

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 9 June 2016
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
9 June 2016

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 9 June 2016**
Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Please note: *The Political Group meetings will be held prior to this, as follows:*

11.00am	Conservative	Westminster Suite (8 th floor)
10.00am	Labour Group Exec	Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Labour	Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
10.30am	Liberal Democrat	Rathbone Room 1&2 (7 th floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in The Terrace Lounge (7th Floor).

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:

Gareth Greatrex, 0207 664 3381, Gareth.greatrex@local.gov.uk

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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 (39)	
Lord Gary Porter (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Claire-Louise Leyland	Camden 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 OBE	Sevenoaks District 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 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 Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Ivan Ould	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
Labour (40)	
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council

Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (Vice-Chair)	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 (Vice-Chair)	Lewisham London Borough Council
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Keith Wakefield OBE	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 Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr David Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Lord Peter Smith	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Independent (9)	
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

Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
Vacancy	Independent Group
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
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 Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
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 Alan Connett	Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey	Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 9 June 2016

12.30 pm

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

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4. LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports		
a) Children and Young People Board- Councillor Roy Perry	7 - 8	
b) City Regions Board - Sir Richard Leese CBE	9 - 12	
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- | | | |
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| h) | Resources Portfolio- Councillor Claire Kober
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Councillor Simon Blackburn | 27 - 28 |
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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 21 July 2016, 12.30 pm, Westminster Suite,
8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

SPORT ENGLAND: TOWARDS AN ACTIVE NATION Strategy 2016- 2021

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

Sport England's new strategy 'Towards An Active Nation' strategy 2016-2021 will triple investment in tackling physical inactivity (to £250 million) and open up more funding to councils and local partners.

This session is an opportunity for members to further cement the central role of councils and local partners in Sport England's new approach and to raise any questions or issues about the strategy.

Mike Diaper, Executive Director Community Sport, Sport England, will join the Councillors' Forum for this item. Sport England is the Government agency responsible for increasing participation in grassroots sport and is a statutory distributor of funds raised by the National Lottery.

A speaker biography and background information about Sport England 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: Rebecca Cox
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SPORT ENGLAND: TOWARDS AN ACTIVE NATION Strategy 2016-2021

Background

1. In June 2015, the Sports Minister, Tracey Crouch MP, announced the Government's intention to develop a new sport and physical activity strategy in response to falling participation rates. In December 2015, the Government published '[Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation](#)', which set out five outcomes that the strategy aimed to achieve: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.
2. The strategy reflected many of the [LGA's recommendations](#). In particular, Government recognised our call for more funding to be devolved through Sport England away from national interventions and towards local partners who have a proven track record of encouraging activity and can integrate sport and physical activity work into wider agendas such as health and growth.

Sport England strategy

3. In early 2016, Sport England consulted on developing its new strategy to take forward the Government's priorities. The [LGA's response](#) emphasised the importance of locally-led partnerships that can target national funding to local need and make the biggest difference to increasing participation and improving wellbeing.
4. The strategy, [Towards an Active Nation](#), was published in May and will result in a significant re-balancing of funding away from national and towards local bodies. In summary, it has:
 - 4.1 A much stronger focus on tackling inactivity so that everyone feels able to engage in sport or physical activity, whatever their ability.
 - 4.2 A focus on customer engagement and a customer-focused approach that draws on principles of behaviour change.
 - 4.3 Seven investment programmes (replacing the 30 plus current ones) with a much more outcomes-focused approach and with councils and local partners with opportunities to access more funding.

The LGA's work

5. The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board ensured that local government played a key role in shaping Sport England's strategy. This included the Chair of the Board meeting the Sports Minister, the Chief Executive of Sport England attending the annual LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference and senior Sport England officials presenting to the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board in December 2015.
6. Sport England also funds our very successful Sport Leadership Essentials Programmes. Through organising 14 events since 2011, we have supported almost 200 portfolio holders to lead transformational change of sport and leisure services.
7. The CTS Board will continue to work closely with Sport England to ensure that councils are fully engaged and can access funding opportunities across the seven investment programmes.

Appendix A

MIKE DIAPER OBE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SPORT SPORT ENGLAND	
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Mike joined Sport England in November 2006 and heads the Community Sport Directorate. His directorate is focused on:

- Getting more children active by investing in school sport, through the School Games and supporting the use of the Primary School Sport Premium;
- encouraging and keeping people exercising by investing in local sport;
- supporting underprivileged young people to get active through programmes like Get on Track, delivered by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust and Greenhouse's sports programme;
- working with colleges and universities to create more opportunities for 16-25 year olds to play sport;
- leading our youth programmes, including satellite clubs and Sportivate;
- tackling inactivity by getting people into sport and exercise; and
- making sure investment in sport continues by working to influence local authorities and partners' policies.

Mike joined Sport England from central government where he worked across the Departments for Education and Skills and for Culture, Media and Sport, leading the PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy. During this time he also helped forge international school links between schools in Manchester and Omsk in Siberia where he still volunteers.

He was awarded an OBE in the 2007 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to school sport.

About Sport England

Sport England is the Government agency responsible for increasing the number of people doing sport and activity - no matter what their background, ability or age – and is responsible for managing and distributing public investment and act as a statutory distributor of funds raised by the National Lottery.

“We want everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We need a sport sector that welcomes everyone – meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers.” – Sport England

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum: 3 March 2016 to 9 June 2016.

LGA business

- Local Democracy All Party Parliamentary Group
- Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution All-Party Group
- Annual Local Enterprise Partnerships Conference
- All Party Parliamentary Civic Societies
- All Party Parliamentary Group for District Councils
- De Montfort University conference: Working together to deliver housing
- LGA/NALC conference: Devolving and delivering - a new relationship for principal and local councils
- New Local Government Network reception
- Lord Kerslake, President – Local Government Association
- Sir David Wootton, Judith Armit - Local Partnerships
- LGA Crossbench Vice Presidents lunch

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

- The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP – Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government
- The Rt Hon John Hayes MP - Security Minister, Home Office
- Public Accounts Committee
- Woodland Trust reception
- Macmillan Cancer Support - 2016 Tug of War

Meetings with organisations and individuals

- National Custom and Self Build Association Right to Build Summit
- Ben Bolgar - Princes Foundation
- National Housing Federation's Peers Network
- District Councils Network Assembly
- Duncan Selbie, Chris Bull - Public Health England
- David Godfrey – Department for Communities and Local Government
- David Montague – L & Q housing association

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

Asylum seeking children

1. Government wrote to councils on 13 May with further information on the proposed transfer scheme for unaccompanied children, including the resettlement of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children deemed at risk from countries around Syria and children from other European countries. Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships will be facilitating conversations about the new regionally based arrangements, alongside the Association of Directors of Children's Services. We will be working with the Government and partners on the detail of the scheme and are pressing for further clarity on process, implications for individual authorities and funding, particularly at a regional level, to enable these regional discussions. The scheme is expected to start in July, with transfers from Kent to continue at the current enhanced daily rates. In the meantime, further information including new funding levels are on our website, which also has the contact details of RSMPs:
www.local.gov.uk/refugees

Education

2. The Government's White Paper *Educational Excellence Everywhere* was published on 17 March 2016. As announced in the Budget 2016 on the previous day, the White Paper set out the Government's ambition that all schools would be expected to become, or be in the process of becoming, academies by 2020, with all converted by 2022. The LGA voiced strong opposition to forced academisation and transferring education-related powers from local government to DfE civil servants. Additional work undertaken highlighted the effectiveness of councils as education leaders, the costs of converting 16,500 schools to academy status and also raised concerns about the ability of councils to discharge their remaining statutory duties in a fully academised system.
3. On the 23rd March I took part in a conference call - The future role of councils in Education – with CYP Lead members & CCN in response to the government's release of education white paper.
4. On the 25th of May Cllr Richard Watts and I attended and spoke at a 'round table event' hosted by a Think Tank on Education - 'Reclaiming Education' at the House of Commons. The meeting addressed the future role of local government in Education.
5. On 6 May the Government announced that it would no longer legislate to force all schools to become academies, but the Education for All Bill announced in the Queen's Speech will give the Secretary of State new powers to force all schools in a council area to become academies if she considers that the council is underperforming or unviable in its support for local schools. The Bill will also end the statutory role of councils in school improvement by removing their duty to promote high standards in local schools.

School funding

6. The DfE published consultations on a proposed new national schools funding formula and changes to high needs funding on the 7th March. On the 18th of May, I delivered the closing keynote speech at an Inside Government conference entitled 'The Next Steps for School Funding in the UK'. The speech tackled a number of issues around the schools funding formula including the LGA's strong support for the principle of a fairer funding system for all schools, and the need for further dialogue with the Department for Education to understand how the

proposals set out in the consultation will be impacted by the *Educational Excellence Everywhere* White Paper.

Safeguarding Children

7. On the 13th April I attended an All-Party Parliamentary Group on runaway and missing children and adults, entitled: an inquiry into safeguarding missing and absent children. This is a highly complex issue, and our experience suggests that the precise response to children classified as 'missing' or 'absent' will vary between different local authority and police force areas. However, we have outlined some broad views from an LGA perspective in a submission highlighting a number of issues which we believe the Inquiry should consider when forming its recommendations. We hope that these comments will add to the more specific responses that the Inquiry will have received from individual local authorities.
8. On the 1st May I spoke at the Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Policy priorities for child protection - preventing abuse, improving children's services and reforming social work. I argued that councils cannot be complacent in the delivery of social care, and they need to be looking critically at what they're doing at all times.
9. On Wednesday 23rd March I attended a session on national and local leadership in children's social work (including the role of the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families), the Government's approach to establishing a new framework of governance and accountability, the future provision and delivery of statutory children's social work, and children's social work innovation.

Early years

10. The LGA made a submission to the joint Work and Pensions and Education Select Committees' inquiry on 'life chances and foundation years'. The submission was prepared in partnership between CYP and Resources lead members. The submission made strong representation about the need to better integrate services around the needs of low income households and to better join up policy and support on employment, housing, homeless and financial advice with early years provision and family support. The Government reiterated its commitment to the development of a 'life chances strategy' in the recent Queen's Speech. The LGA will continue to bring together LGA work and evidence in this area to influence and critique the development of the strategy.
11. Councillor Helen Powell, the Deputy Chair of the board, spoke at an Ambition Seminar entitled 'A Positive Agenda for Young People' on the 23rd May. The general aim of the session was to consider the future needs of young people under the broad banner of the government's Life Chances strategy. Much of the CYP Board's work around life chances to date has focussed on early years services and support for disadvantaged families. However, we plan to begin work to draw youth services policy more firmly into this agenda over the coming months.

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City Regions Board – report from Sir Richard Leese (Chair)

Devolution – the LGA support offer

1. The LGA's devolution support offer, drawn up with direction from City Regions Board and the People and Places Board continues to receive positive feedback from the sector. The Board have steered officers to continue to position the LGA as the key provider of devolution support to councils. Recent activity includes:
 - 1.1 Working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to support areas to develop their governance arrangements and [produce a guide](#) on the related learning.
 - 1.2 Officers continue to update The DevoNext Hub which has received more than 12,000 unique visitors in the last two months.
2. The following tools and resources are due for completion imminently, and will be available in time for Annual Conference:
 - 2.1 A 'plain English' guide to Combined Authorities, developed in partnership with Shared Intelligence. This guide combines details on the legislative provisions for combined authorities, detailing practical suggestions and advice on setting up a CA.
 - 2.2 Professor Robin Hambleton's report on executive models of governance- an examination of international governance arrangements, highlighting lessons and key learning points for those establishing devolved governance structures in England.
 - 2.3 'Don't Be left in the Dark'- a set of FAQs that provide a high level overview of the main questions and answers that have arisen in relation to the devolution agenda. A specific set of FAQs for MPs is also being developed.
3. In addition to the above, the following events to assist councils with their devolution arrangements have either been delivered or are due to be delivered during the period March-June:
 - 3.1 [An event for communications officers in the South West](#)
 - 3.2 [An event for communications officers in Newcastle upon Tyne](#)
 - 3.3 [Devolving and Delivering: a new relationship for principal and local councils](#). This is a joint event hosted by the LGA and NALC

June 2016

- 3.4 [Devolution- a new type of leadership](#). A day of practical advice and discussion exploring the roles of members at all levels in newly devolved areas.

Further development of the offer

4. The City Regions Board continues to work with officers to build the LGA's devolution support offer further.
5. The New Economics Foundation has been commissioned to assist with the development of policy and resources around the role of communities and the VCS in devolution. This work will ensure good practice is shared and councils are better equipped to engage citizens and their community representatives on this agenda. Resources will be made available via the DevoHub by September 2016.

Employment and Skills

6. A priority for this and the City Regions Board is to ensure DWP's new Work and Health Programme (WHP) – designed to get more long term unemployed and those with physical or mental health conditions in to work - has as much local government involvement as possible. Ten devolution deal areas are already working bilaterally with DWP on the design and commissioning of the WHP in their local area.
7. All other areas outside of a devolution deal area will be subject to a DWP WHP national offer. We need to make sure we get that right, so we learn from its predecessor Work Programme. To support the sector's engagement in the development of it, the LGA and DWP are working together. We successfully lobbied DWP to consult all councils through a series of national events across England during May in London, Exeter and Leeds. A joint letter of invitation signed by the Employment Minister and LGA Chairman was issued to all council chief executives. Cllr Robert Light chaired the event in Leeds.
8. Alongside the above, the LGA established a working group of officers drawn from local areas across England without a devolution deal to help influence the design of the offer and put forward recommendations for the WHP. The group met three times during May to ensure it put forward recommendations which will inform DWP's decision making process in June. Work continues with devolved areas to understand how their negotiations are progressing.
9. City Regions Board Lead Members attended a joint meeting with People and Places Lead Members on Skills and Employment on the 10th May to discuss priorities in taking the work forward.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

10. The new RSA Commission on Inclusive Growth was [launched](#) on 28 April. The LGA is one of the project sponsors alongside Core Cities, Key Cities, London Councils.
11. Building on the success of the RSA City Growth Commission, the new Commission will examine how the state needs to change - centrally and locally - to enable different parts of the country fully to realise the potential of devolution. A key focus will be geographical inclusion: making sure that the benefits of the place-based approach to growth are widely shared. The Commission will be chaired by Stephanie Flanders (JP Morgan Chief Market Strategist and former BBC Economics Editor) and will report in Spring 2017.

Leading Places Project

12. With input and steer from both the City Regions and People and Places Boards, the LGA is working to deliver a programme of leadership development for both the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth in partnership with Universities UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Universities, local authorities and other institutions in six pilot areas are currently working together to decide a priority challenge theme which addresses an issue where the existing knowledge base in local universities is strong, as well as a strategic context. Projects will provide pilot areas with real opportunities for national and international peer review and transfer of learning and best practice. I attended a meeting with HEFCE, UUK and LGA officers, and leaders from the proposed pilot areas at Local Government House on 24th March. The programme was [launched](#) at the beginning of May.

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Position: Principal Policy Adviser

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Community Wellbeing Portfolio – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair)

Tackling poor oral health in children: local government's public health role

1. In April the LGA launched the [updated publication](#) on tooth decay affecting children and young people in England. This publication has been updated for 2016 following the successful transfer of commissioning responsibilities of the Healthy Child Programme for 0-5 year olds to local government in October 2015. This includes the commissioning of Health Visitors who lead and support delivery of preventive programmes for infants and children including providing advice on oral health and on breastfeeding and reducing the risk of tooth decay. Local authorities also have a statutory responsibility to provide or commission oral health improvement programmes to improve the health of the local population, to the extent that they consider appropriate in their areas.

Forthcoming Publication of Shared Vision of Integration

2. On 28 April the CWB Lead Members and I had a joint meeting with the Board of NHS Clinical Commissioners to agree our key messages on the forthcoming publication of our shared vision of integration, which will be launched at the NHS Confederation Conference on 15 June.

Health and Adult Social Care

3. On 16 May I co-chaired a summit that brought together colleagues from the LGA, ADASS, and leading figures from the provider sector to discuss the challenges facing adult social care. This was a valuable discussion that helped develop a shared understanding of the pressures facing providers and commissioners and considered how we might best work together on matters of mutual interest. I was joined by fellow CWB Lead Members Cllr Richard Kemp and Cllr Gillian Ford.
4. On 25 May I spoke at an Integration Workshop organised by the South East Strategic Leaders representing county councils in the South East and the South East England Councils representing district councils to help them shape their discussions on health and social care integration in their regions.

National Children and Adult Services Conference

5. You can now [book your places](#) at the next National Children and Adult Services Conference, to be held in Manchester Central between 2 and 4 November 2016. Organised by the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), the National Children and Adult Services Conference is regularly attended by more than 1,000 delegates. Held at Manchester Central it is vital to all with responsibilities for or interests in social care, children's services, education, health and related fields. The conference will include a mix of keynote and ministerial addresses, plenary sessions by significant players and the opportunity to participate in breakouts and for networking. The event is regularly used as a platform for policy announcements and offers the opportunity for discussions with Ministerial and shadow teams.

Ageing

6. In February 2016 Cllr Gillian Ford chaired a LGA Ageing and Local Government event attended by Councillors and officers. The event heard from Lord Filkin from the Centre of Ageing Better and looked at the challenges and opportunities presented by an ageing population.

7. In May 2016 Councillor Ford spoke at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Ageing and Older People on the theme of integration and devolution.

Dementia

8. Councillor Ford has been made the co-Chair of the Public Service Prime Ministers Challenge on Dementia Champion task group. This group has representatives from the LGA, Police, Fire Brigade, Health and Ambulance Service. In April 2016 Cllr Ford attended the group's event on Dementia Friendly Communities.
9. In May 2016 Cllr Ford attended the Dementia Action Alliance Quarterly Meeting which looked at post diagnosis support.
10. The LGA has supported the launch of the Prime Minister's 2020 Dementia Challenge implementation plan, which includes actions for the LGA on further supporting Dementia Friendly Communities and a pledge on post-diagnosis support.

The Armed Forces

11. The LGA has co-commissioned with the Forces in Mind Trust, Shared Intelligence to undertake a review of local action to support the armed forces and veterans through the armed forces covenant. The initial findings of the review will be shared at the LGA annual conference and the final report with recommendations will be available in August.

Mental Health

12. The LGA held an event with Public Health England on mental health, which was attended by 250 delegates at the Oval in London. Speakers included Norman Lamb MP, Kevin Fenton from PHE and Cllr Gillian Ford from the LGA Community Wellbeing Board. Key areas of discussion were prevention of mental ill-health and the importance of children and young people's mental health services.

All Party Parliamentary Groups

13. On 20 April I have evidence at an APPG on Mental Health, and on 10 May I gave evidence at an APPG on Pharmacy and Primary Care. Further information on these can be found on the [LGA's website](#).

Press Releases and Statements

14. I have recently made public statements enforcing the LGA's positions on [NHS England's reconsideration of the decision not to fund the new HIV treatment PrEP](#), [NHS England's plan to improve GP services](#), [ONS figures on the number of deaths in 2015](#), [the need for children to drink more water](#), and [Public Health England's newly published alcohol profiles](#).

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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board - Councillor Ian Stephens Report to Councillors' Forum June 2016

Sport and Physical Activity

1. I was delighted to meet the Rt Hon David Evennett MP, Acting Sport and Tourism Minister, on 17 May. We discussed the Government's new approach to sport and physical activity, which places much greater emphasis on local delivery and encouraging people of all abilities to get active. I emphasised the opportunity to achieve a step change in the nation's health by a more localised approach to sport and physical activity. I also urged the Minister to act on the Triennial Review of Gaming Machine Stake and Prize Limits. We will be writing a letter setting out what we'd like to see in the Review.
2. Sport England announced a new £250 million fund to tackle inactivity as part of its strategy "Towards an Active Nation: 2016-21" on 19 May. There are a number of wins for the LGA in the strategy, which more than triples Sport England investment in tackling activity and will result in a significant re-balancing of funding away from national and towards local bodies. We will work closely with Sport England over the coming months to ensure that councils and local partners are central to their plans to tackle inactivity.
3. Cllr Geraldine Carter gave the introductory presentation at the latest Sport England Essentials Programme 2 – 3 March. The event supported nine portfolio holders to lead transformational change of leisure services.

Libraries

4. I had a very productive meeting with Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, on 12 April. We discussed the progress of the joint LGA / Department for Culture, Media and Sport Leadership for Libraries Taskforce and noted the particular success of the WiFi rollout to nearly every public library. The Minister also agreed that local government must be fully involved in driving forward the recommendations from the Culture White Paper.
5. The LGA has encouraged councillors to respond to the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce's Ambition for Libraries consultation. Ambition will set out how local and central government work together to support thriving public libraries in a challenging fiscal climate. 18 councillors attended an LGA roundtable on 1 June and feedback informed the LGA's consultation response. Our response highlighted the importance of Ambition recognising local accountability, the diversity of library delivery models and the need to take forward support for councils in line with sector-led improvement.
6. I attended the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce's networking event on 27 May. This was an opportunity to reinforce the LGA's partnership with key organisations including the BBC, The British Library, ACE and the Society of Chief Librarians.

Culture

7. I attended an Arts Council England (ACE) workshop on 8 March to discuss ACE's proposals for funding organisations after 2018. The LGA's response supported a more proportionate approach to the National Portfolio, the stronger emphasis on place based working and opening up funding streams to museums and libraries.
8. Over 45 councils and partners attended the Cultural Commissioning Programme's National Evaluation Event at LGA on 13 April. I was pleased to chair the conference

which shared how Kent Council and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group have embedded culture into their commissioning opportunities.

9. I spoke in a panel debate about local government funding at the Theatres 2016 Conference on 13 May. This was the biggest ever theatres conference and an opportunity to raise awareness about the difficult climate facing councils and how they are striving to work differently in order to support local theatres.
10. I participated in a panel debate at the Westminster Forum's Creative Industries Conference on 19 May. I emphasised the different ways in which councils support the creative industries, one of this country's strongest performing economic sectors.
11. I was delighted to meet Diane Lees, Chair of the National Museum Directors' Council and Director General of the Imperial War Museum, on 17 May. We discussed the museums review announced in the Culture White Paper and agreed it will be opportunity to highlight the contribution of museums to a range of social and economic outcomes.
12. I was pleased to meet Councillor Guy Nicholson, London Council's lead member for economy, tourism and culture, on 17 May. We discussed the importance of local government's relationship with Arts Council England and opportunities to further strengthen national and local partnerships.
13. I attended the launch of the Estuary Festival Programme on 17 May. Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Garvesham and Kent are working with public and private partners to host an ambitious 16 day programme of contemporary visual art, literature, film and music.
14. The LGA submitted written evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's Countries of Culture Inquiry. Our response highlighted New Local Government Research that showed councils have protected arts funding from the brunt of spending pressures and adopted new ways of working to improve sustainability. However, the scale of the funding challenge ahead means that more councils will have to take tough decisions about their cultural provision.

The Visitor Economy

15. I was delighted to meet Patricia Yates, VisitBritain's Director of Strategy and Communications on 8 April. Following significant changes to the national tourism landscape, the meeting was an opportunity to emphasise the importance of local areas having flexibility to allocated the £40 million Discover England Fund in line with local priorities and local destinations having a strong voice in new national governance arrangements.
16. Cllr Colin Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board meeting on 3 May. The meeting was an opportunity to highlight the LGA's views on the Discover England Fund and to hear from industry on priority issues for them.

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

Infrastructure and growth

1. I met with the Vice Chair of Resources Portfolio Cllr John Fuller (Con, South Norfolk) on the 24th March to discuss what possibilities exist in making links between the areas of commonality in the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board's work and that of the Resources Portfolio's work around financing infrastructure and growth (specifically CIL, S106 and the New Homes Bonus).

LGA Transport priorities

2. At the request of the Leadership Board I presented an overview of the EEHT's Board's priority areas of work on transport at their meeting on the 6th April. In doing so, I touched upon the devolution agenda, the condition of the highways network, funding challenges and the role and responsibilities of councils' with regard to air quality. Members welcomed the report, endorsing the EEHT Board's work on transport and highlighting a number of issues for further consideration, including need for a more joined up approach between national infrastructure projects and local transport networks, to keep pressure on Ministers regarding the challenges of working with Network Rail and Highways England and the importance of the Bus Services Bill being beneficial to all areas.

The Buses Bill

3. The Queen's Speech introduced the Bus Services Bill which will allow local authorities the power to improve bus services for the people who use them. Mayoral combined authorities will be given automatic London-style powers to franchise local services. Other areas will need to apply to the Secretary of State to pursue franchising powers and all areas can benefit from enhanced partnership arrangements. Data about routes, fares and times would be made available across the country to developers of apps to give passengers better information about how to make the most of local bus services. The LGA has long called for greater control and influence of local bus provision and so the Bill marks a significant step for councils and their ambition for greater devolution of powers.

Housing and Planning bill

4. The Housing and Planning Bill recently received Royal Assent, the Board has spent a lot of time with Members of Parliament to improve the Bill. Following our work with Peers, we were able to secure a number of amendments, including giving councils the ability to grant secure tenancies to families with children, restrictions around the resale of starter homes so that owners cannot 'cash in' on the discount only a few years after, changes to the taper rate for pay to stay and time limited pilots on competition in processing planning applications. The Act will still, however, have a significant impact on councils and their communities, the Board will now be working to represent and support councils as government develops regulations to force the sale of council homes, increase rents for some council tenants and build starter homes.

Housing commission

5. The LGA Executive and Leadership Board asked the EEHT board to undertake a commission into the future role of local government in developing housing, and in a way that helps resolve wider public service challenges. The EEHT board has shaped and led the Commission, supported by a group of seven expert advisers.
6. The Commission has built on the findings of previous extensive reviews that have looked at the role of councils in housing, and focused on how local and central government can practically deliver in a way that: drives housebuilding; shapes prosperous communities and places; boosts employment; supports an aging population.
7. The Commission has received around 90 written submissions, has held 4 evidence gathering seminars and visited six councils. It is now developing the emerging recommendations to launch at annual conference, ahead of a full report being launched later in the year.

Flooding

8. The LGA gave oral evidence to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry into future flood prevention. Cllr Box met with the Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP to discuss our submission to the National Resilience Review. This covered a number of areas including increasing flexibility in the current approach to flood defence funding, further incentivising private sector investment in flood defences, allowing areas to use precepts as a mechanism for increasing funding for flood defences and the potential for flood defences to be developed as part of wider infrastructure and economic investment in local areas in the medium to long-term.

Waste & recycling

9. The LGA is working with HMRC and the Treasury to defend the VAT exemption for council commercial waste services in a legal challenge brought by a private waste company. Evidence was submitted to the High Court at the end of April, using expert legal advice and witness statements from the LGA and a number of councils. The High Court hearing will take place in July.

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

Improvement

1. We have published our new Councillors' Guide for 2016/17 which is now online. The guide is a quick reference resource providing councillors with essential information that they need to know as a new councillor. It explores some of the main issues and challenges facing local government today and includes hints and tips from experienced councillors.
2. Following the local elections we are in touch with councils who may have experienced a change in leadership and/or political control to offer support. The LGA offers up to five days of free support from experienced councillor peers for new leaders and cabinet members.
3. Our bespoke sector-led improvement peer support and challenges remain popular. By Quarter 4 of 2015/16, over 100 peer challenges have been delivered. The peer challenges have covered a range of different areas including corporate, finance, fire, children's and adults. We have also held a further 15 peer development or briefing events during the year as we seek to widen our pool of member and officer peers.

Transparency

4. We have responded to a Cabinet Office consultation about enabling information sharing between public authorities to improve the lives of citizens and support decisions on the economy and society. Whilst welcoming the consultation we expressed concern that it was too narrowly focussed and ignored some of the more pressing data sharing challenges councils face around housing, health and adult social care.

Productivity

5. We have launched the LGA [demand management microsite](#). The microsite equips councils with the knowledge and tools they need to manage demand effectively. By bringing together and highlighting examples of demand avoidance and demand prevention from across the country, it demonstrates how councils are changing their relationship with residents to better understand and manage demand.
6. We have awarded £560,000 funding for digital schemes to projects involving 34 councils through the digital transformation programme. The aim of the programme is to develop digital solutions to support work on national transformation programmes including troubled families and welfare reform, which can be reused by other councils and will enable them to operate more efficiently.

Leadership

7. Cllrs David Simmonds, Judi Billing, Shirley Pannell and Mayor Dave Hodgson participated in a full day panel and group sessions called 'Political Nous' for ngdp Cohort 17 Module 2, on 21st April. The session was aimed at giving National

Management Trainees the chance to meet members, find out a bit about how they became Councillors or Mayors and an introduction on working with members once back at their councils. The session was a great success. Below are two feedback quotes from our NMTs:

- *Political nous session was also very good and added another dimension to event.*
 - *I found the political nous session to be very useful to find out a little more about what Councillors value and what qualities they like to see in Officers.*
8. Cllr Howard Sykes will be speaking at the West Midlands Member Induction event on 27 June 2016.
 9. The National Graduate Development Programme has proved to be incredibly popular this year with more councils and graduates getting involved than ever before.
 10. New 'Be a Councillor' projects have been agreed with Birmingham and Isle of Wight. The programme provides a new, bespoke set of resources to promote the role of a councillor and encourage people to stand for election. The Isle of Wight campaign will be the first to specifically target getting more women into public office and will centre around an event in the Autumn.
 11. Our flagship development programme for councillors in leadership positions (Leadership Academy) now has dates and full details for 2016/17. Refreshed and updated for the current challenges faced across local government, the Leadership Academy delivers for local leaders a step change in leadership behaviors, strategies, skills and mind-set and is accredited by The Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM), the UK's leading award winning body for leadership and management.
 12. On 19-20 May, the Leadership Academy graduation took place in Warwick. We have over 140 new Leadership Academy graduates, the highest number since 2010. This has been a record breaking year, with more Leaders than ever attending our programmes.
 13. Details of our new "Leadership Essentials" programme are now available. 'Leadership Essentials' is a series of events designed as themed learning opportunities for councillors. Each event concentrates on a specific portfolio area, such as Planning or Children's Services, or a specific theme, such as communications or digital leadership. The Programmes provide a great chance for councillors to develop leadership skills in a particular area and share experiences among colleagues dealing with similar challenges.

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People & Places Board – report from Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair)

Devolution – the LGA Support Offer

1. Take up of the LGA's devolution support offer, drawn up with direction from the People and Places and City Regions Board, remains excellent, and officers continue to receive positive feedback from councils on the range of services that have been used. The Board have steered officers to continue to position the LGA as the key provider of devolution support to councils. Recent activity includes:
 - 1.1 Working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to support areas to develop their governance arrangements and [produce a guide](#) on the related learning.
 - 1.2 Officers continue to update The DevoNext Hub which has received more than 12,000 unique visitors in the last two months.
2. The following tools and resources are due for completion imminently, and will be available in print and digital copy in time for Annual Conference:
 - 2.1 A 'plain English' guide to combined authorities, developed in partnership with Shared intelligence. This guide combines details on the legislative provisions for combined authorities, detailing practical suggestions and advice on setting up a CA.
 - 2.2 Professor Robin Hambleton's report on executive models of governance- an examination of international governance arrangements, highlighting lessons and key learning points for those establishing devolved governance structures in England.
 - 2.3 'Don't Be left in the Dark'- a set of FAQs that provide a high level overview of the main questions and answers that have arisen in relation to the devolution agenda. A specific set of FAQs for MPs is also being developed.
3. In addition to the above, the following events to assist councils with their devolution arrangements have either been delivered or are due to be delivered during the period March-June:
 - 3.1 On 13th April, [an event for communications officers in the South West](#)
 - 3.2 On 26th May, [an event for communications officers in Newcastle upon Tyne](#)
 - 3.3 On the 1st June, [Devolving and Delivering: a new relationship for principal and local councils](#), a joint event with the National Association of Local Councils will explore Devolution and the role of Local Councils.
 - 3.4 On the 21st June, [Devolution – a new type of leadership](#), will consider new and emerging forms of local leadership within the context of devolution.

Further development of the offer

4. The People and Places Board continues to work with officers to develop the LGA's devolution support offer further.
5. The New Economics Foundation has been commissioned to assist with the development of policy and resources around the role of communities and the VCS in devolution. This work will ensure good practice is shared and councils are better equipped to engage citizens and their community representatives on devolution. Resources will be made available via the DevoHub by September 2016.

Employment and Skills

6. A priority for this and the City Regions Board is to ensure DWP's new Work and Health Programme (WHP) – designed to get more long term unemployed and those with physical or mental health conditions in to work - has as much local government involvement as possible. Ten devolution deal areas are already working bilaterally with DWP on the design and commissioning of the WHP in their local area.
7. All other areas outside of a devolution deal area will be subject to a DWP WHP national offer. We need to make sure we get that right, so we learn from its predecessor Work Programme. To support the sector's engagement in the development of it, the LGA and DWP are working together. We successfully lobbied DWP to consult all councils through a series of national events across England during May in London, Exeter and Leeds. A joint letter of invitation signed by the Employment Minister and LGA Chairman was issued to all council chief executives. Cllr Mark Hawthorne and Cllr Gillian Brown chaired the Exeter and London events, respectively.
8. Alongside the above, the LGA established a working group of officers drawn from local areas across England without a devolution deal to help influence the design of the offer and put forward recommendations for the WHP. The group met three times during May to ensure it put forward recommendations which will inform DWP's decision making process in June. Work continues with devolved areas to understand how their negotiations are progressing.
9. People and Places Lead Members attended a joint meeting with City Regions Board Lead Members on Skills and Employment on the 10th May to discuss priorities in taking the work forward.

Leading Places Project

10. With input and steer from both the City Regions and People and Places Boards, the LGA is working to deliver a programme of leadership development for both the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth in partnership with Universities UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Universities, local authorities and other institutions in six pilot areas are currently working together to decide a priority challenge theme which addresses an issue where the existing knowledge base in local universities is strong, as well as a strategic context. Projects will provide pilot areas with real opportunities for national and international peer review and transfer of learning and best practice. I attended a meeting with HEFCE, UUK and LGA officers, and leaders from the proposed pilot areas at Local Government House on 24th March. The programme was [launched](#) at the beginning of May.

11. In addition to this, on the 27th April, I spoke at the UUK Universities, Communities and Business Conference on how councils and partners can work together to promote growth.

Superfast Broadband and Mobile Connectivity

12. Since the last People and Places Board, the LGA has continued to support councils in their efforts to extend superfast broadband to the final five percent.
13. I chaired a national conference with Broadband Delivery UK to explore the capabilities of alternative technologies and digital infrastructure suppliers to extend broadband connectivity to the hardest to reach areas. The event was attended by over 50 delegates from the sector and received excellent feedback.
14. The Board responded to the [Government's consultation](#) on the primary legislation that will enact the Universal Service.
15. I launched the LGA's [Up to Speed campaign](#) to councillors in April's edition of [First Magazine](#) and, extended it nationally after the local government elections on 5 May, partnering with the Daily Telegraph's Better Broadband campaign. The campaign received front page coverage (9 May).
16. I will moderate a panel session on affordable connectivity at the [Connected Britain Conference](#) on 16th June, exploring how connectivity can impact on healthcare services and how high speed connectivity can be one of the most powerful means to extend access to educational resources.

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Resources Portfolio – report from Cllr Claire Kober (Chair)

Portfolio Meeting

1. On 21 April, Resources colleagues and I met to share experiences and learning from the Portfolio pilot model thus far. Our feedback, along with the Member Task Group's recommendation, will be submitted to the 8 June Leadership Board for their decision. Any changes will come into effect from the new political meeting cycle on 1 September 2016.

2016 Budget

2. The LGA provided an on-the-day briefing on the announcements made by the Chancellor as part of his 2016 Budget which can be read [here](#). It contained important announcements about the future of business rates, including a permanent doubling and expansion of small business rate relief and consideration of moving to more frequent revaluations.
3. It was also announced that London, the Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester would pilot increased business rates retention. The exact detail of this announcement is yet to be agreed.

Local government retention of business rates

4. Together with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) we have set up a number of technical working groups and an officer-level steering group to advise on various aspects of business rates reform. All papers and minutes of the meeting can be found in the LGA's dedicated business rates hub [here](#).
5. I also chaired the inaugural meeting of the LGA political task and finish group on local government retention of business rates, created to oversee the LGA's own work on business rates and comprised of representatives of various LGA Boards and Portfolios. It is intended that this group will continue to meet on a monthly basis.
6. Officers have started a programme of regional visits to ensure that the voice of all of local government is heard during the design of local government retention of business rates.

Strategic finance for infrastructure

7. Members of the Portfolio had a briefing from the Chairman and the Chief Operating Officer of the Municipal Bonds Agency on overall approaches to council borrowing and the progress being made by the Agency towards issuing its first bond and the support required from the sector to do so. These themes will be explored at a conference being organised jointly by the LGA and the Agency on 24 May.

Pay agreements

8. A two-year [agreement](#) has been reached on pay for Local Government Services. Two year deals have also been concluded for chief executives, chief officers and craft workers.

Hire me my way

9. The LGA and other partners including the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission are backing a national campaign called [Hire Me My Way](#) which launched on the 24 May 2016. The Campaign will give a voice to the millions of candidates who want

to be able to work flexibly. This will give fairer opportunities to part-time and flexible workers and also help councils to recruit and retain the talent they need to run services now and in the future.

Civitas roundtable discussions on welfare and employment

10. Cllr Sue Murphy CBE represented the LGA at two roundtable discussions hosted by Civitas and chaired by Frank Field MP. The discussions will contribute to a Civitas report on how welfare reforms can best support the unemployed.
11. The first session on 21 March focused on 'securing higher wages through in work progression'. In-work progression will be a key component of Universal Credit once it is rolled out, but the Department for Work and Pensions are still exploring how this support might be delivered.
12. The second session on 18 April focused on 'guaranteeing the prospect of work for all'. Cllr Murphy used both sessions as an opportunity to set out the LGA's lines on the crucial role of local government in providing better integrated local support for disadvantaged jobseekers.
13. She drew particularly on the LGA's recent submissions to the Work and Pensions Select Committee on: [The future of Job Centre Plus](#) and [The disability employment gap](#).

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

Fire Conference

1. Cllrs Hilton, Howson, Aston and Hammond from the Fire Services Management Committee chaired sessions at the LGA's annual fire conference in March (as did other members of the Committee). The conference was attended by 280 delegates and heard from a range of speakers including the Fire Minister.

Meeting with the Home Secretary

2. Cllr Jeremy Hilton met the Home Secretary in March for an introductory discussion about the government's reform agenda for the fire and rescue service.

Police and Crime Panels

3. Cllr Morris Bright, Vice-Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, chaired a seminar for police and crime panel members and officers from England and Wales in March.

Ethics and accountability in Policing

4. I spoke at an Inside Government event on the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report on ethics and accountability in the police about the role of police and crime panels.

Serious and Organised Crime

5. I spoke at a Policy Communications event about the role of local authorities in tackling serious and organised crime.

Advisory Board on Female Offenders

6. Cllr Janet Daby attended the Ministry of Justice's Advisory Board on Female Offenders in March which considered a range of issues associated with a whole system approach to dealing with women offenders.

Unlicensed diet pills

7. I highlighted the dangers of unlicensed diet pills, which are increasingly bought over the internet, and called for tougher sentences for people caught selling these pills illegally.

E-cigarettes

8. Cllr Jeremy Hilton called on the manufacturers of e-cigarettes to more to warn of their dangers following a fresh spate of fires caused by using the devices.

Public Space Protection Orders

9. I was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme about council's use of Public Space Protection Orders to deal with a range of anti-social behaviour in public places.

Domestic abuse

10. I attended the National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse chaired by the Home Secretary to look at the police response to domestic abuse incidents, and which is attended by Karen Bradley MP, the Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime.

Food hygiene

11. I set out the LGA's case for the introduction of mandatory display of food hygiene ratings by restaurants, pubs, cafes, takeaways, sandwich shops, supermarkets and delicatessens to drive up standards.

Fixed Odds Betting Machines

12. I called on the government to launch its triennial review into gaming machine stakes immediately and use it to reduce the maximum stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs).

Dog microchipping

13. I highlighted the new microchipping law for dogs which came into force in April.

Teeth whitening

14. I raised the dangers of having teeth whitening procedures being carried out by unqualified staff or of using teeth whitening kits containing dangerous chemicals at home.

Alcohol and licensing

15. Cllr Tony Page called on the drinks industry to produce more low or zero strength ciders, wines, beers and spirits to reduce alcohol related health harms, and for the government to support this by extending the tax breaks currently available to low strength beers. Cllr Page also responded to a report by the Institute of Alcohol Studies by highlighting the need for councils to be able to take into account the health implications of licensing applications.

Illegal tobacco

16. I highlighted the risks of using illegal tobacco, and the work of trading standards to tackle this.

Fire reform

17. Several members of the FSMC attended the Home Secretary's speech on fire reform where she spoke of her plans around efficiency and collaboration, workforce reform, and governance.

Psychoactive Substances

18. I issued a press release welcoming the commencement of the Psychoactive Substances Act on 26 May. The LGA had consistently lobbied for a blanket ban of the type introduced by the Act, to make it easier for councils and police to tackle the issues associated with the sale and consumption of psychoactive substances.

Alcohol summit

19. I chaired a summit with the alcohol industry to discuss the changing nature of its retail and the implications for councils as licensing authorities. The summit also explored options to increase the number of zero- and low-strength products on offer, for the benefit of public health.

Fake goods

20. I issued a press release urging people to watch out for fake goods being sold at bank holiday markets and car boot sales. Recent investigations by council trading standard teams across the country have found poor quality, dangerous and fake designer items on sale.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date:	Thursday 3 March 2016
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>Integration and Community Cohesion - Louise Casey will be present to speak on the review of how to boost opportunity and integration</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Members to Councillors' Forum. He also welcomed Louise Casey CB in her role leading a review into how to boost opportunity and integration in the most isolated and deprived communities.</p> <p>Louise praised local authorities for their contribution to the Troubled Families programme and highlighted the importance of strong local leadership in tackling entrenched social problems. Focussing on the review, Louise commented on the amount of time she has spent travelling the country speaking to local government, faith groups, schools and other organisations. She mentioned that replies to the review's call for evidence had been dominated by local government, which indicates how seriously they take these issues.</p> <p>Louise stated that the review's work will be based around three broad themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integration: this strand of the review will focus on segregation, whether that be through linguistic isolation, high levels of unemployment, or racial inequalities in the criminal justice system. In terms of solutions, Louise emphasised the need for local government input as each population is different and therefore these problems will require diverse local solutions. As a result, Louise reiterated that strong local leadership will be key.• Equality: this strand of the review will focus on gender equality, gay rights and the rule of law. Louise urged Members to defend these values in public without fear because civic leadership is crucial to ensuring that all parts of our society benefit from the realisation of these universal values.• Preventing harm to children: this strand of the review will focus on radicalisation, exploitation, and child abuse. Louise stated that, to tackle these problems, it is imperative that we build character and resilience in all children. She also highlighted that there is a	

national security element to this strand of the review. Louise emphasised that the first duty of public servants is to protect the vulnerable and urged Members not to worry about offending people in the process. Again, Louise highlighted strong local leadership as key to the success of this strategy.

Louise then spoke about her related work inspecting Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. She suggested that the central insight of the Rotherham report was that, although the denial of serious problems might seem like they serve community relations in the short-run, they will inevitably undermine community relations in the long-run by inhibiting justice and effective policing

The floor was opened up for questions:

- Members stressed the complexity of tragic incidents such as the Daniel Pelka murder where many different public bodies such as the police, schools and the local authority all missed early warning signs of abuse. They asked for Louise's insights into how progress can be made to avoid such events being repeated. In particular, members were keen to hear Louise's thoughts on how best to proceed when a family does not cooperate with a local authority's efforts.
- Members emphasised the additional pressures on children's services in some parts of the country due to increasing numbers of unaccompanied children asylum seekers. They highlighted the LGA's call for a national programme to disperse the responsibility of caring for such children more fairly across local authorities.
- Members highlighted the important role that other local organisations besides councils can play in promoting community integration. They noted the potential benefits of strong partnership work between councils and such organisations.

In response, Louise stressed the importance of creating workplace cultures in public bodies whereby individual employees feel confident that they can confront members of the community whom they suspect of abuse. Louise accepted that there is no easy solution to the problem of what to do in instances where a family does not cooperate with a local authority's efforts; however, it is important to admit this and continue searching for solutions.

Louise acknowledged the pressures that certain councils' children's services face due to increasing numbers of unaccompanied children asylum seekers and noted that central government needs to work with local government to address this issue.

Louise stressed the importance of strong, clear leadership, especially in the context of devolution whereas, in her view, partnership work, unless there was someone to drive it, often amounts to the lowest common denominator of what can be agreed in a meeting. Moreover, because oftentimes no single person is held responsible for outcomes, there is a greater likelihood of oversights in partnership work.

Concluding, Louise anticipated that her final report would be published around June/July 2016. In addition, Louise stated that, whether it is included in the report or pursued separately, she would like to talk with the LGA about new ways to develop local leadership. She noted that central government has plans for new local leadership programmes, but suggested that it is crucial to also have local government input into on this going forward.

2 Chairman's Update

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

3 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

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

4 Digest of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were **agreed**.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire County Council
	MBE	
Members	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
	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 Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council	

Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Ivan Ould	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr David Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Mike Eathorne- Gibbons	Cornwall Council
Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council
Apologies	
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Claire-Louise Leyland	Camden Council
Cllr Paul Diviani	East Devon District Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council

Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Keith Wakefield OBE	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 Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
Alderman Sir David Wootton	City of London Corporation
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Mike Bell	North Somerset Council

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

