

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 22 October 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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Councillors' Forum
22 October 2015

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 22 October 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.

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

Location:

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

LGA Contact:

John Wilesmith
john.wilesmith@local.gov.uk 0207 6643363

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Social Media

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

Councillors' Forum – Membership 2015/2016

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (41)	
Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Claire-Louise Leyland	Camden Council
Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Paul Diviani	East Devon District Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Lord Gary Porter (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Ivan Ould	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Cllr Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Labour (40)	
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 MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City 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 OBE (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 Kate Haigh	Gloucester 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 John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr David Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Independent (10)	
Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice Chairman)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council

Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons	Cornwall Council
Alderman Sir David Wootton	City of London Corporation
Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
Vacancy	Independent Group
Liberal Democrat (9)	
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County 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 Mike Bell	North Somerset Council
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Ross Henley	Taunton Deane Borough Council
Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Teignbridge District Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey	Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 22 October 2015

12.30 pm

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

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1. Richard Harrington MP - Syrian Refugees	1 - 4	
The Chair of the LGA's Asylum Refugee and Migration Task and Finish Group, Cllr David Simmonds CBE, will introduce the Minister with special responsibility for Syrian Refugees, Richard Harrington MP.		
2. Membership and Terms of Reference for 2015/16	5 - 6	
3. Chair's Update	7 - 8	
4. LGA Boards & Panel Chair's Reports		
a) Children and Young People Board- Councillor Roy Perry	9 - 10	
b) City Regions Board - Sir Richard Leese CBE	11 - 12	
c) Community Wellbeing Portfolio - Councillor Izzy Seccombe	13 - 14	
d) Culture, Tourism and Sport- Councillor Ian Stephens	15 - 16	
e) Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board - Councillor Peter Box CBE	17 - 18	
f) Improvement and Innovation Board - Councillor David Simmonds	19 - 20	
g) People and Places Board - Councillor Mark Hawthorne MBE	21 - 24	

- h) Resources Portfolio - Councillor Claire Kober OBE 25 - 26
 - i) Safer and Stronger Communities Board - Councillor Simon Blackburn 27 - 28
- 5. Digest of the last meeting** 29 - 33

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 21 January 2016, 12.30 pm, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



Syrian Refugees

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

The Minister with responsibility for Syrian refugees, Richard Harrington, will set out what the Government is doing to deliver the Prime Minister's commitment to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK over the next 5 years. This session gives an opportunity for councillors to raise questions or issues which particularly affect local government, so that the Minister can take them into account as the scheme develops. A biography of the speaker is attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the presentation and raise issues from a local government perspective.

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

Contact officer:

Emma Jenkins / Sally Burlington

Position:

Senior Adviser / Head of Policy

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Syrian Refugees

Background

1. In his statement to the House of Commons on Monday 7 September, the Prime Minister announced that Britain should resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the rest of the Parliament. These refugees will be taken from the camps in the countries neighbouring Syria, having been referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). At the same time the government announced the Home Office and Department for Communities and Local Government would work with local authorities and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales to agree details of the arrangements to house and support the refugees.
2. Rather than create new arrangements for resettling Syrian refugees, the government has decided to expand the criteria for the existing Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme. The humanitarian criteria will be broadened to include other vulnerable categories previously excluded, but it still will continue to focus on the most vulnerable. The expanded scheme will include those already placed and to be placed under the existing scheme. Refugees will be granted a five year humanitarian protection visa.
3. The aim of the scheme is to place vulnerable people as quickly as possible in the areas that can best meet their needs. The government is working with the LGA, local authorities, UNHCR and others to simplify and quicken the means by which families and individuals are processed through the current scheme and to minimise any impacts on existing communities. The Home Office has indicated that it will seek to ensure an equitable distribution of refugees across the country so that no individual local authority bears a disproportionate share of the burden.

The LGA's Work

4. Through the Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group, the LGA has been involved in discussions with the government and with regions since September to find sustainable resettlement solutions that minimise the pressures on local authorities, local communities and vulnerable individuals.
5. The LGA groups have nominated four lead members to act as a working group to support the Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Force. Negotiations on the Syrian refugees scheme with government are going well and we have secured a commitment that additional funding will be available beyond the first year after a refugee's arrival.
6. We are now working with Government to establish how that funding will work in more detail, and how the scheme will be managed and co-ordinated. We expect those discussions to run through the Spending Review and for further details to be announced at the latest by the Local Government Settlement in December. Councils who wish to participate in the current scheme can come forward now to offer support to the Home Office, and will also benefit from the extended funding.
7. The LGA website is regularly updated with further information as it emerges and gives contacts in the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships who can provide further information and advice. You can access the refugees webpage at <http://www.local.gov.uk/refugees>

Appendix A

Richard Harrington MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister with responsibility for Syrian refugees)



Richard Harrington was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Home Office (Jointly with Department for Communities and Local Government and Department for International Development) in September 2015. He is the Minister with special responsibility for Syrian refugees. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating and delivering work across government to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK, along with coordinating the provision of government support to Syrian refugees in the region.

He was elected as the Conservative MP for Watford in 2010. During his time in Parliament he has served as a member of the International Development Select Committee, General Secretary of the All Party Kashmir Group and Vice Chairman of the All Party Film Group.

Before being elected to Parliament, Richard worked as fundraising director for the Variety Club Children's Charity from 2000 - 2010. Prior to this, he ran a property development company that he started with two friends, which at its peak employed 2000 people. He attended Leeds Grammar school and went on to study law at Oxford University.

Besides his work on Syrian refugees, Richard's main political interests are youth unemployment, local transport infrastructure, business and enterprise, and apprenticeships. Outside of politics, he is a Patron of the Peace Hospice, an honorary Watford Rotarian, and a supporter of Watford and Chelsea FC.



Membership and Terms of Reference for 2015/16

Purpose

For information.

Summary

For members to note the membership (set out on the page before the agenda in this pack) and agree the Terms of Reference of the Board for 2015/16.

Recommendation

Members note the membership of the board and agree the Terms of Reference.

Action

Officers respond accordingly to members' direction.

Contact officer: John Wilesmith
Position: Member Support Officer
Phone no: 020 7664 3363
Email: John.wilesmith@local.gov.uk

Terms of Reference

1. The purpose of the LGA Councillors' Forum is to provide an effective means of holding the LGA to account by:
 - 1.1. Receiving reports from the LGA Board Chairs, providing views and challenge;
 - 1.2. Discussing topical cross-cutting issues impacting on local government to ensure effective connections are being made across Boards.
2. The LGA Councillors' Forum may:
 - 2.1. Receive briefings and hold discussions on topical issues impacting on local government, to ensure members have sufficient information to hold the LGA to account;
 - 2.2. Request the attendance of external speakers where that supports the Forum in carrying out its role.

Quorum

3. One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

Political Composition

4. Conservative group: 41 members
5. Labour group: 40 members
6. Independent group: 10 members
7. Liberal Democrat group: 9 members
8. Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

Frequency per year

9. Meetings to be held five times per year.

Reporting Accountabilities

10. The LGA Councillors' Forum is an advisory body that provides a steer to the Local Government Association LGA Executive on current priority issues for local government.

Chairman's Update

This report covers Councillor Gary Porter's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum.

Local Government Association (LGA) business

1. Meetings:

- 1.1. **Baroness Eaton** (Vice president, LGA)
- 1.2. **Clive Betts MP** (Vice president, LGA)
- 1.3. **Cllr Mark Hawthorne** (Chair, People and Places board, LGA)
- 1.4. **Cllr Sir Richard Leese** (Chair, City Regions Board, LGA)
- 1.5. **Lord Kerslake** (President, LGA)
- 1.6. **Cllr David Simmonds** (Chair, Improvement and Innovation Board, LGA)
- 1.7. **Cllr Peter Box** (Chair, Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, LGA)
- 1.8. **Cllr Jeremy Hilton** (Chair, Fire Services Management Board, LGA)
- 1.9. **Cllr Roy Perry** (Chair, Children & Young People Board, LGA)

2. Ministerial/Parliamentary business

- 2.1. **Brendon Lewis MP** (Minister of State for Housing and Planning, DCLG)
- 2.2. **Camilla Sheldon** (Community Rights Division, DCLG)
- 2.3. **Helen Edwards** (Director General, DCLG)
- 2.4. **Marcus Jones MP** (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Local Government, DCLG)
- 2.5. **The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP** (Secretary of State, DCLG)
- 2.6. **The Rt Hon Lord Freud** (Minister of State for Welfare Reform, DWP)
- 2.7. **The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP** (Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, Cabinet Office)
- 2.8. **Ministerial Group on Syrian Refugees**
- 2.9. **Mark Lancaster TD MP** (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence Personnel and Veterans, MoD)
- 2.10. **Rt Hon Greg Hands MP** (Chief Secretary, HMT)
- 2.11. **Peter Schofield** (Director General, Neighbourhoods, DCLG)
- 2.12. **Welfare Reform and Work Bill Committee**
- 2.13. **Asylum Refugee and Migration Task and Finish Group**

3. Meetings with organisations and individuals

- 3.1. **Association of North East Councils (ANEC)** meeting
- 3.2. **Freedom Dinner 2015** (by Forest, Boisdale, the Institute of Economic Affairs and Action on Consumer Choice)
- 3.3. **NALC conference 2015**
- 3.4. **Alex Thomson** (Chief Executive, Localis)
- 3.5. **Judith Armitt** (Chief Executive, Local Partnerships)
- 3.6. **Sir David Wootton** (Chairman, Local Partnership)
- 3.7. **Nicholas Boys Smith** (Director, Create Streets)

4. Conservative Party Conference

- 4.1. Resolution Foundation fringe
- 4.2. Town & Country Planning Association fringe
- 4.3. LGiU annual local government dinner
- 4.4. Jon Sparks (Chief Executive, Crisis)
- 4.5. Demos Roundtable
- 4.6. Philip Barnes (Land and Planning Director, Barratt Developments PLC)
- 4.7. LGA/British Property Federation Conservative Party Conference dinner
- 4.8. LGA Conservative Party Conference reception
- 4.9. Brett Amphlett (Policy & Public Affairs Manager, Builders Merchants Federation)
- 4.10. Andrew Laird (Director, Mutual Ventures)
- 4.11. Sarah Calkin (Senior Correspondent, Health, Emap)
- 4.12. Moira Fraser (Director of Policy and Research, Carers Trust)
- 4.13. Ruth Davison (Director of Policy and External Affairs, National Housing Federation)
- 4.14. Bright Blue and Hanover Housing event
- 4.15. Localis Annual Members dinner

Children and Young People Board – report from Cllr Roy Perry (Chair)

National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference

1. I chaired an Education Question Time panel at the 2015 National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference. The panel included the President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), Alison O'Sullivan, and the Department for Education's National Schools Commissioner, Frank Green. The discussion was lively and productive, with the audience and panellists covering a range of topics including school places, the Government's plans for 'coasting' schools and academisation.
2. The LGA worked with partners to organise the NCAS Conference programme. This year's conference took place in Bournemouth from 14 – 16 October and it included a mix of keynote and ministerial addresses and a closed meeting of the Children and Young People Board that lead members of children's services from across the country attended. I invited the Executive Director of iMPower, Amanda Kelly, to give a presentation to the Board on new research into the effectiveness of the current Ofsted Single Inspection Framework.

Public Health Services for Children

3. In October we published *A new home for public health services for children aged 0-5: A resource for local authorities*. There is overwhelming evidence that tells us that the first few years in children's lives shape their future development, and influence how well children do at school, their ongoing health and wellbeing and their achievements later in life. This briefing for officers will help councils to deliver their new statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5. It contains information about the transfer and the opportunities it brings to join up public health functions for children aged 0-19. - http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/7507693/PUBLICATION#sthash.EZYP26SV.dpuf

Education Select Committee Inquiries

4. The Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Board, Cllr Richard Watts, gave oral evidence to the Education Select Committee on 21 October as part of their inquiry into the Role of Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs). We also submitted written evidence for the inquiry in which we argued that RSCs should work closely with councils to ensure that all schools are supported to improve, but expressed concerns that the RSCs do not have the capacity of local knowledge to deal with failing academies as well as maintained schools.
5. We submitted written evidence to the Education Select Committee inquiry into the work of Ofsted expressing councils' concerns over Ofsted's ability to undertake robust, transparent and credible inspections of local authority children's services and schools.

'Must knows' for Lead Members for Children's Services

6. We comprehensively revised the "Must knows" for lead members for children's services so that they have the latest information for 2015/16. The "Must Knows" comprise of 11 separate documents that between them focus on the key issues facing lead members for children's services and the current and planned reforms impacting on children's services. The two following documents were published in September:

7. *"Must knows": Children's public health transfer.* This document helps lead members for children's services to navigate the changes to public health responsibilities. Councils now have a statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5 following the transfer of these responsibilities from the NHS on 1 October 2015. This joins up with the much larger transfer of public health functions to local government which included responsibility for 5-19 year olds, which took place on 1 April 2013. – http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/7505714/PUBLICATION#sthash.xcfw3fBJ.dpuf
8. *"Must knows": successfully embedding the Care Act 2014.* This revised briefing document for councillors and other senior local leaders provides a number of timely key messages to ensure that councils successfully realise the aspirations of the Care Act in their local change programmes. It recaps the Care Act's main features and duties, sets out the implications for councils, and provides a number of questions for decision-makers and scrutinisers to consider. - http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/6683815/PUBLICATION#sthash.6q6VdluY.dpuf

Post-election Education Roundtable

9. I participated in an education roundtable at the think tank Compass on 19 October. The roundtable was hosted by Stephen Twigg MP and the conversation focussed on the challenges facing early years, schools, colleges and adult education. The discussion was measured and informative, with participants identifying the scope for collaborate action to improve the legislative and funding climate, whether in specific localities or policy areas.

Youth Offending Teams Funding Consultation

10. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) held a consultation on proposals to cut the Youth Justice Grant provided to youth offending teams (YOTs) by £9m, or 10.6%, in the current financial year (2015/16). We submitted a collective response to this consultation with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers (AYM) before the deadline of 16 September 2015, whilst also urging local areas to submit their individual comments to the YJB.

Leadership Essentials

11. We are holding a two-day Leadership Essentials event for children's services from 28 – 29 October. The event will provide portfolio holders, service committee chairs and interested council leaders with a chance to develop leadership skills specific to the area of children's services and share their experiences among colleagues dealing with similar challenges.

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Position: Principal Policy Adviser
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City Regions Board – report from Sir Richard Leese (Chair)

1. The new membership of the LGA City Regions Board will meet for the first time on 26 October 2015 at which members will decide on a work programme for the upcoming year.

LGA Annual Conference 2015

2. At our annual conference in Harrogate the LGA hosted several sessions covering the remit of the City Regions Board, including two on devolution. They were all well attended.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

3. Members of the City Regions Board have continued to feed into the LGA's lobbying on the Cities and Local Government Bill (the Bill) as it passed through the House of Lords. We have successfully pressed for amendments to the Bill in the Lords that would help to bring more transparency and consistency to the deals process. The Bill is expected to be introduced in the Commons within weeks, and Members have provided officers with their views on the next proposed lobbying strategy for this latest stage.
4. The LGA has also submitted evidence to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry on the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, with the key messages that:
 - 4.1. for the full potential of devolution to be realised, the Bill must be backed up by the political will to deliver;
 - 4.2. decisions must be made transparently and in consultation with local areas;
 - 4.3. devolution must be backed up by the fiscal tools to generate investment in infrastructure and services;
 - 4.4. reforming our care and support system is vital for all places to be able to meet current and future challenges, but there is no single template for health devolution.

Devolution

5. Since the last Chair's report, the LGA has re-launched a new online 'devo hub' to help councils find out what has been achieved in different areas of England, what is possible and a toolkit to assist in planning for future devolution. The 'hub' is a resource for technical information, updates on the most recent activity at local and national government level, and key documents from devolution frontrunners. This can be found at <http://www.local.gov.uk/devolution>

The LGA support offer¹

6. The LGA formally launched its support offer for councils to help them secure the benefits of devolution for their residents with a menu of support to assist councils with:
 - 6.1. establishing governance and accountability arrangements;
 - 6.2. developing their evidence base for proposals;
 - 6.3. negotiating with Whitehall departments.

¹ More information can be found at www.local.gov.uk/devolution/support.

7. Officers will also be holding a series of events tailored to different areas of the country. The first, to be held in Birmingham on 21 October 2015, will focus on helping councils communicate with the public and stakeholders about devolution.
8. Finally, we have also launched a [powering productivity infographic](#) which sets out what businesses could gain from devolution. It argues for the Spending Review to hand local government fairer funding and powers to unleash the full potential of local businesses and economies.

The evidence base for devolving of employment, skills and welfare

9. The City Regions Boards and People and Places Board have commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (Inclusion) to develop the detail of a devolved employment model for the most disadvantaged jobseekers / ESA claimants which devolves support in the right way and could be flexible enough to apply in all areas across England.
10. Alongside the model, the LGA will publish an evidence based report on the merits of a local approach to support people with physical and mental health conditions into work, and those with 'treatable' conditions drawing on case material from a range of councils.

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 0207 187 7384

E-mail: Rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Portfolio – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair)

Prevention: A Shared Commitment

1. On 14 October the LGA published [‘Prevention: A Shared Commitment’](#), a supporting document to the LGA’s Spending Review submission, which calls on the Government to use the Spending Review to urgently invest £2 billion to help transform the health and care system towards preventing ill health rather than waiting to fix problems only after they occur. The report highlights that Government urgently needs to recognise the importance of investing in prevention before people relying on care become victim to major consequences. Failure to tackle the crisis in the social care and health system will leave councils unable to manage future demand as it reaches unmanageable new levels, and ignoring the problem will push the system to breaking point and lead to people needing costlier and more acute treatment. Currently, just five per cent of the entire healthcare budget is spent on schemes that prevent people from falling ill. In order to reduce accident and emergency admissions and reduce longer-term conditions, both the Government and the NHS need to rethink their approach to prevention and recognise the value of investing more in adult social care and public health.

A new home for public health services for children aged 0-5: A resource for local authorities

2. In October we published [A new home for public health services for children aged 0-5: A resource for local authorities](#). There is overwhelming evidence that tells us that the first few years in children's lives shape their future development, and influence how well children do at school, their ongoing health and wellbeing and their achievements later in life. This briefing for officers will help councils to deliver their new statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5. It contains information about the transfer and the opportunities it brings to join up public health functions for children aged 0-19.

Must knows for elected members: Children's public health transfer

3. To coincide with the transfer of commissioning public health responsibilities for 0-5 year olds the LGA published [Must knows for elected members: Children's public health transfer](#). Councils now have a statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5 following the transfer of these responsibilities from the NHS on 1 October 2015. This joins up with the much larger transfer of public health functions to local government which included responsibility for 5-19 year olds, which took place on 1 April 2013.

Beyond fighting fires: The role of the fire and rescue service in improving the public's health

4. Over the summer the LGA launched [Beyond fighting fires: The role of the fire and rescue service in improving the public's health](#). Fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) have a key role to play in ensuring that their communities are safe through responding to emergencies and also through their extensive preventative work. The case studies contained within this publication explore their activities to help the most vulnerable individuals and families in our communities.

Sexual health commissioning in local government

5. In July the LGA published [Sexual health commissioning in local government](#). These nine case studies showcase local government experience of commissioning sexual health services since taking over this responsibility in April 2013. The studies demonstrate how commissioners have grasped the opportunities of having a local government base. They outline the steps taken to collaborate not only within and between local authorities but also with NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Community Wellbeing Portfolio Awayday

6. On Friday 2 October Community Wellbeing Portfolio members held an away day, with a number of guest speakers including Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for Community and Social Care at the Department of Health, and representatives from the NHS Confederation, the Association of Directors of Public Health, and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. Members also heard from a representative of PeopleHub, who provided a personal perspective on health budgets.
7. Following the Awayday, members discussed how the new portfolio arrangements for Community Wellbeing would operate. The Portfolio's priorities for the forthcoming year were agreed, and the areas of work were split into four Policy Groups: the future vision for health and care systems; the funding and support for adult social care; the role of councils in promoting health and wellbeing; and vulnerable people and older people. Further details on the portfolio arrangements will be set out in due course.

NCAS Conference

8. The National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference took place between 14 and 16 October in Bournemouth. The conference is hosted by the Local Government Association (LGA), the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), and is attended by more than 1,000 delegates. It is an important annual event for councillors, directors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for children's services, adult care and health in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. Sessions this year included discussions around a sustainable future for Adult Social Care, the impact of devolution on health and care, transforming children's health services and person-centred integration. Cllr Izzi Seccombe hosted a Community Wellbeing Forum session on 15 October.

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

Sport and Physical Activity

1. The LGA has responded to the Government's consultation on a new sports strategy. Our response highlighted that councils and their local partners are well placed to lead a step-change in sport participation rates that will improve the nation's physical and mental wellbeing. They have the assets, the insight and the strong track record to boost participation, especially when it comes to reaching people who play sport informally or who want to start playing sport. Given this and the financial constraints facing discretionary services, we are calling for Government and Sport England to re-balance funding away from national bodies and towards locally-led approaches.
2. Our response builds upon my recent conversations with Tracey Crouch MP, Sports Minister, and the LGA's high profile media campaign for more investment in grassroots football, which recently helped to persuade the Premier League to double the reach of its school sport programme to 10,000 schools in the next three years. Re-balancing national sports funding will help ensure that this investment is maximised by giving councils and local partners the flexibility to offer opportunities that keep young people playing sport after they have left school.
3. With rugby fever sweeping the country, a double page spread in [First](#) magazine highlighted how councils are helping to inspire sport and boost tourism. Of the 11 host cities, there are 13 local authority areas including three London Boroughs. Rugby World Cup organisers believe the tournament could generate up to £1 billion for the economy.

Libraries

4. I was delighted to speak at the latest LGA / Arts Council England libraries seminar on 15 September at The British Library (BL). Over 20 portfolio holders from across the country shared how they are leading transformational change of libraries. Roly Keating, Chief Executive of The BL, hosted the event and shared exciting plans to extend the BL's network of Business and IP Centres to another 20 places by 2020, and to develop a wider Living Knowledge network that will further strengthen partnerships with libraries across the country. Case studies included The Hive in Worcester, the first joint public / university library in Europe.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board 14 September

5. The Board agreed a work programme for the coming year that will make a significant contribution to corporate LGA campaigns and make a difference to our member councils. Priorities include supporting over 140 councillors through our very popular culture and sport improvement programme, developing analysis and support on the visitor economy and devolution, influencing the Culture White Paper, and delivering another successful annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Leicester 24 – 25 February.
6. Members also considered a progress update from the LGA / Department for Culture, Media and Sport Leadership for Libraries Taskforce. They congratulated the Taskforce



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on its early achievements, in particular securing £7.1 million to rollout WiFi to English Libraries. I am speaking to the Culture Minister on 15 October to discuss future priorities for the Taskforce.

Historic Anniversaries

7. The Women's Local Government Society, in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council and the LGA, has launched a national project to involve communities and councils to mark the centenary of women's suffrage in 2018. The idea is to find and pay tribute to 100 pioneers who fought for universal suffrage and then participated in public life. Women were able to vote in council elections from the late 19th century but it was not until 1918 that some women were allowed to vote for the first time in parliamentary elections.

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

Buses

1. I have written to the Department for Transport (DfT) and Treasury Ministers on the issue of bus provision, to bring to their attention the pressures that continue to be faced by councils in supporting bus provision, especially in non-metropolitan areas, together with a suggested package of regulatory and funding reforms that will help with local provision. These issues were raised in the recently published LGA report *Missing the Bus?: Councils and the future of the bus in non-metropolitan areas*.

Road Traffic Law Enforcement and Review of the Traffic Signs and Regulations General Directions

2. Lead members of my board submitted responses on behalf of the LGA to the Transport Select Committee's inquiry into traffic law enforcement and to DfT's consultation on traffic signs and regulations General Directions. The LGA highlighted how devolution of traffic management powers (by implementing Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004) to local authorities would have a significant impact on road safety by allowing councils to enforce cycle lanes and banned turns and other dangerous manoeuvres. Our response to the latter focused on our concern that the DfT appeared to be backtracking over its proposal to remove the requirement for yellow line restrictions to have an associated traffic order, which impose an unnecessary cost on councils.

Sunday Trading

3. Lead members signed-off the LGA's response to the Government's recent consultation on Sunday Trading hours. In summary, the LGA welcomed the new powers, believing the Government is right to recognise the role of councils in driving local growth and being better placed in shaping decisions that affect the well-being of local people and businesses. However, we urged the Government to make the power to extend Sunday trading hours available to all areas and do so in a way that avoids central prescription and bureaucracy, additional costs and gives local places the freedom to make their own choices.

Parking Reform: Tackling Unfair Practices

4. The LGA responded to a DCLG discussion paper on the management and regulation of parking on private land, and land owned by public bodies, and cash payment facilities for municipal parking. We expect the department to announce the outcome of the consultation this autumn.

Proposed reduction of social rent by 1 per cent a year over 4 years

5. The Board has led the LGA's response to the proposed social rent reduction, submitting evidence to the Welfare Reform and Work Committee calling for a deletion of the clause which the Chairman followed with oral evidence. This has included publishing our analysis that the proposal will cost councils £2.6 billion over 4 years up to 2020, which has been widely covered in the press including the [Financial Times](#). The Board is

preparing a strategy for influencing the Bill ahead of it progressing to Report stage, including developing and evidencing a number of amendments.

Extension of Right to Buy and Sale of High Value Assets

6. The Board has continued to call for the sale of high value assets and extension of Right to Buy to be pursued as two separate policies, and for councils to retain 100 per cent of receipts from sales to reinvest in building locally. It has commissioned Savills research unit to provide an independent analysis on the different national housing policies on housebuilding, affordable housing stock, and home ownership. The Board has used the first report as a basis for work to influence policy ahead of the Housing Bill, and included it in a widely covered press statement on the proposed extension of Right to Buy, covered by the [Guardian](#). A final report will be completed after the Housing Bill is published to take into account additional details.

Rogue landlords

7. The LGA responded to a DCLG consultation on improving the private rented sector. We called for tougher penalties for rogue landlords and support for councils to make robust decisions about a "fit and proper" test for landlords, including a blacklist of rogue landlords. LGA Vice President Gerald Vernon-Jackson gave interviews to support our press work in September. BBC breakfast, Radio 5, Channel 4 news and around 20 national media channels covered the story

Starter Homes

8. The LGA has continued to raise concerns about the Government's proposal to fund the 20 per cent discount on 200,000 Starter Homes through exemptions from affordable housing contributions and infrastructure payments. This has included publishing our analysis that the proposal will cost councils at least £3 billion over 4 years up to 2020 in lost affordable housing contributions. The BBC included our concerns in a story it ran in October.

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Improvement and Innovation Board – report from Cllr David Simmonds (Chair)

Improvement

1. I shared a panel with the President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), Alison O'Sullivan, and Ofsted's Deputy Director of Social Care Policy, Lisa Pascoe, to discuss '*The future of inspection – a sector-led approach?*' at the 2015 National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference, which took place from 14 – 16 October. The panel debated whether a sector-led, multi-agency inspection of children's services could result in better outcomes and restore confidence in the inspection system.
2. I will be meeting with the new Minister of State for Children and Families, Edward Timpson MP, to discuss children's services improvement funding and the impact of the Ofsted regime on 27 October.
3. As regards audit arrangements in local government, I am pleased to say that in response to our lobbying, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has decided to extend the transitional arrangement for principal local government bodies to 1 April 2018. We estimate that this equates to a saving of £24m for local government. The LGA will be bringing forward proposals to allow councils to opt-in to a form of national procurement of external audit once the transitional arrangements come to an end. We believe this will be the most efficient way for councils and will achieve the lowest level of fees overall. It will also mean that councils will not have to carry out their own procurement process, nor will they be required to set up an independent audit appointments panel.

Innovation

4. In March we launched our innovation database that makes it easier for councils to share new ideas and practices. The database originally included examples from our Innovation Zone, which is part of the LGA's annual conference. We have however since expanded the database to include numerous examples of innovation and good practice from councils across the country. The database is currently showcased on the LGA website homepage and now features around 800 individual examples as it continually expands. I would encourage you to take a look!

Transparency

5. We launched a new version of LG Inform over the summer. LG Inform is the LGA's benchmarking service containing over 3,000 items of up-to-date published performance, financial and contextual data about local areas. The new version will make accessing information and reports easier wherever users are via a tablet user interface compatible with Android, Windows and iPad (iOS).
6. We also launched a new Application-Programming Interface (API) for LG Inform over the summer, which allows anyone to view and download the local open data stored in the database. It combines thousands of widely used data items from an array of different sources.
7. Latest metrics added to LG Inform include those on: homelessness prevention, benefit cap statistics, housing benefit claimants, Job Seekers Allowance sanction decisions, total CO2 emissions estimates for all sectors at local authority level, numbers of Personal Independence Payment claims and council tax collection rates.

LEADERSHIP

8. Our Leadership offer continues to go from strength to strength. We had over 610 bookings on our 'Highlighting Political leadership' programmes by the end of September, and a record number of councillors will be participating on various programmes. In addition, in November we are launching the first two in a series of one-day focussed master classes for councillors who hold leadership positions on their councils, including cabinet members, committee chairs and opposition group leaders. The first will be on Consultation and Engagement and the second will focus on Leading Cultural Change. These are in addition to our existing wide-ranging [Leadership offer](#).
9. The National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp) for local government has had another successful year, with 98 National Management Trainees joining 44 councils in September/October to start their two-year programme, which aims to develop graduates into the high-calibre managers that local communities need.

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People and Places Board – report from Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chairman)

1. The new membership of the LGA People and Places Board will meet for the first time on 19 October 2015 at which members will decide on a work programme for the upcoming year.

LGA Annual Conference 2015

2. At our annual conference in Harrogate the LGA hosted several sessions covering the remit of the People and Places Board, including two on devolution. They were all well attended.
3. At the largest session, former People and Places Board Vice-Chair Cllr Anne Western addressed delegates on 'devolution in practice' and discussed how the roles of elected members and senior officers might evolve and what new powers and funding places stand to secure from Whitehall under future arrangements.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

4. Members of the People and Places Board have continued to feed into the LGA's lobbying on the Cities and Local Government Bill (the Bill) as it passed through the House of Lords. We have successfully pressed for amendments to the Bill in the Lords that would help to bring more transparency and consistency to the deals process. The Bill is expected to be introduced in the Commons within weeks, and Members have provided officers with their views on the next proposed lobbying strategy for this latest stage.
5. The LGA has also submitted evidence to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee inquiry on the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, with the key messages that:
 - 5.1. for the full potential of devolution to be realised the Bill must be backed up by the political will to deliver;
 - 5.2. decisions must be made transparently and in consultation with local areas;
 - 5.3. devolution must be backed up by the fiscal tools to generate investment in infrastructure and services;
 - 5.4. reforming our care and support system is vital for all places to be able to meet current and future challenges, but there is no single template for health devolution.

Devolution

6. Since the last Chair's report, the LGA has re-launched a new online 'devo hub' to help councils find out what has been achieved in different areas of England, what is possible and a toolkit to assist in planning for future devolution. The 'hub' is a resource for technical information, updates on the most recent activity at local and national government level, and key documents from devolution frontrunners. This can be found at <http://www.local.gov.uk/devolution>

The LGA support offer¹

7. The LGA formally launched its support offer for councils to help them secure the benefits of devolution for their residents with a menu of support to assist councils with:
 - 7.1. establishing governance and accountability arrangements;
 - 7.2. developing their evidence base for proposals;
 - 7.3. negotiating with Whitehall departments.
8. Officers will also be holding a series of events tailored to different areas of the country. The first, to be held in Birmingham on 21 October, will focus on helping councils communicate with the public and stakeholders about devolution.
9. Finally, we have also launched a [powering productivity infographic](#) which sets out what businesses could gain from devolution. It argues for the Spending Review to hand local government the fairer funding and powers to unleash the full potential of local businesses and economies.

The evidence base for devolving of employment, skills and welfare

10. The People and Places Board and City Regions Boards have commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (Inclusion) to develop the detail of a devolved employment model for the most disadvantaged jobseekers / ESA claimants which devolves support in the right way and could be flexible enough to apply in all areas across England.
11. Alongside the model, the LGA will publish an evidence based report on the merits of a local approach to support people with physical and mental health conditions into work, and those with 'treatable' conditions drawing on case material from Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire and Sussex among others.

Broadband

12. The Board oversaw the LGA submission to the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry into establishing world-class connectivity throughout the UK. Key messages in the submission included:
 - 12.1. Broadband is as important a strategic consideration as electricity, planning, housing and transport, for living and doing business in the twenty-first century. Achieving 100 per cent fast and reliable broadband coverage is vital for supporting growth in both urban and non-metropolitan areas.
 - 12.2. To secure value for money from the considerable public investment in superfast broadband, Ofcom and the Government need to ensure there is adequate competition in the work to extend it to hard-to-reach areas.
 - 12.3. In order to maximise value for money, all future public funding for superfast broadband and mobile broadband should be devolved to councils.

¹ More information can be found at www.local.gov.uk/devolution/support.



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Resources Board – report from Cllr Claire Kober OBE (Chair)

1. Since 1 September, Resources colleagues and I have been piloting a new way of working that is a move away from the traditional Board structure to a more flexible, portfolio model, focused on increasing member engagement both within the Portfolio and within member councils.
2. There are four Portfolio areas, each coordinated by a Lead Member and supported by a steering group of members from within the Portfolio. These are: Local Government Finance; Strategic Finance for Growth, Infrastructure & Devolution; Welfare; and Workforce.
3. Within these Portfolio Grouping there is also scope for greater member input through roles such as council facing ambassadors, spokespeople and liaison roles to link up with the work of other LGA Boards on cross cutting issues.
4. We held a Portfolio workshop on 9 October, which was a great opportunity to meet colleagues and scope out the work programme for each Portfolio in more depth. Feedback so far has been really positive and on behalf of the Lead Members, I can say that we are all enthusiastic about making the most of the opportunities this pilot offers. I will keep you up-to-date as it progresses and on the evaluation of the pilot which is due to take place in April.

Spending Review Submission

5. The summer has been an exceptionally active and productive period for the finance element of the Portfolio as it took the lead in building the momentum of the LGA's Spending Review campaign.
6. In late June, we published the updated Future Funding Outlook analysis which set out a funding gap for council core services of £9.5 billion by 2019/20. We will be updating this analysis following the Spending Review. In the annual LGA conference on 30 June, we launched the LGA's position statement on financial issues called 'A Shared Commitment' which set out finance-related policies across all areas of local government.
7. This was followed by the launch of the LGA's official Spending Review representation, arguing the case for devolution of, or increased local control over, £60 billion of central government spending on growth, employment, skills and infrastructure. In the associated press release, revealed that councils face £10 billion of additional cost pressures, most from government policy interventions, by 2019/20. Together with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, we also prepared a thematic submission to the Spending Review on adult social care, health and wellbeing and supported other LGA Spending Review publications, due to be released this month.

Business rates

8. On the 5 October the Chancellor [announced](#) that by 2020 councils will be able to keep 100 per cent of the business rates. The LGA has long been calling for action on [business rates and this is a welcome announcement](#). This change will require a full redesign of the local government finance system and runs alongside the other developments in the devolution agenda which will have further financial implications. There is much work to do, to both introduce the proposals, and ensure that no council suffers as a result of the changes. At the Resources Portfolio workshop on 9 October, it was agreed that this is a major area for the LGA to concentrate on. We anticipate working with Government on the full range of measures and changes that will be needed and will continue to press for best possible deal for councils in the upcoming Spending Review, ahead of the announcement on the 25 November.

Welfare

9. The LGA Chairman, Cllr Porter, went to see Lord Freud to discuss Universal Credit (UC). He maintained pressure on the Minister to provide clarity around the future of housing benefit staff. The Chairman clearly reminded Lord Freud that the LGA position has been and remains that staff must be given an opportunity to transfer under COSOP principles, irrespective of whether the TUPE Regulations technically apply. The LGA is continuing its negotiations with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Elected members are welcome to get in touch if they have any further views they wish to share on this issue which will remain live for the next few months.
10. As part of the discussions Cllr Porter also reiterated to Lord Freud that the housing benefit administrative subsidy remains central to helping councils support the roll out of welfare reform. Since the meeting DWP have confirmed that the 2016/17 administrative subsidy will not be adjusted for Universal Credit. Lord Freud also agreed to look into the prioritisation of housing benefit debt within UC. Discussions around the broader role for councils and the USdl are ongoing with further clarity expected after the Spending Review.

Pooled investments in the LGPS

11. In the July Summer Budget, the Chancellor announced plans to require Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) funds in England and Wales to pool investments in order to save costs and to enable an increased level of investment in local infrastructure. The Government has stated their preference is for the sector to come up with innovative proposals to achieve this and a series of events and working group meetings have been held with elected members up and down the country to establish what approaches should be considered.
12. Following the Chancellor touching on these reforms in his Conservative Conference speech, we have now asked that Government puts out clear messages on the timetable and scope of this policy to enable all funds to seriously consider their response.

Local Government Services

13. All eleven regional pay consultation briefings have now concluded, with the National Employers meeting on 7 October to consider feedback and decide next steps. There is a broad consensus among councils that the new National Living Wage (NLW) presents local government with a challenge and that the NJC should move quickly to reach an agreement on pay and set a path to 2020 and beyond when the NLW will be more than £9 per hour.

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Safer & Stronger Communities Board – report from Councillor Simon Blackburn (Chair)

Preventing Extremism

1. I met the Security Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP, in September to discuss the role of councils in preventing people becoming involved in terrorism and their access to communications data under the Investigatory Powers Bill. I highlighted the range of crimes councils were expected to contribute to tackling alongside their role in preventing terrorism, and the pressures this was placing on councils' community safety related activity and budgets.

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

2. I attended a meeting of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' (APCC) Performance Standards and Accountability Standing Group to discuss draft guidance from the LGA and APCC to police and crime commissioners and police and crime panels. The Board's Lead Members will carefully consider any suggestions from the APCC to change the draft joint guidance.

Serious and Organised Crime

3. I wrote a foreword to guidance for councillors on the role of local authorities in tackling organised crime groups, which was published at the end of August. The guidance sets out how organised crime groups operate, emerging trends in areas of activity for organised crime groups, the national policy context and how councils can contribute to tackling organised crime groups.

Advisory Board for Female Offenders

4. Cllr Janet Daby attended the Ministry of Justice's Advisory Board on Female Offenders meeting in mid-October, which is chaired by Caroline Dinéage, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Family Justice. Cllr Daby highlighted the importance to councils of diverting women who are primary carers from prison given the impact this has on children, and the need to look at other forms of sentence for these offenders.

Cemeteries and cremations

5. After the publication of a report by Royal London into the costs of burials and cremations across the UK, Cllr Ian Gillies, the Board's lead on bereavement related services responded by highlighting the costs facing councils in maintaining facilities and grounds maintenance, the need to buy new equipment to meet environmental standards for crematoria, and the expense councils incur in maintaining cemeteries that are either full or nearly full.

Taxi licensing

6. I wrote to the Minister for Transport, Andrew Jones, to raise continuing concerns about the decline in the sharing of intelligence between and councils about prospective taxi drivers. The LGA is seeking a discussion between DfT, Home Office, and police officials to address this serious deficit in information. I also hosted a conference on Taxi and PHV licensing on 16 October, which updated councils on recent legislative changes and best practice options; Cllr Philip Evans provided the keynote speech setting out the LGA's lobbying work in this area.

Regulatory services

7. Cllr Tony Page met with BACTA, the largest gaming association, to discuss issues of better regulation and concerns about the impact of poorly targeted legislation. Cllr Page also attended a session on problem gambling and gambling-related harm hosted by the Responsible Gambling Trust. Cllr Page also attended an Alcohol Leadership Board convened by Public Health England.
8. Cllr Linden addressed members of the Better Regulation Delivery Office's Business Reference Panel when the LGA hosted the meeting in early September. The meeting discussed themes including the extension of primary authority and devolution.

Trading standards

9. Cllr Sophie Linden spoke at the opening session of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute's annual conference. Cllr Linden provided a local government perspective on trading standards following CTSI's proposal for the creation of strategic trading standards authorities.

Ministry of Justice and EU Victim's Code

10. I wrote to the Minister for Victims, Mike Penning, outlining the LGA's concern at the potential resource impact if council services such as trading standards were incorporated within the statutory Victim's Code. The MoJ has agreed not to include councils within the Code at this time, and will instead work with a group of councils to understand the support already in place and the additional impact of the Code.

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

11. Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Chair of the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee, visited Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority. He outlined the role of the LGA, and had further discussions with member on the issues facing the fire and rescue service as we look to the future.

National FGM Centre's Advisory Group

12. Cllr Lisa Brett chaired the National FGM Centre's Advisory Group. Members discussed the progress of the Centre against its key milestones as well as the potential impact of the introduction of mandatory reporting for known or disclosed cases of FGM.

Fire/Health Summit

13. Cllr David Acton and Cllr Kay Hammond, Deputy Chairs of the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the fire/health summit on behalf of Cllr Jeremy Hilton. The Summit discussed the role of the Fire and Rescue Service in contributing to improving the health and wellbeing of their communities. The meeting formally signed off a consensus statement made between the LGA, NHS England, Public Health England, the Chief Fire Officers Association and Age UK, which affirmed our commitment to work together on this issue.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 11 June 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
1	<p>Marcus Jones MP - DCLG's Priorities</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">• Prudent finances as councils face further financial challenges and a need for increased certainty over funding to help councils plan.• Devolution on the most far-reaching scale in living memory, not just for cities but also for counties, smaller towns and neighbourhoods.• Service transformation enabled through devolution deals and joint working• Extending Right to Buy to Housing Association Tenants, alongside measure to ensure more houses are built. <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	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CBE	
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	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
MBE	
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-	Cornwall Council
Gibbons	
Alderman Sir David	City of London Corporation
Wootton	

In Attendance

LGA Officers

LGA location map

Local Government Association

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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

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

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

