

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 21 July 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
21 July 2016

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 21 July 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)
10.00am	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 Hacket 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	
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 CBE	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 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 MBE	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 OBE	Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 21 July 2016

12.30 pm

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

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 20 October 2016, 12.30 pm, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



Perspectives on Leaving the European Union

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

Since the EU Referendum on 23 June the political landscape has changed more dramatically than at any point in the last 75 years. Since the last meeting of the Councillors' Forum the United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union, and the country has a new Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Following the events of the last month, the LGA is formulating its strategy for involvement in negotiations for leaving the European Union. We have invited Andrew Carter, Deputy Chief Executive of the Centre for Cities, and Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, to provide both urban and rural perspectives on the opportunities and threats of leaving the European Union and the challenges facing the LGA. The conversation will be chaired by Nick Golding, News Editor of the Local Government Chronicle.

Biographies of the speakers are attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Policy
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Perspectives on Leaving the European Union

Background

1. There was a diversity of views among local government about Britain's membership of the European Union (EU). To reflect this, the Local Government Association (LGA) remained neutral during the referendum campaign.
2. Immediately after the referendum result was known, the LGA made a public statement emphasising councils' role in bringing communities together and asking for a guarantee for the £5 billion of local regeneration resources which are currently sourced from the EU. We have been successful in pressing for local government to have a seat at the negotiating table.

Exiting the EU

3. The process for withdrawal is established in Article 50 of the EU Treaty and this has never been tested. The next step for Government is to give the European Council formal notice of UK withdrawal. A two-year timescale for exit negotiations begins at this point. In his resignation speech, the Prime Minister indicated that his successor would initiate such an exit negotiation. By agreement with all Member States, the two year timescale can be extended. During the period of exit, the UK remains a member of the EU, EU regulations apply in the UK, and the UK will continue to send representatives to EU institutions and meetings.
4. There are likely to be three inter-linked, but formally separate, negotiations: the EU exit negotiations, redefining the UK's future relationship with the EU and its member states, and redefining trade relationships with the rest of the world.
5. The EU exit negotiations (Article 50) do not necessarily have to define future relationships with the EU or other nations. Only EU exit negotiations are confined by the two-year deadline. Trade deals in particular typically take many years to complete.

How this affects Councils as providers of services

6. EU regulation impacts on many council services. The regulatory framework for a range of services such as waste, employment, the environment, consumer protection, health and safety and trading standards originates in Brussels, as does the legal framework for public procurement. In the medium term, the UK has choices about how and where future rules are formulated. Substantial new legal arrangements will have to be drafted for public services which have to date been based on EU regulation. Any new framework would be influenced by the exit negotiations which could range from a Norwegian-style model based on a close association with the EU to a more detached Swiss-style model.
7. The LGA is currently mapping out those aspects of local government service delivery that have origins in EU law or regulation. We are focusing on the service area which are most likely to be covered by EU laws: environmental policy, air pollution, energy, waste, workforce and employment, procurement, state aids, regional policy, regulatory services, VAT and data protection. We are asking for your comments on where you would benefit from further focus.

8. Our understanding is that because EU Directives have become enshrined in our law, they could continue to apply even after we leave the EU, unless specifically repealed by the UK Parliament. However EU Regulations will cease to apply. We will be seeking further clarification on this point and will keep you updated.

Future of EU Structural Funds

9. Immediately for councils, there will be a risk to local regeneration funding, worth £5 billion in England (2014-2020). It is important for the Government to guarantee it will protect this vital funding to avoid essential growth-boosting projects stalling and local economies across England being stifled.
10. The LGA has registered this important issue with Ministers and our call has been reported widely by the media. Councils have also asked the LGA to look at how the framework covering state aids for businesses could be developed in future in the absence of EU competition rules.

Our role in the negotiation process

11. Given the importance of the EU exit to most aspects of local government service provision, we asserted that local government must have a central role in exit negotiations, and the previous Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, RT Hon Greg Clark MP, announced at the LGA Annual Conference in Bournemouth that the LGA would be involved in the negotiation process on the terms of the UK's exit.
12. We are seeking to establish some points of principle for local government as the framework for exit negotiation is developed. These could include:
 - 12.1 We would not support a simple transfer of powers from Brussels only to Whitehall.
 - 12.2 The new legal and regulatory framework needs to be based upon the principle of subsidiarity. If services are delivered locally, we should assume that such powers should be framed at that level of government.
 - 12.3 There is an immediate "England and local government" gap in the Government's negotiation plan. This needs to be highlighted and we could volunteer local leaders to be actively involved in formal negotiations as equals to colleagues from the three devolved nations, sitting alongside the national ministers.
 - 12.4 The sheer scale of the negotiations that need to be undertaken by Government calls into question whether it has the capacity and staffing to deliver. The civil service may need to focus on our international trade agreements and we could offer to lead the negotiations where services are delivered locally (for example on economic development and waste).
13. We understand that our call for a role for local government in negotiations has been registered and we are considering the priority issues of most importance to councils. We have agreed to work closely with civil servants in both Brussels and Whitehall over the next few months as exit negotiations are developed.

How this affects Councils as leaders of place

14. Councils, of course, have a much wider role in their communities and local government is going to be central in bringing communities together following this vote. The implications of exit are wide-ranging. Business will want to consider future international trade, universities will want to consider new sources of research funding and farming communities will need a response to promises to replace Common Agricultural Policy receipts with domestic funds. There will also be uncertainty for workers in jobs who were born outside the UK but within the EU and for UK citizens who have retired outside the UK to other EU nations.
15. The LGA has made a public statement emphasising councils' role in bringing communities together. The previous Prime Minister, David Cameron, raised concerns about the rise in hate crimes and "verbal abuse hurled against individuals because they are members of ethnic minorities". The LGA will be bringing together national partners to ensure that we are prepared to support councils as leaders of place and community cohesion. Our website is currently being updated to include examples of good practice from councils around the country.
16. The referendum debate raised many local concerns about jobs, homes and the health service. Devolution deals offer the opportunity for more effective local public services and it will be important that the impetus on the devolution agenda be maintained.
17. This paper does not speculate on the medium and long-term market reactions or long-term trends in the housing market. However, the importance of councils as facilitators of local economic development and coordinators of place is likely to be of greater importance in the future. Councils have raised a number of issues for the LGA and Government departments to consider and we are keen that councils continue to any further raise issues for the LGA to table in discussions with Government.
18. The LGA will want to consider what support councils will need as convenors of place over the next few months as they work with businesses, residents and other parts of the public sector to assess the impact on a whole place. Local government's formal position in the exit negotiations will be key and there may be an important role for the LGA to provide the channel for local concerns to both Government and other national organisations during national negotiations.

Appendix A

Chair: Nick Golding, News Editor Local Government Chronicle



Nick Golding is Editor of Local Government Chronicle. Prior to that, Nick was news editor of LGC's sister publication the Health Service Journal. Nick began his career on local newspapers in Birmingham and north London, and has held various roles including News Editor on LGC between 2005 and 2009. He had a spell as magazine editor on Community Care before moving back to the LGC.

Andrew Carter, Deputy Chief Executive Centre for Cities



Andrew Carter is Deputy Chief Executive of the Centre for Cities and has overall responsibility for the Centre's research and policy programme. Andrew is also Deputy Director of the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth. He is a regular media contributor and has chaired and spoken at conferences across the UK and Europe on a wide range of urban and Economic issues.

Andrew has over 20 years of experience working on urban economic policy issues for public and private development agencies, consultants and research institutes. He has also spent time in the US as part of the Churchill Foundation's Fellowship Programme reviewing urban economic development policy and practice in American cities including New York, Washington DC, Boston and Chicago.

Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive Campaign to Protect Rural England



Shaun Spiers has been Chief Executive of CPRE since 2004. Previously he was chief executive of ABCUL, the credit union trade association. From 1994 to 1999, he was an MEP for the South East, serving on the European Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. He is a trustee of Sustain, the alliance for food and farming, and was a founder trustee of Civic Voice.

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum: 9 June 2016 to 21 July 2016.

LGA business

- LGA Devolution conference
- Baroness Warwick (Chair), David Orr (Chief Executive) – National Housing Federation
- Home Office / LGA Prevent roundtable with Council Leaders
- LGA Annual Conference 2016
- SIGOMA annual general meeting
- Lord Kerslake, President – Local Government Association
- Mayor Paul Dennett - Salford City Council
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum
- LGA annual parliamentary reception

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

- The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP - Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government
- Brandon Lewis MP - Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Department for Communities and Local Government
- Marcus Jones MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government), Department for Communities and Local Government
- The Rt Hon Lord Freud - Minister of State for Welfare Reform, Department for Work and Pensions
- Ministerial Group on Syrian Refugees, Cabinet Office
- All Party Parliamentary Group for Channel Islands
- Lord Ahmad - Minister for Countering Extremism, Home Office
- All Party Parliamentary Media Group
- Local Government All Party Parliamentary Group - LGiU
- All Party Parliamentary Group for District Councils
- Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-iga - Minister of Local Government, Minister for Ethnic Communities, Minister for Pacific Peoples, and Associate Minister of Health (New Zealand Government)
- County All Party Parliamentary Group

Meetings with organisations and individuals

- Shelter's 50th Anniversary Reception
- MJ Awards
- YMCA y:cube housing project
- Future Vision programme
- Alex Ford - Chief Executive, Pancreatic Cancer UK
- Mendip District Council - Glastonbury Festival
- Councillor Commission
- Shared Chief Executive Special Interest Group

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

Education

1. On the 7th June, the Children and Young People Board Lead Members: Councillor Roy Perry, Councillor Richard Watts, Councillor Liz Green, and Councillor Helen Powell, attended a roundtable meeting with the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan MP. The meeting was called by Nicky Morgan MP in response to Councillor Roy Perry's letter to the Department for Education Secretary of State on the 31st March which outlined the LGA's concerns regarding proposals set out in the Government's *Educational Excellence Everywhere* White Paper. The meeting covered the LGA's concerns with the government's plans for academisation, the diminishing role of councils in school improvement, and the proposed national schools funding formula, among other issues pertinent to the *Educational Excellence Everywhere Bill*, and the *Education for All Bill*.
2. Councillor Helen Powell attended a conference organised by Inside Government on the 22nd June, entitled: *Supporting Local Authorities to deliver school improvement*. Councillor Powell addressed the conference on local government's role in school improvement, how this will be impacted on by the reforms set out in the Education White Paper and Education for All Bill and; and about work that Lincolnshire County Council is undertaking to drive school improvement.
3. On the 13th of July, Councillor Richard Watts, Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Board, attended an event organised by Inside Government entitled: *Improving School Place Planning*. Councillor Watts addressed attendees concerning the government's ambition to end councils' role in school improvement and hand this responsibility to Multi-Academy Trusts overseen by a tier of Regional Schools Commissioners. Cllr Watts outlined the recommendations of the CYP Board's Five Point Plan, including: a single capital pot locally; five-year allocations; local decision-making about new schools; local decisions about academy sponsors; councils given a greater role in approving free schools so they serve areas of the greatest need.

The LGA Independent Group - Information and Development Seminar

4. Councillor Helen Powell, the Deputy Chair of the Children and Young People Board, spoke at the LGA Independent Group's Information and Development Seminar at the end of May and provided members with a summary of the Children and Young People Board's successes in influencing government policy during the last three years, engaging in debate and discussion with attendees on these achievements.

Children's services

5. Researchers at the Rees Centre University of Oxford and University of Bristol, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, found that the stability provided by carers helped children to achieve consistently better results when compared to children living with their families while receiving social work support. To explore this work, the LGA held a roundtable event on the 12th July which was attended by Councillor Roy Perry, the

Chair of the Children and Young, the Chair of the Improvement and Innovation Board, ADCS, DfE, TACT, The Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers, CoramBAAF, and the Fostering Network.

6. The LGA published a report on the 29th June entitled: Action Research into Improvement in Local Children's Services. The report was commissioned by the LGA and undertaken by the ISOS Partnership, and sought to answer two central questions:

- 6.1 What are the key enablers of (and barriers to) improvement in local children's services?

- 6.2 How can the system as a whole facilitate and support improvement in local children's services?

The final report sets out detailed evidence and case studies about how local areas have brought about and sustained improvement, as well as recommendations about how the national system can support local children's services to improve. The authors Ben Bryant and Simon Rea from the ISOS Partnership, presented their findings at the Children and Young People Board meeting on the 29th June.

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

Devolution

1. The LGA's devolution support offer, with direction from the City Regions Board, continues to go from strength to strength, with the LGA's Annual Conference providing a good showcase of recent activity, including:
 - 1.1 The launch of a key note discussion paper: [What next for devolution?](#) This draws on ideas from board members and councillors across the sector and has been written to provoke a wide-ranging debate about the future direction and scope of devolution. The paper highlights the importance of public service reform and the need for local leaders to play a greater role in shaping the next phase of devolution. Councillors, government and others are encouraged to respond with their views over the next few months via the LGA's Devonext 'microsite' – www.devonext.org
 - 1.2 The publication of a ['plain English' guide to combined authorities](#), developed in partnership with Shared Intelligence, combines an overview of the relevant legislative provisions, with practical suggestions and advice on setting up a combined authority.
 - 1.3 The launch of [Professor Robin Hambleton's report on Executive Models of Governance](#), which examines international models of sub-national governance and highlights lessons for those establishing devolved governance structures in England.
 - 1.4 The release of ['Don't Be left in the Dark'](#) - a guide which provides answers to some of the key questions about devolution and what it means for councils, their residents and communities.
2. Looking ahead, the summer will also see two further publications, aimed at responding to the specific concerns of members:
 - 2.1 In late July the LGA plans to publish commissioned research by New Economy Manchester that charts the experience of officers and members in the development of devolution deals agreed so far.
 - 2.2 In conjunction with the New Economics Foundation LGA officers will continue to explore the role of communities and the voluntary and community sector in devolution with a research report planned for publication via the DevoHub in September 2016.
3. The LGA has also recently organised two well-attended events on devolution:
 - 3.1 On 1 June, the LGA jointly hosted an event with the National Association of Local Councils: [Devolving and Delivering: a new relationship for principal and local councils](#), this examined how all tiers of local government could benefit from

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devolving powers and functions, as well as how services can be improved through closer working.

3.2 On 21 June the LGA hosted, [Devolution – a new type of leadership](#), which considered new and emerging forms of local leadership within the context of devolution.

4. At the LGA Conference in July, City Regions board members participated in a number of key sessions:

4.1 Cllr Judith Blake chaired the workshop session 'Devolution deals: from design to delivery', in which the panel discussed the devolution process and models of governance. Cllr Blake also spoke at the session 'Powering the Powerhouse', where devolution and business rate retention were discussed, as well as ensuring that councils can create the right conditions for economic growth and investment.

4.2 Cllr Sean Anstee, was part of the panel in the workshop session 'What next for combined authorities?' The panel spoke about their ambitions for delivering public services through a combined authority, identifying challenges ahead and setting out what they believe are the keys to success.

Employment and Skills

5. The board continues to work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the new Work and Health Programme (WHP). The programme is designed to assist the long term unemployed and those with physical or mental health conditions into work with as much local government involvement as possible. Ten devolution deal areas continue to work bilaterally with DWP on the design and commissioning of the WHP in their local area. All other areas outside of a devolution deal area will eventually be subject to a WHP national offer.

6. 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 put forward recommendations which to help inform DWP's decision making process in June.

Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network 2016 Meeting

7. On 12th-13th July, the Board of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) have invited board members to participate in the London meeting of new Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network: 'Successful, safe and sustainable cities: making cities fit for the future' which will cover the following policy areas: making cities inclusive, resilient and safe; addressing the migrant crisis; encouraging social cohesion and combatting extremism. Members will have the opportunity to discuss cities as engines of economic growth and centres of finance and innovation.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

8. Work continues on the RSA Commission on Inclusive Growth Project which the LGA is co-sponsoring. Chaired by Stephanie Flanders, the commission builds on the success of the RSA City Growth Commission, and 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. It will report in Spring 2017. The Commission has now launched its [Prospectus of Inquiry](#).

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Leading Places Project

9. With input and steer from both the City Regions and People and Places Boards, the LGA is continuing to work with HEFCE and UUK to deliver the [Leading Places Project](#): a programme of leadership development for both the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth. The six pilot areas have progressed with their work, and three are holding Senior Leadership Team Meetings in July.

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Community Wellbeing Portfolio – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair)

Public Health Motion at LGA General Assembly

1. I was pleased to speak on behalf of the LGA at the General Assembly in Bournemouth to support the Public Health Motion proposed by Cllr David Jenkins (Cambridgeshire County Council) and seconded by Cllr Colette Wyatt-Lowe (Hertfordshire County Council). The LGA is fully committed to playing its part on behalf of all councils to make the strong financial case for further investment in prevention, and recognises the urgency of moving to a place-based approach to work together to prevent ill-health and support people to maintain their own health. The LGA, alongside Public Health England and the Association of Directors of Public Health, will continue to lobby the government to develop a long-term approach to the economics of prevention, and the Community Wellbeing Board will take the work forward in 2016/17.

The financial crisis in health and social care and Integration Self-Assessment Tool

2. Alongside Stephen Dorrell, Chairman of NHS Confederation, Harold Bodmer, President of ADASS, and Caroline Abrahams, Director of Age UK, I spoke at a plenary session at the LGA Conference on the financial crisis facing adult social care where I also launched the new [Integration Self-Assessment Tool](#) to help councils assess their capacity and lead the integration and transformation agenda. The tool would be piloted in several areas throughout the summer and would be available to all councils in the autumn as part of the LGA's Care and Health Improvement Programme. As part of the launch, I highlighted the need for council leaders to operate in the interest of their communities, the need for honesty with partners with an open approach to resources and budgets, and the need for bravery for councils to make changes to their approach, take on more responsibility, or transfer resources where required.
3. On 16 June, I spoke alongside senior leaders from the NHS and adult social care to launch [Stepping up to the Place: the key to successful health and care integration](#) at the NHS Confederation Annual Conference. The LGA led a partnership of the NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to produce a system-wide vision for health and social care integration. We propose a place-based preventative approach in order to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes for our citizens, better services and make best use of our collective resources. The LGA had a strong presence at the conference, which was very much welcomed by delegates.

Learning the lessons from integration

4. At the conference I also chaired a workshop session to consider what we have learnt from integration in terms of improving health and wellbeing outcomes for people, improving experience of services, and making the best use of health and social care resources to build on existing integration initiatives to achieve full integration of health and social care by 2020. Speakers at the workshop included Carole Burgoyne, Strategic Director for People at Plymouth City Council, Jerry Clough, Chief Operating Officer and Locality Managing Director at Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE, Leader of London Borough of Sutton, and Richard Samuel, Board Member of NHS Clinical Commissioners.

Mental Health – the foundations of a healthy and prosperous place

5. Cllr Gillian Ford chaired a workshop at the LGA Conference on the importance of mental wellbeing to the health and prosperity of local communities and how councils provided services which could support this through housing, public health and design of public spaces. Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, and Cllr Jaqui Dyer, London Borough of Lambeth and Vice-Chair of the National Mental Health Taskforce (NMHT), spoke at the workshop, which also considered the opportunities devolution could bring for mental health, the impact of poor mental health on life chances of children and young people, and the possible impacts for councils and health partners of the recommendations from the NMHT.

The military and our community

6. Following Armed Forces day on Saturday 25 June 2016, when councils across the country hosted hundreds of events and flew the armed forces flag, Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, chaired a debate at the LGA Conference on the future relationship between local government and the serving and veteran community, and the first findings of a national review into local action on the Armed Forces Covenant Local Pledge, to which 370 councils across the country have signed up.

Dementia

7. In June 2016 Cllr Jackie Meldrum attended the Prime Minister Challenge on Dementia 2020 Citizens Engagement Programme Task and Finish advisory group. The purpose of the group is provide advice on engaging with citizens to find out if the PM Challenge is making a difference to the lives of people with dementia and carers. Also in June Cllr Gillian Ford attended the PM Challenge on Dementia 2020 Dementia Friendly Communities Task Groups and Annual General Meeting, and Cllr Jonathan McShane and Cllr Gillian Ford attended the Public Health England Dementia Governance Board.

Missing Adults and Children

8. Councillor Gillian Ford attended the Annual Ministerial Missing Adults and Children Roundtable chaired by Karen Bradley, Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime.

Diabetes Week

9. Last month I [responded to the latest figures on the increasing number of children developing Type 2 diabetes](#), which is largely preventable and closely linked with lifestyle, such as unhealthy eating or lack of exercise. To coincide with Diabetes Week the LGA called on the government to take bold action as part of the national childhood obesity strategy. The LGA has previously called for teaspoon sugar labelling and a reduction of sugar content in fizzy drinks, greater provision of tap water in schools and restaurants, and for councils to be given powers to ban junk food advertising near schools to be included in the strategy.



Press Releases and Statements

10. I have recently made public statements enforcing the LGA's positions on a [report on the Care Act by the Carers Trust](#), [statistics on alcohol-related hospital admissions](#), [statistics on the number of women smoking while pregnant](#), and the [latest NHS Health Check figures](#).

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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Chair's Report to Councillors' Forum, July 2016

Sport and Physical Activity

1. Following on from Sport England's announcement that there would be a new £250 million fund to tackle inactivity as part of its strategy "Towards an Active Nation: 2016-21" in May, we are continuing to work closely with the organisation to ensure that councils and local partners are central to their plans to tackle inactivity and to re-balance funding away from national organisations and towards local bodies.
2. I was pleased to welcome Mike Diaper, Sport England's Executive Director for Community Sport, to attend the LGA's Councillors' Forum on 9th June to update councillors on the new strategy and give an overview of the approach. LGA members strongly supported Sport England's focus on tackling inactivity and emphasised the importance of fully involving councils in the implementation of the strategy.
3. The LGA continues to run the Leadership Essentials Sport Programme in collaboration with Sport England, and with the input and support of board members. The next session will take place on the 21st–22nd July and board member Cllr Geraldine Carter will be speaking on 'Leading Change', looking at the challenges and opportunities which face councils in transforming the delivery of sport and physical activity in local communities.

Libraries

4. As the joint accountable body for the Libraries Taskforce, Cllr Mike Bell chaired Kathy Settle's Session at the Society of Chief Librarians' (SCL) Conference in Warwick on 10th June as the LGA's representative. Cllr Bell highlighted the importance of political and professional leaders working together during the session and emphasised the strong working partnership between the LGA and the SCL.
5. The Libraries Taskforce 'Ambition for Libraries' Consultation closed on the 3rd June. The LGA encouraged councils to respond to the online consultation and hosted a roundtable for councillors on 1 June. Board members are now engaging with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the next stage of this work. We were pleased to welcome Kathy Settle, Chief Executive of the Taskforce, to our board meeting on the 20th June, where she discussed feedback on the consultation, the conclusions drawn from it and the next steps.

Culture

6. On 21st June, Cllr Faye Abbott spoke at the National Leisure and Culture Forum's (NCLF) Leading Learning Programme on 'Managing in a Political Environment'. The event focused on good governance and looked at the values, codes and skills that strengthen relationships between elected members and officers. The LGA has supported the NCLF's Leading Learning Programme for aspiring senior local government managers of culture, tourism and sport for several years, and as it is the only senior professional leadership course dedicated to the sector, it plays an important role in maintaining professional capacity to lead transformational change.

7. Cllr David Burbage MBE will speak at the Westminster Briefing Session on 'A New Strategy for Culture: Boosting Access to Arts, Heritage & Culture' on the 12th July. Following the publication of the Culture White Paper in March, the event will look at the government's new culture strategy and examine forthcoming reviews on how they will shape the sector. Cllr Burbage will be discussing improving partnership working, and will examine culture as a core part of local authority plans. The Culture Minister, Ed Vaizey MP, will also be speaking at the event.
8. On 13th July, Cllr Burbage will attend a Churches Conservation Trust Reception to say farewell to their current chairman, Dr Loyd Grossman, and thank him for his contribution to the heritage sector over the past 9 years.

Archives

9. The National Archives (TNA) hosted the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Meeting in Kew on 20th June. This was an excellent opportunity for board members to engage with TNA's work and gain a clear insight into the everyday functions and activities there. The board had an excellent discussion and Jeff James, Chief Executive of TNA, presented on key challenges and opportunities for the archives sector. We identified a number of shared priorities going forward and we will continue to be involved with their vision/ strategy and help to shape this.
10. In July, board members will be attending a series of National Archives Roundtable Events in Wiltshire, Birmingham, Manchester and London and contribute to the shaping the archive's new vision. The events will present opportunities to collaborate with archive professionals, key stakeholders and strategic partners from the cultural, creative and digital sectors. Members will help to develop a strong strategic vision of archives as a vital part of the nation's heritage and secure the best possible long-term future for users of archive collections and services.

Tourism and Devolution

11. On 6th July, I chaired the plenary session on 'An alternative view on English devolution' at the LGA Conference and I was delighted to welcome songwriter, author and political activist Billy Bragg as the session's speaker. The session focused on devolution as an effective way to create jobs, build homes and strengthen healthy communities, whilst also highlighting that proposals are rooted in strong and distinct historic and cultural identities which are essential for economic growth. Mr Bragg also discussed the different options for democratic representation for England. I was pleased to launch a new LGA publication that shares new evidence about how devolution has the potential to boost tourism, one of the country's fastest growing economic sectors, and will assist councils to care for and enhance the assets that make places authentic.

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

Housing

1. The Deputy Chair of the EEHT Board Keith House attended the Housing Quality Network (HQN) annual conference on 13 July. Councillor House addressed a range of attendees including Housing Associations, Councillors, and Chief Executives on two subjects: are housing associations and local authorities doing enough to tackle homelessness? And the role of local authorities in future housing delivery.
2. Since 2004 the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) has provided high quality help, advice and training to councils. The support, to councillors and officers, helps authorities to get up to date plans in place, improve development management, and understand and respond to planning reforms. Support includes councillor or committee training, planning peer challenges, peer reviews of committee, support for plan-making, a Development Management Challenge, skills and training events. For more information about [PAS support](#) and the [subscription offer](#), see their website www.pas.gov.uk. Furthermore, since the May elections PAS has provided 10 refresher training sessions on planning and decision making to new planning committees.
3. Cllr Peter Box launched the preliminary findings of the LGA Housing Commission at the LGA Conference on 6th July. *Building our Homes, Communities and Future* puts housing at the centre of our wider aspirations for people and places. It highlights the opportunities for councils as well as the good practice that is already evident in the sector. The preliminary findings are the beginning of a conversation with the sector, government and other stakeholders. A final report will be published in the Autumn http://www.local.gov.uk/housing/-/journal_content/56/10180/7570944/ARTICLE

Environment

4. Cllr Julian German represented the LGA at a Defra seminar on Food Waste & Greenhouse Gas Emissions on 14 June. The seminar was an opportunity for senior leaders from across government and business to come together with leading scientific experts to explore how the UK can take a lead in reducing food waste to deliver reductions to greenhouse gas emissions. The seminar was also attended by Rory Stewart MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Bus Services Bill

5. Following the policy lead set by EEHT Board, the LGA has continued to represent the interests of member councils on Bus Services Bill as it takes its course through the committee stages in the House of Lords. The LGA is calling for all areas to be given automatic powers to pursue franchising schemes and for the Government to drop

their intention to prevent councils creating new municipal bus companies. The latest LGA briefing can be found here http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/briefings-and-responses/-/journal_content/56/10180/7881267/ARTICLE.

Major Roads Network

6. At their last meeting the EEHT Board received a presentation by David Quarmby and Phil Carey, from the The Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, on their 2-year study on the 'Major Roads for the Future' in England. The Study is developing a long term vision to 2040 of the role and evolution of the major road network in England, taking account of a broad range of factors appropriate to the long-term timescale. The Study is due to report in October 2016. Their Core Proposition focuses on the need for a consistent and coordinated regime for the strategic planning, governance and funding of England's major roads; and secondly, identifies the elements which make this regime, and the resulting Major Road Network (MRN) itself, fully 'fit for purpose'. The proposed 8,000 miles of the MRN is made up of 4,400 miles of the Strategic Roads Network (managed by Highways England) and 3,600 miles of the most 'strategic' local authority roads. The proposals are attracting interest across councils and emerging sub-national transport bodies. For further information visit the study website www.futureroadsengland.org.

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

Innovation

1. Board members including myself took part in our **Innovation Zone at LGA Annual Conference** - we offered a full programme on the themes of leadership, collaboration, digitalisation, integration of services and tools of innovation. Sunday Assembly got the Zone off to a lively start with karaoke and dancing to highlight how they are working with councils and communities of all faiths and beliefs to tackle mental ill health, reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing. Speakers also included a variety of senior councillors and officers, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Acting Mayor of the City of North Vancouver, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Dutch and Danish municipalities, the BBC, Behavioural Insights Team, Design Council, Future Cities Catapult, Nesta and GoodGym. All the sessions were well attended with positive feedback throughout the programme.
2. **Innovative Councils Knowledge Hub Group** - we have refreshed this [Group](#) (you need to be registered to open the link) so that all aspects of local government innovation can be discussed. It builds on the previous Creative Councils Group, which highlighted work from the Nesta and LGA [programme](#), through which six councils and their partners received funding to develop, implement and spread transformational new approaches. The need for innovation remains strong however, hence this refresh.

Improvement

3. **Planning Advisory Service (PAS)** - PAS is working with some planning authorities to develop proposals for transformational work associated with the localised setting of planning fees. In addition, PAS is promoting its support offer for this year, a combination of grant funded and paid for support to planning authorities. Details of the offer are [here](#).
4. **Latest Shared Services Map** - we have launched our latest shared services map, which helps people to learn about what other councils are doing before embarking on new shared services projects and to help find partners for new shared services. The map can be found [here](#).
5. **Sector led body for making appointments of auditors** - DCLG has launched the first stage in the process that will lead to the 'specification' of a sector led body for making appointments of auditor. We have put forward our submission and we hope to hear by the end of July if it has been successful. Over 200 councils have expressed an interest in opting-in.

Transparency

6. We have continued to help councils get to grips with the implications of the **Local Government Transparency Code** by publishing, updating and maintaining practical guidance to help authorities in implementing it. We also ran a support desk for local authority queries about the Code. There were between 4,000 and 9,000 downloads for

each of the various guidance documents last year, resulting in 27,000 in total. Additionally, we have [responded](#) to the Government's consultation on extending the scope of the Code and [changing](#) how local authorities record details of their land and property assets, publish information about procurement, their contracts and the delivery of some of their services.

7. As part of the **transparency and open data agenda**, we engaged with the Open Data Institute to develop online learning modules about publishing data and using open standards for local authorities. These YouTube webinars were popular with local authorities, enabling them to learn and ask questions, using a free resource at a time and place which suited them best. Since their launch in March, 130 people have already completed modules.

Productivity

8. **Efficiency opportunities through health and social care integration** - our final report on this project, supported by Newton Europe, was launched at the LGA Annual Conference, with the findings also presented by participating councils and health partners in the Conference's Innovation Zone, and at the Improvement and Innovation Board's 12 July meeting. Two national autumn events in London and Leeds will disseminate the findings with a workshop planned for the National Children and Adult Services Conference in early November.
9. **Learning from our Digital Experts Programme** - a [review](#) of this Programme has revealed that councils have saved millions of pounds by going digital. We established the Programme in March 2015, enabling 42 councils to use digital tools and approaches already successfully applied by their peers. This demonstrated how local authorities and their partners, exploiting the potential of modern digital technologies, can deliver improved services to residents, operate more effectively and generate efficiency savings.
10. We continued with our successful ongoing offers, providing Productivity Experts to support 24 councils across 15 projects and Growth Advisers also supporting 24 councils across 13 projects to support them in delivering **efficiency and income generation projects**, running the popular Commissioning Academy for officers and elected members and relaunching our shared services map, which now shows that councils have made more than half a billion in savings from shared service arrangements since 2010.

Leadership

11. **The National Graduate Development Programme** has now reached second interview stage with councils, and all successful candidates will have been allocated council management trainee positions by the end of July.
12. Lancashire County Council's bespoke **Be a Councillor** project featured in the Innovation Zone at LGA Annual Conference with a formal launch to follow. Lancashire is the first council to pilot the full new package, which includes a short film, guidebooks, learning and development materials, e-learning and a website: www.beacouncillor.co.uk/lancashire.

13. Application's for the **Next Generation programme** has now opened. Each LGA Political Group is promoting the programme to its Members through their own channels. Next Generation offers ambitious and talented councillors a unique development opportunity, it is designed within party political traditions and with party political experts.
14. Over 260 delegates have signed up to this year's **Highlighting Political Leadership** programmes so far – this compares to 217 for the same period last year.
15. **E-learning for councillors** - our Licensing and Regulation module is now [available](#). Modules for this financial year include Planning, Community Engagement and Leadership with planned tutorial modules on Devolution and Political Governance toward the end of 2016. We will also host a generic module on Be A Councillor on the LGA website later this summer.

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

Devolution

1. The LGA's devolution support offer, with direction from the People and Places Board, continues to go from strength to strength, with the LGA's Annual Conference providing a good showcase of recent activity, including:
 - 1.1 The launch of a key note discussion paper: [What next for devolution?](#) This draws on ideas from board members and councillors across the sector and has been written to provoke a wide-ranging debate about the future direction and scope of devolution. The paper highlights the importance of public service reform and the need for local leaders to play a greater role in shaping the next phase of devolution. Councillors, government and others are encouraged to respond with their views over the next few months via the LGA's Devonext 'microsite' – www.devonext.org
 - 1.2 The publication of a ['plain English' guide to combined authorities](#), developed in partnership with Shared Intelligence, combines an overview of the relevant legislative provisions, with practical suggestions and advice on setting up a combined authority.
 - 1.3 The launch of [Professor Robin Hambleton's report on Executive Models of Governance](#), which examines international models of sub-national governance and highlights lessons for those establishing devolved governance structures in England.
 - 1.4 The release of ['Don't Be left in the Dark'](#) - a guide which provides answers to key questions about devolution and what it means for councils and their communities.
2. Looking ahead, the summer will also see two further publications, aimed at responding to the specific concerns of members:
 - 2.1 In late July, the LGA plans to publish commissioned research by New Economy Manchester that charts the experience of officers and members in the development of devolution deals agreed so far.
 - 2.2 In conjunction with the New Economics Foundation, LGA officers will continue to explore the role of communities and the voluntary and community sector in devolution with a research report planned for publication via the DevoHub in September 2016.
3. The LGA has also recently organised well-attended events on devolution:
 - 3.1 On 1 June, the LGA jointly hosted an event with the National Association of Local Councils: [Devolving and Delivering: a new relationship for principal and local councils](#). This examined how all tiers of local government could benefit from devolving powers and functions, as well as how services can be improved through closer working.
 - 3.2 On 21 June the LGA hosted, [Devolution – a new type of leadership](#), which considered new and emerging forms of local leadership within the context of devolution.
 - 3.3 At the LGA Conference, board members spoke at key sessions on devolution. Cllr Alan Rhodes chaired the workshop 'What next for combined authorities?', which considered ambitions for delivering public services through combined authorities, identifying challenges ahead and setting out the keys to success. Cllr John Pollard

spoke at the 'Devolution deals: from design to delivery' workshop, discussing the devolution process and models of governance.

Employment and Skills

4. The board continues to work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the new Work and Health Programme (WHP). The programme is designed to assist the long term unemployed and those with physical or mental health conditions into work with as much local government involvement as possible. Ten devolution deal areas continue to work bilaterally with DWP on the design and commissioning of the WHP in their local area. All other areas outside of a devolution deal area will eventually be subject to a WHP national offer.
5. 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 put forward recommendations which to help inform DWP's decision making process in June.
6. In addition, I will be making the LGA keynote speech at the Learning and Work Institute's annual [Into Work Convention](#) in Birmingham on the 12th July. As the employability sector changes and operates in an increasingly devolved context with new accountabilities going to city regions and combined authorities, the event is an opportunity to send out strong signals to employment providers, government and other relevant stakeholders on the local government regarding the WHP national offer.
7. Board Lead Member Cllr Gillian Brown chaired the panel session 'Mind the skills gap? Local government's role in skills and local growth' at the LGA Conference, in which key skills and employment issues were discussed including: current skills shortages, the Adult Education Budget and apprenticeship reform.

Leading Places Project

8. With input and steer from both the City Regions and People and Places Boards, the LGA is continuing to work with HEFCE and UUK to deliver the [Leading Places Project](#): a programme of leadership development for both the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth. The six pilot areas have progressed with their work, and three are holding Senior Leadership Team Meetings in July.

Superfast Broadband and Mobile Connectivity

9. Since the last People and Places Board, the LGA has continued to support councils in their efforts to extend superfast broadband and mobile connectivity. The board-commissioned [Up to Speed Campaign](#) website has had over 3,000 page views with almost 500 people having taken the speed test. Tests have now been taken across over half the council areas in England, which exceeds the campaign's initial coverage target.
10. The Digital Economy Bill, which was announced in the [Queen's Speech](#), is expected to enshrine the Universal Service Obligation in primary legislation, cut the cost and simplify the building of mobile and superfast broadband infrastructure, and include measures to automatically compensate consumers if things go wrong with their broadband service. LGA officers will work closely with members to monitor the Bill's progress and take appropriate steps to ensure the concerns of councils are properly reflected.
11. I moderated 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.

Rural Issues

12. On 12th July, Cllr Heather Kidd will be speaking at the Rural Housing Conference on the need for more affordable homes in rural areas to allow rural communities to continue to be sustainable and the potential for partnership work between housing associations, the Rural Housing Network and local government in this area.

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Resources Portfolio – report from Cllr Claire Kober (Chair)

Portfolio way of working

1. Resources has been piloting a new Portfolio Holder style governance model since 1 September 2015. The Leadership Board undertook a mid-year review of the pilot in June and agreed that the Portfolio model not be continued. This means that the areas of Resources, as well as Community Wellbeing, will revert to Boards from 1 September. There was however a strong recommendation that each policy Board use the existing flexibilities within the board structure and develop bespoke approaches to broaden member engagement and sharing of responsibilities beyond Lead Member roles.

Queen's Speech

2. The Queen's Speech on 18 May announced the Local Growth and Jobs Bill, which will provide the legislative framework for local government to retain more business rates. The Bill will also 'legislate for the set of responsibilities that will be devolved to local government as a result of the reforms'. In addition, the legislation will give local authorities the ability to reduce the 'business rates tax rate' and enable combined authority mayors to 'levy a supplement on business rates bills to fund new infrastructure projects'. A date has yet to be set for the legislation to begin its passage through Parliament; however, it is likely to be in 2017. The Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill was also announced, including the creation of the National Infrastructure Commission. The LGA provided an on-the-day briefing on the Speech, outlining the Government's legislative plans over the next year, which can be read [here](#).

Business Rates Retention

3. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark MP, [announced](#) the publication of the Government's formal [consultation](#) on business rates retention at the LGA conference on 5 July. The 'Self-sufficient local government: 100% business rates retention' consultation paper outlines the key issues which need to be considered in implementing the proposals. The LGA responded to the announcement in a [news release](#) and also published an [on-the day briefing](#). Alongside the consultation paper, the Government also published a [call for evidence](#) on needs and redistribution, to inform the fair funding review, first announced by the Secretary of State in early 2016. The Government's deadline for responses to both papers is 26 September; the LGA will be responding in detail to the consultation and urges local authorities to respond as well.
4. On 18 July, fellow Resources Lead Members Cllr John Fuller, Cllr Clarence Barrett and I will be hosting a Resources Forum event at Local Government House on the subject of business rates retention. Our fellow Business Rates Task Group colleague Cllr Michael Headley will also be speaking at the event. The event is intended to provide an opportunity for finance and resources portfolio holders from member councils to comment on the initial proposals outlined in the consultation document.
5. The member-led task and finish group on business rates retention met for the second time in June, to consider in more detail the issue of funding potential new responsibilities from further business rates retention. There was agreement that new responsibilities

would be best focussed on those services which encourage economic growth. The group also discussed the LGA's approach to the additional spending pressures expected to face local government by 2020.

6. Work with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the detailed development of the policy has continued, with further meetings of the officer-level steering group and sub-groups. Papers and minutes from the meetings are published on the LGA's business rates hub [here](#).
7. Separately, the Communities and Local Government Select Committee has [published](#) an interim report on their business rates retention inquiry. The report highlighted a range of issues that the Government must tackle before the implementation of further business rates retention, including addressing the impact of appeals and revising the assessment of need. The LGA provided evidence to the inquiry and I responded to the publication of the Committee's report, on behalf of the LGA; the press release can be read [here](#).

EU Referendum

8. Following the outcome of the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, on the issue of funding, the LGA called on the Government to guarantee the £5.3 billion in regeneration funding allocated to communities in England by the EU up to 2020. In a statement, the LGA said the Government should 'protect this vital funding to avoid essential growth-boosting projects stalling and local economies across England being stifled'. The LGA's initial response to the consultation, which was widely reported in the media, can be read [here](#).

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Advisory Board

9. The statutory scheme advisory board for the LGPS in England and Wales met for the first time during May. The advisory board includes a number of LGA members and has a statutory function to advise DCLG on the desirability of making changes to the scheme. The Board is chaired by fellow Resources member Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire Council.) At its first meeting, it received an update from the LGPS's responsible Minister, Marcus Jones MP, and discussed the Board's forthcoming plans for issuing an investment cost transparency code. Also the Board through its deficits working party will be considering options for improved management of the costs of the Scheme.

Pooling of local authority pension funds

10. Officers continue to play a liaison role between Government and LGPS pension funds as funds work towards the July deadline for submitting their detailed pooling submissions to DCLG and HM Treasury. Support has focussed on the key legal and regulatory issues associated with various pooling options and on ensuring that the submissions will meet the criteria set out in the Government's November 2015 guidance document.

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

EFRA select committee inquiry – welfare of domestic animals

1. On 14 June the EFRA select committee's inquiry into the welfare of domestic animals held a hearing where I gave evidence on behalf of councils.

Trading standards conference

2. Cllr Anita Lower spoke about the LGA's recent review of trading standards at the Chartered Trading Standards Institute's annual conference.

Annual conference

3. I chaired a Regulatory Delivery fringe event at our annual conference focusing on how councils can support businesses through their regulatory services. Cllr Tony Page spoke at a fringe event hosted by BACTA (the trade body for the amusement arcade industry) to discuss appropriate regulation for different sectors of the gambling industry.

Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

4. Cllr Tony Page met with Carolyn Harris MP, chair of the new All Party Parliamentary Group on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals, to discuss the LGA's call for a reduction in FOBT stakes and wider gambling licensing reform.

Environmental Health awards

5. Cllr Nick Worth attended a reception held by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health to celebrate their annual awards winners.

Tumble dryers

6. Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Chair of Fire Services Management Committee, called on manufacturers to recall faulty tumble dryer models, following a series of house fires caused by machines catching fire.

House of Lords Select Committee

7. Cllr Tony Page gave evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003.

APPG Funerals and Bereavement

8. Cllr Ian Gillies, the SSCB Champion for Burial and Bereavement Services met with Mark Pawsey MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Funerals and Bereavement to discuss a number of issues including the introduction of medical examiners, public health funerals and funeral poverty and the council role in bereavement services.

Protecting communities from extremism

9. On 7 July the LGA conference heard from Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Helen Ball in a plenary session I chaired on protecting communities from extremism.

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

10. On 16 June the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' held an induction event for new PCCs. There are 42 PCCs, about half of whom were newly elected in May. At the event I spoke about the need for close working and resource-sharing with councils to tackle crime more effectively and efficiently. I also stressed the scope for delivering better fire services through collaboration, without the need for PCCs to take on the burden of responsibility for fire and rescue services. There was an opportunity to meet some of the new appointees over lunch.

Advisory Board on Female Offenders

11. The June meeting of the Ministry of Justice's Advisory Board on Female Offenders was attended by Cllr Janet Daby. The Board discussed the Ministry's strategic approach to working with female offenders, heard from Pause, an organisation working with women who have had repeated removals of their children into care, and reforms of the custodial estate for female offenders.

National FGM Centre

12. Following the award of transitional funding for National FGM Centre for 2016/17, a further meeting of the Centre's Advisory Group was held in June, which discussed the work the Centre is doing in six pilot authorities and other areas the Centre might look to work in.

CCTV Conference

13. Inside Government held a conference on CCTV in July, and I was invited to speak about the effective, transparent and appropriate use of CCTV in local communities.

Contact officer: Mark Norris
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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 9 June 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>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	<p>Sport England: Towards an Active Nation Strategy 2016 - Mike Diaper, Executive Director Community Sport, Sport England</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Mike Diaper, Sport England to the meeting.</p> <p>Members received a presentation outlining strategies for improving community health and well-being and highlighted opportunities for Councils to work with Sport England to deliver better engagement by its residents.</p> <p>The Forum noted current statistics with regard to numbers of the population currently playing sports and also Government's commitment to provide funding because of the wider benefits. Recommendations, set by government, include assistance to involve the elderly and to ensure representation of underrepresented groups.</p> <p>Mr Diaper advised members to explore their needs in order to evaluate what needed to be done to encourage habits of good health, and finding out what motivates individuals – and how to prompt those who never exercise. Members noted costs of inactivity - care costs, ill health, death and noted that the greatest health benefits are made in the first 30 minutes. He assured them that local delivery was at the heart of investment and outlined an offer to support local authorities with expertise, advice and building strong sustainable partnerships.</p> <p>Members expressed their interest and agreed that physical health and exercise held a very strong link around mental wellbeing as well as being a step to ending isolation. Several points were raised and some members agreed that they would like to have a strategic conversation with Mr Diaper about ways forward, such as getting GPs on Board.</p> <p>Members also felt that it was an amazing opportunity for Local Authorities to pick up 'prevention' in order to change the pendulum of ill health but that</p>	

measurement of outcomes would be vital to continued engagement and support.

The Chairman thanked the speaker for his presentation and encouraged members to contact Mr Diaper for assistance.

3 Sport England: Towards an Active Nation Strategy - presentation slides

Available at

<http://lga.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=3149&Ver=4>

4 Chairman's Update

Members noted the Chairman's update.

5 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

Members noted the Chairs' reports and recent updates.

6 Digest of the last meeting

The note of the previous meeting was approved.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Diviani	East Devon District Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Mike Eathorne- Gibbons	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
	Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
	Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE	Bedford Borough Council
	Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Ralph Bagge	South Bucks District Council
	Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Graham Whitham	Sutton London Borough Council
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
	Cllr Stephen Parker	Hart District Council

	Cllr Chris Saint	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
	Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
Apologies	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Claire-Louise Leyland	Camden Council
	Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City 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 Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Ivan Ould	Leicestershire County Council
	Cllr Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
	Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
	Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool 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 Amy Cross	Blackpool 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 David Wilcox OBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
	Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Alderman Sir David Wootton	City of London Corporation
	Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Vacancy	Independent Group

	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough 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
	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
In Attendance	Mike Diaper	Sport England
LGA Officers	Fatima de Abreu	Member Services
	Mark Lloyd	Chief Executive

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

