, new psychoactive substances, and the review by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation.

LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition

8. In March Cllr Jeremy Hilton chaired the LGA's Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition. The event was well received and there were nearly 300 attendees and exhibitors from across the fire sector. Delegates heard from a range of speakers, including the former Fire Minister, Penny Mordaunt MP, as well as Lyn Brown MP, the Shadow Fire Minister, and Baroness Cathy Bakewell, the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on fire. Delegates also heard from Clive Betts MP on fire service reform, Peter Dartford, President of the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and Kieran Timmins, Chair of the Fire Finance Network on the next Spending Review as well as Adrian Thomas and Matt Wrack on Thomas' Review into firefighters terms and conditions. The next conference will take place between 8 – 9 March 2016 in Bristol.

The Fire and Rescue Service: Making the Nation Safer

9. The LGA, jointly with CFOA, published *The Fire and Rescue Service: Making our Nation Safer* as a part of our 100 days campaign for the next Government. Councillor Jeremy Hilton wrote to a number of parliamentarians about the document, including Penny Mordaunt MP, Lyn Brown MP and Baroness Cathy Bakewell. Cllr Hilton also wrote to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Fire and Rescue and a number of other APPGs who would have an interest in some of the specific proposals. The Government have already taken forward one of our proposals by introducing regulations to make it mandatory for landlords to install smoke alarms in private rented properties from October 2015.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 5 March 2015
Venue: Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
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1 First 100 Days

The Chair welcomed Members to Councillors' Forum. He also welcomed Professor Tony Travers, Director of LSE London, a research centre at the London School of Economics, and Visiting Professor in the LSE's Government Department.

Professor Travers discussed a number of issues regarding the potential outcome of the forthcoming Local and General Elections and their possible impact on the work of local government. Regarding the General Election he highlighted the following points:

- The conventional two party political system has changed and more political parties were involved in politics at a local and national level.
- Current polling suggested that the Labour and Conservative parties would receive a very similar number of seats in the General Election.
- There were a number of scenarios for national government following the General Election; an outright win for one party, a formal coalition agreement or a minority government with a 'confidence and supply' arrangement with one or more smaller parties.
- Should the future government push forward with English devolution plans there could be a situation where Labour may be the largest party, but the Conservatives would have a majority when voting for English laws.

Professor Travers also discussed the possible outcome of the elections for local government:

- There was likely to be more devolved powers for English city regions and potentially county regions.
- A future government may suggest a move towards proportional representation in local government if smaller parties are involved in a formal or informal coalition agreement.
- A comprehensive spending review would be likely to be published

in June or July 2015, with the local government funding settlement following in December as usual.

The LGA Group Leaders discussed how the LGA's First 100 Days campaign had influenced their own parties' manifestos. The Group Leaders particularly focussed on how the national debate on devolution and decentralisation had resonated strongly with political parties. The LGA should continue to present a united front on devolution, and the First 100 Days campaign showed costed examples of policies which would benefit the whole local government sector.

In the discussion which followed Members made a number of comments around the relationship between MPs and local councillors, the local government grant settlement and the likelihood of continued austerity measures and council tax freezes following the General Election. The Chair thanked Professor Travers for his contribution to the meeting.

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 Jim McMahon	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Marco Cereste	Peterborough City 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 Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr James Alexander	City of York Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ron Round JP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cllr Barbara Janke	Bristol City 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 Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Norman Bradbury	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Glenda Vaughan-Powell	

Apologies

Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Ravi Govindia	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City 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 Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Lord Peter Smith	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Cathy Bakewell MBE	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Deborah Crony	North Dorset District Council
Cllr Mahroof Hussain MBE	Rotherham Metropolitan 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 Nigel Ashton
Cllr Steve Count
Cllr Kenneth Meeson
Cllr Roger Begy OBE
Cllr Jane Scott OBE
Cllr Elaine Atkinson
Cllr Mike Eathorne-
Gibbons
Cllr Norman Murphy
Alderman Sir David
Wootton

North Somerset Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Rutland County Council
Wiltshire Council
Borough of Poole

LGA location map

Local Government Association

Local Government House
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Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

Bus routes – Millbank

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

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

Public transport

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

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

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

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling facilities

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

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

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

Car parks

- Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)
- Horseferry Road Car Park
- Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

