

LGA Leadership Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 14 September 2016
2.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local
Government House, Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the LGA Leadership Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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LGA Leadership Board
14 September 2016

There will be a meeting of the LGA Leadership Board at **2.00 pm on Wednesday, 14 September 2016** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

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.

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:

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LGA Leadership Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Lord Gary Porter (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr David Hodge (Vice Chairman)	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Philippa Roe (Deputy Chairman)	Westminster City Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Sean Anstee (Deputy Chairman)	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (6)	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (Deputy Chair)	Stevenage Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Deputy Chair)	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Sue Murphy CBE (Deputy Chair)	Manchester City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Reeve (Deputy Chair)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Vice-Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE (Deputy Chair)	Watford Borough Council

LGA Leadership Board – Attendance 2016/2017

	20/7/16
Councillors	
Conservative	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	Yes
David Hodge	No
David Simmonds CBE	Yes
Philippa Roe	No
Peter Fleming OBE	Yes
Sean Anstee	Yes
Labour	
Nick Forbes	Yes
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Yes
Sharon Taylor OBE	Yes
Peter Box CBE	Yes
Anne Western CBE	No
Sue Murphy CBE	Yes
Independent	
Marianne Overton MBE	Yes
Peter Reeve	Yes
Liberal Democrat	
Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Yes
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Yes

Agenda

LGA Leadership Board

Wednesday 14 September 2016

2.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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To follow on a supplemental agenda: Report and recommendation of the LGA (Properties) Company Board.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 19 October 2016, 2.00 pm, Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



Centre for Public Scrutiny: Annual Report 2015/16

Purpose

For information.

Summary

Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is commissioned by the LGA to support sector-led improvement by providing advice, guidance and support to local authorities on governance – with a particular focus on the operation of councils' overview and scrutiny arrangements. The LGA provided funding of £171k for 2015/16, and details of the work delivered and its outcomes can be found below. A copy of the CfPS Annual Report 2015/16 can also be found at [Appendix A](#).

This report provides a short update on CfPS's plans for 2016/17, which have been agreed with the LGA.

This report also provides a brief update on the 2016/17 position with regards to CfPS's support to local authorities on health scrutiny, work that has traditionally been funded by the Department of Health but from which funding has now been significantly reduced.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board note this update and provide feedback to inform the future work of CfPS in respect of its ongoing relationship with the LGA.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Centre for Public Scrutiny: Annual Report 2015/16

Introduction and background

1. CfPS was founded in 2003 by the LGA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) with the aim of being a national centre of excellence to support local government in delivering its scrutiny obligations. Since then it has established itself as the leading national voice on scrutiny across the wider public sector.
2. Cllr Anthony Jackson represents the LGA on CfPS's Trustee Board, and the LGA contract manager for CfPS is Dennis Skinner, who also sits on the CfPS Advisory Board. Regular updates on programmes and on the development of work are provided. Regular communication with Principal Advisors is also a feature of CfPS's work; in the context of the organisation's support of sector improvement activity.
3. CfPS's close partnership with the LGA, since that time, has led to the organisation becoming a driving force on issues relating to local governance improvement. CfPS has developed a significant track record in helping councils experiencing governance difficulties to explore the political and cultural dynamics that have led to those difficulties, and identifying appropriate solutions. CfPS has also carried out and disseminated significant national research intended to promote productive approaches to scrutiny and good governance. This has ranged from short, practical guides on scrutiny practice, through publications highlighting excellent scrutiny outcomes, to longer-form research focusing on the governance of issues such as transformation and major change.
4. CfPS's research into the wider public sector through its previous and ongoing work in health, policing, schools and children's services, and the third sector, means that a "whole system" approach can be drawn out, which enhances and augments that work which focuses on local government. It should be noted, however, that funding that CfPS has used to provide advice and guidance to local authorities on specific issues relating to health scrutiny has, for 2016/17, has been substantially reduced. Paragraph 18 onwards provides more information.

2015/2016 Performance Summary

5. CfPS's work in 2015/16 reflected the importance of three issues:
 - 5.1. Devolution (and its associated governance challenges and opportunities).
 - 5.2. Major change and transformation (reflecting a continuation of our 2014/15 work).
 - 5.3. General sector support through CfPS's helpdesk and publication of guidance and good practice.
6. An update on each topic area can be found below:

Devolution

7. CfPS significantly pushed forward the debate nationally on the importance of governance to the scrutiny process. From governance having been a subject of niche interest in summer 2015 (focusing predominantly on the Mayoral issue), national debate had become more nuanced, reflective and open to the importance of accountable and transparent scrutiny by mid-2016. CfPS's thoughts and reflections were cited and repeated by others including the LGA, Government, think tanks as well as councillors and officers in local areas. CfPS was also able to provide high-quality support to a number of areas as they developed their own solutions to the devolution governance challenge.
 - 7.1. In September 2015, produced a think-piece "Devo why? Devo how?", exploring the approaches that local areas were at the time planning on devolution governance, and suggesting practical answers to some of the challenges then apparent on accountability, transparency and public involvement. This work secured significant coverage in national and specialist press and provoked a shift in the debate in the sector on governance issues (evidenced through our subsequent research – see below).
 - 7.2. Additional proactive activities aimed at facilitating and leading the debate and sharing best practice included:
 - 7.2.1. two round table meetings to discuss with a range of policy-makers (national and local) and academics key issues around devolution governance; and
 - 7.2.2. published regular blogposts on devolution and devolution governance; contributed features to the national and specialist press on the subject.
 - 7.3. Direct support was also provided to five local areas in England (Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Hampshire / Isle of Wight, Sheffield and Suffolk/Norfolk) on devolution governance. Support work was hampered by the quick-moving political and organisational changes in each of these areas, but experiences led to the publication of "Cards on the table", a practical guide to the planning and establishment of governance systems throughout the devolution process. This was published to complement the LGA's publication of a suite of products relating to devolution at the Annual Conference in July, and again secured significant positive feedback, including from areas of England who are beginning to actively use it to plan and deliver their own governance plans. We are planning to capitalise on this opportunity in 2016/17 – see below.
 - 7.4. Contributed to LGA activity on devolution governance, including speaking at LGA events and conferences.

Major change and transformation

8. CfPS continued its work on major change and transformation, reframing and recasting the council scrutiny function to emphasise its continue relevance as a critical element of the improvement process. Conversations with practitioners and feedback from councils where we have provided support have demonstrated that this work continues to shift scrutiny in many authorities away from a more traditional, resource-intensive approach, to a more dynamic and flexible member-led function that is increasingly working to help

councils to meet the current and future financial and demographic challenges facing the sector.

- 8.1. Provided support to five areas of England to assist with governance around transformation and major change. This built on the publication in June 2015 of “The change game”, the product of a year-long research project into the role of non-executive councillors in the change process. Authorities were provided with assistance on member skills, work programming and engaging with complex change programmes, as well as wider matters relating to political management and culture change. This resulted in improvements in members’ confidence in managing these issues, improvements in the impact of their work, and a higher profile in these authorities for scrutiny’s role in the process (gauged qualitatively, through verbal feedback from members and officers in the authorities involved).
- 8.2. Produced detailed technical guidance for local authorities on the use of social return on investment/social impact models to direct scrutiny work on transformation. A round table meeting, sponsored by the auditors Grant Thornton, was held to launch this work. The impact of this will be evaluated as part of a national survey being undertaken by CfPS in the autumn.
- 8.3. Carried out research to support technical guidance for local authorities on risk management – for publication in 2016/17 (carried over to this financial year for capacity reasons).

General sector support

9. CfPS’s continued sector support is consistently highly valued. With more professional scrutiny support staff posts being lost due to redundancy, we have found our services being called upon increasingly by Heads of Governance and Monitoring Officers. Our support to the sector – particularly through our “helpdesk” – have helped councils to find solutions to complex problems which combine our technical governance expertise with our practical knowledge and understanding of the unique political dynamic in local government.
 - 9.1. Provided a “helpdesk” service to local authorities, by e-mail and phone, and through in-person support (for example, attending formal and informal council meetings to provide advice on governance, scrutiny and accountability). Total number of unique authorities assisted in 2015/16 was 58 (some authorities raising multiple queries on separate occasions). Queries ranged from straightforward advice and signposting on common scrutiny practice to more complex queries about political management. Time devoted to individual councils ranged from 15 minutes to 1 day. Some instances of helpdesk support were converted to paid-for consultancy, and in some instances further support was funded by the LGA, either as part of this contract or separately. In most instances helpdesk support helped the council / councils concerned to identify solutions to their problems and/or assisted them to navigate complex technical or political issues relating to scrutiny or governance issues (as gauged through follow-up conversations).
 - 9.2. Provided general support to LGA officers, particularly Principal Advisors, on governance issues arising in respect of councils where LGA support has been provided.

- 9.3. Held the CfPS Annual Conference, for scrutiny practitioners (councillors and officers) to network, learn and develop their skills. The event, held in June 2015, was attended by 103 delegates from 83 councils. Evaluation feedback provided immediately following the event was almost universally positive.
- 9.4. Published “Successful scrutiny 2015”, highlighting examples of excellent scrutiny happening across the country. This publication publicises the work of the winners of the Good Scrutiny Awards. Winners and shortlisted candidates for awards have highlighted to us the benefits – in terms of organisational profile – that this accolade provides, helping them to drive forward scrutiny’s influence, and increasing members’ commitment and enthusiasm for the function. We are seeking to continue these benefits as we move to a different approach to highlighting good practice. This new approach, operative from the beginning of 2016/17, sees us regularly blogging on good scrutiny as well as sponsoring an MJ Award.
- 9.5. Published the 2015 annual survey of overview and scrutiny in local government, drawing together a comprehensive picture of how the function is delivered by councils nationwide. Secured a response rate of around 80% of councils, with over 400 responses overall, enabling some strong conclusions to be drawn about the operation and development of scrutiny – helping CfPS to better direct its resources. Given that the annual survey is a highly resource-intensive exercise, 2016/17 is seeing CfPS developing alternative methods for gathering technical data about the operation of overview and scrutiny.

Intersection between LGA-funded work and paid-for work

10. In addition to its LGA-funded support work, CfPS carried out paid-for consultancy for a number of councils in 2015/16, as well as other public and private sector organisations. In relation to its local government work, CfPS carried out: reviews and evaluations of scrutiny functions; training for councillors on issues such as the fundamentals of scrutiny; councillors’ access to information; work programming and work prioritisation; and the use of performance management information and questioning skills, amongst others. Detailed CfPS evaluation carried out in January 2016 on a range of recent consultancy projects showed universally positive feedback. CfPS also ran a number of national paid-for training events, for just under 100 councillors from a total of 30 authorities. CfPS continues to administer a contributory fund for training for 26 councils in London, and organises and facilitates this training.
11. CfPS has reorganised its processes and systems for planning and managing, as well as evaluating, consultancy arrangements – streamlining those systems to ensure that CfPS can provide a more efficient service and to maximise the opportunity to draw learning from this work into our LGA-funded work, and vice versa. Quality control for services delivered on our behalf by external contractors has also been significantly improved and simplified. A detailed evaluation exercise was carried out in January 2016, looking at ten recent instances of consultancy, and demonstrating universally positive feedback from clients. A new evaluation system is now in place which will, after an initial follow-up evaluation immediately following the conclusion of our work, see CfPS return to clients six months later to further review how learning has been embedded and actions taken forward.
12. CfPS has been engaged by the LGA to provide comprehensive governance and scrutiny support to Rotherham MBC, work that continues into 2016/17. A description and

evaluation of this work was carried out in April 2016 and provided to the LGA separately. The LGA has also occasionally provided funding for support to councils where it falls outside the terms of our contract.

Plans for 2016/17

13. Plans for 2016/17 have already been approved by the LGA. They include:

Sector support

- 13.1. Support on devolution will include the provision of assistance to a further five areas in England, aligned to those areas where the LGA has already made offers of support. Cornwall is the first area in which this support has been confirmed; support is being offered to Cheshire, Greater Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and Norfolk/Suffolk. The LGA has made available further funding to support research underpinning a “devolution map”, which will identify where every extant, and aspiring, combined authority area in England currently stands on their governance plans. This will be accompanied by technical guidance on the operation of overview and scrutiny in combined authorities (CA), intended to complement the general guidance on CA systems produced by the LGA in July.
- 13.2. Support on major change and transformation. CfPS will again provide support to five areas who require support on governance as they undergo major change. CfPS will also publish the technical guidance on risk and resilience carried over from 2015/16.
- 13.3. National improvement support. CfPS will continue to provide its “helpdesk” service. CfPS has recently established, and will continue to facilitate, a discussion forum on the Knowledge Hub specifically for scrutiny practitioners; CfPS has also committed to continue to attend regional networking meetings and conferences as and when they occur. CfPS is planning updates to its scrutiny practice guides (first published in 2014) and its guide to local government governance legislation (last edition published 2012).

Work on local democracy

14. CfPS will help to facilitate the development and implementation of a number of local “design experiments”, designed to explore straightforward, practical ways to enhance local democracy and the way that local people engage with member-led decision-making arrangements in local authorities, and in local areas. CfPS is working with a group of local government professionals, councillors, local activists and third sector partners who have already self-organised to push much of this work forward. The work will be designed to reflect the needs, and ideas, of as wide a group of people as possible. Findings will be published in March or April 2017.

Work on health scrutiny (traditionally funded by the Department of Health)

15. The Board will be aware that, since 2004, CfPS has been able to lever additional funds from the Department of Health (and more recently from NHS England and Public Health

England in a joint commissioning arrangement) to provide support to councils and NHS partners through a specialist health scrutiny support programme.

16. This has traditionally been a comprehensive programme consisting of:
 - 16.1. running a national health scrutiny forum to influence policy and practice;
 - 16.2. support for regional health scrutiny networks to build knowledge and skills;
 - 16.3. practical support for local projects and shared learning; and
 - 16.4. published guidance and resources.
17. As expected, resources have reduced in recent years but CfPS has managed to maintain a varied and well regarded programme.
18. However, funding for 2016/17 has been reduced very significantly and this will impact on the support CfPS can provide at a crucial time when health and social care budgets are under pressure and when effective governance and scrutiny are in the spotlight. We are working closely with staff supporting the LGA's health and social care work to make sure that we complement existing programmes and we are continuing to discuss with the Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England the importance of a consistent support programme to make sure that democratic scrutiny of health and wellbeing issues remains respected and effective.
19. This is particularly important in the context of implementing Sustainability and Transformation Plans and new models of care. CfPS has a strong track record and a good reputation for health scrutiny support – we are committed to maintaining this as a fundamental part of our work and we are exploring different approaches to funding and delivery partnerships, alongside efforts to make the case for increased central funding.

Recommendation

20. That the LGA Leadership Board note this update and provide feedback to inform the future work of CfPS in respect of its ongoing relationship with the LGA.



Local Government Business Rates Retention

Purpose

For discussion and approval.

Summary

This report seeks comments on, and approval, of the LGA's responses to two Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) documents: the consultation on 'Self Sufficient Local Government: 100% Business Rates Retention'; and the 'Fair Funding Review: Call for Evidence on Needs and Redistribution'. Both responses have been developed based on discussions with local government and reflect the views of the LGA's Task and Finish Group. It also provides an update on the joint working between the LGA and the DCLG on business rates retention proposals.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board comment on, and agree, the LGA's draft responses (which will follow on a supplemental agenda) to the DCLG's consultation document and call for evidence.

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

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Local Government Business Rates Retention

Background to the consultation

1. As reported at the last LGA Leadership Board, on 5 July 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published an initial consultation on proposals for increased retention of business rates by local government. At the same time the DCLG also published a call for evidence on needs and redistribution. The consultation period for both of these papers lasts twelve weeks and the deadline for responses is 26 September 2016.
2. The consultation on business rates retention is likely to be the first in a series of consultations on the reforms and seeks views on some of the main issues that will need to be resolved including: responsibilities to be funded through business rates retention; system design (such as including dealing with revaluation and appeals, resets, tier splits and the safety net); local tax flexibilities; and accounting and accountability.
3. The call for evidence on needs and redistribution follows on from the Government's announcement in early 2016 that it would undertake a fair funding review. The review will help shape the needs assessment formula that will be used at the start of the further retention system. As a first step, the call for evidence sets out the key questions that will need to be addressed as part of this review such as: how to measure relative need; how to take council tax into account; the geography for needs assessment; and transition to the new formulae.
4. The LGA published an on-the-day briefing, on 5 July, summarising the content of the consultation, and call for evidence, and providing early LGA views on some of the proposals and considerations.

Developing the consultation responses

5. The responses to the consultation paper and call for evidence have been developed based on previous discussions in:
 - 5.1. LGA Leadership Board;
 - 5.2. LGA Executive;
 - 5.3. the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention;
 - 5.4. Resources Board;
 - 5.5. A Resources Board Forum for elected finance and resources portfolio holders;
 - 5.6. Joint DCLG and LGA regional events on the consultation and call for evidence during August and September 2016;
 - 5.7. Engagement with local authorities through the joint DCLG / LGA Steering and Working Groups;
 - 5.8. Attending meetings of groups of Members, Chief Executives, Treasurers around the country; and
 - 5.9. Feedback through the Business Rates email.
6. Having already provided comments on the key lines the LGA should take in response to the two DCLG documents, the LGA Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention is meeting on 8 September to discuss a fuller response. The responses will reflect the views of the Task and Finish Group expressed during that meeting. Due to the timing of

the meetings, the two draft responses will be sent to Leadership Board through a supplemental agenda.

Progress on joint working

7. Joint working between the LGA and DCLG on the development of the detailed aspects of the policy has continued since the publication of the consultation. The officer Steering and Working Groups have continued to meet over the summer. In addition, the LGA hosted a deep dive session on devolving responsibilities related to economic growth, and organised an away day for all local authority members of the Steering and Working Groups to discuss cross sector positions on key aspects of the reforms.
8. The LGA has also organised six DCLG / LGA regional events around the country to discuss the consultation proposals and gather feedback on the proposals as part of the consultation process. These have taken place over August and September with the last event scheduled for 9 September. Over 250 delegates will have attended these regional events.

Recommendations and next steps

9. Members of the LGA Leadership Board are asked to note this update and comment on the draft consultation responses. Both responses will be considered by Executive on 15 September and the discussions at both meetings will be reflected in the final responses to be submitted to DCLG by 26 September 2016.

Financial Implications

10. None.



Chief Executive's Monthly Report – September 2016

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2015/16 centres on five priorities:

- Funding for local government
- Devolution
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing
- Economic growth, jobs and housing
- Sector-led improvement

The six-weekly Chief Executive's report sets out the LGA's main achievements against those priorities. In part two, the report summarises the LGA's media outreach and provides an update of membership related activity.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for September 2016.

Action

As directed by members.

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Chief Executive's Monthly Report – September 2016

Achievements against our five priorities

Priority 1 – Funding for Local Government

- 1.1 **Business Rates Retention Consultations** - the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) [published](#) a formal consultation on further business rates retention and a call for evidence on needs and redistribution on 5 July. The LGA produced an [on-the-day briefing](#), and responses to the two documents will be discussed at September's Leadership Board and Executive.
- 1.2 **Business Rates Retention Regional Events** - together with DCLG, the LGA ran six regional events in late August and early September for members and officers in local authorities on the DCLG's consultation on further business rates retention and call for evidence on needs and redistribution.
- 1.3 **Resources Portfolio Forum** - held a successful event on 18 July for finance portfolio holders in member authorities on the business rates retention proposals. Portfolio lead members delivered presentations on the consultation proposals and attendees provided their views on the Government's initial plans.
- 1.4 **Business Rates Retention Joint Working** – continued joint work with DCLG on the development of the policy. The LGA's member Task and Finish Group met in July and on 8 September; the officer steering group met in July and September; and the Working Groups have continued to meet, including a one-day event for the steering group and all the working groups on 6 September.
- 1.5 **Check, Challenge, Appeal Draft Regulations** – in their consultation on the draft appeal regulations the Government has accepted the LGA's argument for local authorities to be more involved in the appeal process, including a new right to receive information relating to, and the results of, challenges to business rates valuations from ratepayers.
- 1.6 **LGPS investment pooling factsheets** – published two factsheets, one for [LGPS members](#) and the other for [LGPS employers](#), summarising the main impacts of the reforms underway to invest LGPS assets via a small number of regional pools.
- 1.7 **LGPS Fair Deal consultation** – submitted our response to the Government's 'Fair Deal' consultation, supporting proposals to provide LGPS members with continued access to the scheme when they are compulsorily transferred out of their LGPS employer.

Priority 2 – Devolution

- 2.1 **Devolution support (events)** – held two well-attended workshops at the Annual Conference: 'What next for combined authorities?' and 'Devolution deals: from design to delivery.'
- 2.2 **Devolution support (places)** – worked directly with Tees Valley CA, Greater Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to develop and deliver a tailored package of support. Established a Combined Authorities Chief Executives Network and began planning for initial meeting in September.
- 2.3 **Devolution support (research)** – finalised two pieces of research from New Economy – 'Lessons learnt from devolution' and an online tax and spend tool; continued to progress research from the New Economics Foundation into community engagement activity in combined authority areas; commissioned new research by the Centre for Public Scrutiny to explore social decision-making.
- 2.4 **RSA Inclusive Growth commission** – began initial development of a formal response to the Commission's call for evidence and made preparations in advance of roundtable discussions at Party Conference Fringe.

- 2.5 **Leading Places project** – confirmed established partnerships in each of the six pilot areas, which are now making progress to identify a local priority challenge.

Priority 3 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing

- 3.1 **Olympic and Paralympic legacy** -- gathered new [case studies](#) that show how councils have secured a sport and physical activity legacy for communities after the 2012 Games.
- 3.2 **New Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) data available from LG Inform** – identified and uploaded over 80 SEND data with Department of Education so that users can compare local authority performance against these metrics and create their own SEND report, choosing from this range of data. The SEND data items have been compiled into a new SEND report [here](#).
- 3.3 **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** - co-facilitated a workshop on tackling CSE in the licensed economy with the Home Office.
- 3.4 **Council survey on alcohol pre-loading** -- surveyed councils on the extent of pre-loading on alcohol as a local issue, at the request of the Lords Select Committee into the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.5 **Licensing Annual Conference** - presented at the annual conference of the National Association of Licensing and Enforcement Officers.
- 3.6 **Licensing Act 2003** - responded to call for evidence from House of Lords Select Committee on Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.7 **Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBT)** - supported second round negotiation meeting with government officials in relation to Newham's Sustainable Communities Act proposal to reduce FOBT stakes to £2.

Priority 4 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 4.1 **LG Inform report on workforce, earnings and housing statistics** -- [report](#) includes Local Government Workforce and Earnings Surveys metrics, e.g. on sickness, turnover and pay; house price reports capture the [gap between the lowest and highest median house price sale](#) and [areas showing greatest signs of new housing development](#). Login to LG Inform first to access these reports.
- 4.2 **Planning Advisory Service (PAS)** – engaged with 14 planning authorities at risk of intervention from government as a result of their performance in the speed of determination of planning applications; worked with local authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership in East Anglia to facilitate an event on how to improve the planning service.
- 4.3 **Further education insolvency consultation** – responded to a Government consultation on the proposed introduction of an insolvency regime for further education colleges, highlighting the key pensions risks arising from the proposals.
- 4.4 **Taxi and PHV licensing functions** – provided feedback on draft Department of Transportation Taxi and PHV licensing functions; developed improvement package for councils on overseeing and delivering their Taxi & PHV licensing functions

Priority 5 - Sector-led Improvement

- 5.1 **Proposed arrangements for the sector-led body for independent appointing of auditors** -- The Government has approved Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) as the sector-led body for the independent appointment of auditors for principal local authorities. Nearly 270 councils and local bodies have expressed interest in opting in to the national scheme. PSAA is inviting views on its initial [proposed arrangements](#).

- 5.2 **Our offer of support** – revised and refreshed our improvement support offer, which was set out in the attached [document](#) for the LGA Annual Conference.
- 5.3 **Be a Councillor Campaign** – offered a new package to member councils, negotiated a package to be “sold” to a council, and produced a bespoke Be a Councillor package with Lancashire County Council available at www.beacouncillor.co.uk/Lancashire.
- 5.4 **Highlighting Political Leadership Programme** – received bookings from a record number of councillors, and many trainings for politicians are fully booked; demand for Next Generation is sufficient to consider running two cohorts in the future.
- 5.5 **National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP)** – Cohort 17, made up of 96 graduates are starting their placements over Autumn; secured agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) that graduates on their Fast Stream programme will “secondment swap” with NGDP graduates.
- 5.6 **LGA data publishing and data standards eLearning modules for local government** – ran a series of webinars to support [these modules](#), which help local authorities to: publish data, improve data quality, use common standards, share data, combine and compare data.
- 5.7 **Social Value Self-Assessment Toolkit** -- members of the Productivity Team participated in The Social Value Best Practice Task Force and developed a social value self-assessment toolkit for public and private sector organisations to be launched on 13 September.
- 5.8 **Waste and Recycling Programme** -- launched an [evaluation](#) of the LGA’s Waste and Recycling Programme, which supported 11 projects involving 60 councils across England to run projects intended to bring about efficiencies and savings to councils’ waste and recycling budgets.
- 5.9 **Datavores research programme with Nesta** -- [programme](#) explores the role of data in local government innovation and transformation; showcased July [workshop](#) research findings and in-depth case studies where better data use and analytics has helped transform services, people’s and communities’ lives.
- 5.10 **Local Government Transparency Code consultation** -- [responded](#) in July 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.
- 5.11 **Land Registry’s consultation on Local Land Charges Rules 2017** – developed our [response](#), with local authority input, to Local Land Charges Rules 2017 that will regulate how originating (including local) authorities will supply data for inclusion in the new digitised central local land charges register.
- 5.12 **Local authority transformation work** -- brought together all transformation work and shared learning from across the sector in a new [micro site](#) to assist councils who are planning, undertaking or evaluating transformative approaches in their services or across the whole council; published a new [report](#) conducted by Localis, on behalf of the LGA.
- 5.13 **Developing a data standard for online publishing of election results** -- worked with Cabinet Office, Electoral Commission, Association of Electoral Administrators to develop a [data standard for online publishing of elections results](#). This will speed and ease post-election analysis and encourage more innovation in data analytics and re-use along regional and national lines.

Other membership activity**LGA Membership**

1. Over the summer, Waverley Borough Council rescinded their notice, leaving six local authorities and National Parks England on notice to leave membership on 31st March 2017. Three local authorities remain out of membership.

On notice to leave on 31 March 2017

- East Staffordshire Borough Council (rolled over)
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Gosport Borough Council
- Preston City Council (rolled over)
- West Sussex County Council (rolled over)
- London Borough of Richmond (rolled over)
- National Parks England (corporate membership for 10 English National Parks)

Out of membership

- London Borough of Bromley
- London Borough of Wandsworth
- London Borough of Barnet

Membership visits for the Senior Management Team:

Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
22 nd July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: Midlands and East Region
25 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: Midlands and East Region
30 th August	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: STP Network
5 th September	Business Rates Roadshow Event, South Cambridgeshire District Council
8 th September	Member Peer Conference in Birmingham
Forward plan: 15th September – 19th October 2016	
15 th – 16 th Sept	LGC Summit
26 th September	Combined Authority CEXs meeting in Birmingham
29 th September	DCN Annual Conference
7 th October	Wigan Council
12 th – 14 th Oct	SOLACE Summit in Gateshead
17 th October	SWC CEXs meeting in Taunton
Deputy Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
28 th July	King's Fund event
Forward plan: 15th September – 19th October 2016	
16 th September	East of England CEX meeting
22 nd September	Society of County Treasurers' seminar

27 th September	East of England Health Integration Network event
12 th – 14 th Oct	SOLACE Summit in Gateshead
Associate Director's Membership Visits: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
22 nd July	West Midlands Combined Authority
25 th – 26 th July	Cornwall
1 st -- 2 nd Sept	West Midlands Combined Authority
9 th Sept	West Midlands Combined Authority
Forward plan: 15th September – 19th October 2016	
30 th September	West Midlands Combined Authority
11 th October	West Midlands Combined Authority
14 th October	West Midlands Combined Authority
Head of Workforce's Membership Visits: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
24 th August	London Borough of Southwark
Forward Plan: 15th September – 19th October 2016	
22 nd September	Wychavon District Council
3 rd October	Southampton Council
17 th October	Cheltenham Borough Council
Head of Policy's Membership Visits: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
15 th August	Sefton Council; Halton Borough Council
16 th August	Wakefield Council
Forward Plan: 15th September – 19th October 2016	
19 th September	Event with regional migration leads
20 th September	Health Transformation Task Group with regional CEX leads
Head of Improvement's Membership Visits: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
27 th July	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
29 th July	Breckland District Council
1 st August	Lancashire County Council
Forward Plan: 15th September – 19th October 2016	
6 th October	London Councils
Director of Communication's Membership Visits: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
8 th – 10 th August	Cornwall Communications Review
16 th August	Breckland Council and South Holland District Councils
Forward Plan: 15th September – 19th October 2016	
21 st September	Waltham Forest
29 th September	Plymouth Council
5 th October	Breckland Council
10 th October	South Holland Communications Review

Media and Public Affairs

2. The LGA submitted evidence to **3 parliamentary inquiries**, including written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into adult social care, written evidence to the Transport Committee inquiry into the Bus Services Bill and written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into the disposal of public land for new homes.

Media Source	Issue
FT, BBC Online, Mirror Online, Express Online, i paper	Chairman Lord Porter and Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes's calls for European Union (EU) development funding to be replaced by Westminster
BBC Online, Guardian Online, Times Online	Lord Porter's response to the Government's EU funding announcement.
FT	The LGA's lines in response to actions by global rating agencies following the vote to leave the EU, which could affect the creditworthiness of councils.
Guardian opinion	Chairman Lord Porter's statement that councillors have a vital role to play following the vote to leave the EU and his call for local areas to take more control of big decisions that affect day-to-day lives.
Mirror, Guardian Online	Chairman Lord Porter's call for local government leaders to play a leading role in negotiating the UK's exit from the EU – a call accepted by Communities Secretary Greg Clark in his speech to the LGA's Annual Conference
Times, Mail Online	Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group Chairman Cllr David Simmonds' comments about the need for sufficient government funding for councils to help them support Syrian refugees.
Telegraph, Guardian Online	Senior Vice-Chair Cllr Nick Forbes's response to the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Budget Survey 2016, which showed that the council tax social care precept will not bring in enough money to plug social care funding gaps.
Guardian	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder Cllr Izzi Seccombe's response to research by Disability Rights UK showing more than 120 councils have absorbed Independent Living Fund money into their social care budgets.
BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC, BBC Online	Chair of the Children and Young People Board Cllr Richard Watts's call for academy budgets to be overseen by councils.
Mail Online	The LGA's warnings about how almost a third of all eligible social housing tenants in London would be unable to afford the new tariffs under the "Pay to Stay" scheme.
BBC Online, Independent Online, Sun, Metro, BBC Radio 4	The LGA's call for councils to be able to play a lead role in housebuilding.
BBC Online, Mail, i paper	The LGA's press release urging the Government to reaffirm its commitment to a national minimum broadband speed or Universal Service Obligation (USO) for users.
Telegraph	The LGA's previous warning that government is not meeting its pledge to deliver minimum broadband speeds.
Mail	The LGA's recent research revealing 475,000 homes have been granted planning permission but are yet to be built.
BBC Online	The LGA's affordable housing warning and calls for councils to be able to build more homes, following research showing a decline in home ownership across the country.
Guardian	The LGA's forecast of a £2 billion hole in council finances by 2020.
BBC Radio 4's Today	Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes, Vice Chair Cllr Gerald Vernon

programme, Sky News, Guardian, Guardian Online, Sun, BBC, Mail Online, Sky News Online and LBC Online	Jackson, and Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton's discussion of the LGA's latest warning around Right to Buy.
Good Morning Britain, BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Telegraph, Mail, Sun, i paper, Mirror, Star, BBC Online.	LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming's call for advertised broadband speeds to be more transparent in reflecting the average rather than the maximum speed which customers can receive.
BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Guardian, Mail, BBC Online, Sky News, LBC Online, BBC Radio 2 news bulletins.	Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes's response to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee's report on homelessness.
Sky News, BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 5 Live	Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming's call for tough new powers to ease traffic chaos caused by some utility companies digging up roads.
Mail, Guardian, Sun, Telegraph	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder Cllr Izzi Seccombe's response to new Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) figures showing a rise in alcohol-related hospital admissions.
Guardian Online	Former Health Secretary and Chair of the NHS Confederation Stephen Dorrell's speech to the LGA's Annual Conference.
Guardian Online	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder Cllr Izzi Seccombe's call for efforts to tackle mental health treatment for children to begin before birth.
Guardian Online	Children and Young People Board Chairman Cllr Roy Perry's comments about how councils must play a more pivotal role in health and care integration.
Guardian Online	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder Cllr Izzi Seccombe's response to a call by Diabetes UK for greater awareness of the risks of the condition and help to bring about wholesale changes in lifestyle.
Telegraph Online	The LGA's warning for people to take health precautions ahead of an expected heatwave.
BBC Radio 5 Live news bulletins, BBC Online, Times, i paper, Metro	Cllr Izzi Seccombe issuing the LGA's warning that government cuts to public health funding could curb councils' efforts to tackle obesity.
BBC Online, Mail Online and FT Online	Community Wellbeing Board member Cllr Jonathan McShane providing the LGA's reaction to the High Court ruling that NHS England has the power to commission the HIV treatment PrEP.
BBC News, ITV News	Community Wellbeing Board Vice Chair Cllr Richard Kemp's response to the Government's childhood obesity plan.
Guardian Online, BBC Online	Children and Young People Board Chairman Cllr Roy Perry's response to the Ofsted Annual Report on Social Care.
BBC Online, Independent Online	Children and Young People Board Chairman Cllr Roy Perry's response to new research, which showed that academy trusts are no better than local authorities at raising school standards.
Sunday Times	The LGA's calls for a common-sense approach to school term time holidays.
Guardian Online	The LGA's peer challenge tool, in relation to how key public services including local authorities are able to identify and turn around performance issues.
Times	Licensing spokesman Cllr Tony Page's response to research revealing that rates of problem gambling are higher in areas with clusters of betting shops and calling for extra powers to be given to councils to tackle their proliferation.
Mail, Sun, Mail Online, Express Online, BBC Online, ITV Online, i paper	The LGA's press release highlighting what councils are doing to tackle scams and rogue traders during National Scams Awareness Month.

BBC Radio 4's You and Yours	Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Board Cllr Richard Watts speaking about the provision of holiday care for severely disabled children.
BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show, LBC, Guardian, Mail Online, Telegraph Online, BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online	Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on the LGA's response to a Home Affairs Select Committee report about the role of councils in supporting Syrian refugees.
Channel 4 News, Good Morning Britain, Sky News, BBC News, BBC Radio 5 Live, Al Jazeera	Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group Chairman Cllr David Simmonds speaking about the LGA's visit to the "jungle" migrant camp in Calais.
Times, Telegraph, i paper, Mail, Sun, Mirror, Star, BBC Online, ITV Online	The LGA's release highlighting that blue badge thefts have trebled in three years with a resultant increase in prosecutions for using stolen or lost badges to park for free.
BBC Breakfast, BBC Online, Times, Mail Online, i paper, Mirror, Sun, Express, Star	The LGA's press release warning of a rise in car clocking and calling for an EU ban on mileage correction services to be brought forward and adopted under UK law.
Times	Environment spokesman Cllr Peter Box's call for the country's leading coffee shop chains to develop a system for collecting and recycling paper cups.
i paper, Sun	The LGA's survey of 16 English councils highlighting the sporting legacy they have created since the London 2012 Olympics.
BBC Breakfast, BBC Online, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC	Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn and LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on the LGA's release highlighting the cost of clearing-up fly-tipping for councils and the excuses given by offenders.
Express, Mail, Sun on Sunday, Express Online, Mirror Online	The LGA's release warning people about faulty appliances such as tumble dryers which are prone to exploding into flames.
BBC's Victoria Derbyshire Show, LBC, Mail, BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV News Online.	Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming, Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton, and Deputy Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board Cllr Morris Bright highlighting the LGA's release calling for tougher sentences for illegal tattooists.
LBC, Express, Sun Online, Independent, Mail Online, Sky News Online, BBC Online	Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming discussing the launch of new legislation to ban so-called "zombie knives".

LGA Forward Plan

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA Leadership Board is responsible for driving the Association's activities and business, taking a lead in developing and overseeing delivery of the business plan and identifying the emerging and key issues to highlight to the LGA Executive.

As part of this, Members are invited to consider which items they would like to see on future agendas of the LGA Leadership Board, LGA Executive and Councillors' Forum.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board endorses the Forward Plan and specifies topics and items for future meetings of the LGA Executive, Leadership Board and Councillors' Forum.

Action

Officers to brief Members and officers in line with steer.

Contact officer: Frances Marshall
Position: Member Services Manager
Phone no: 020 7664 3220
E-mail: frances.marshall@local.gov.uk

LGA Forward Plan

LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

OCTOBER

LEADERSHIP BOARD

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 19.10.16	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Devolution	To consider update and stocktake on devolution as requested by Leadership Board at their April meeting and to consider the response to the LGA's Green Paper launched at conference.
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention.
LGA Business	
Communications Update	To consider communications activity in the first and second quarter.
Review of Annual Conference	To review feedback from Annual Conference.
LGA Business Plan	To agree and recommend the Business Plan to the LGA Executive.
LGA Subscriptions	To provide a steer on the overall level of subscriptions for the following year
LGA Budget	To note a proposed budget framework prior to full report in January.
Performance Report	To review six month performance report.
LGA Outside Body appointments	To note the list of bodies to which the LGA appoints each year
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Note of the last Commercial Advisory Board meeting	To note the minutes of the CAB last meeting.
Confidential	
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit
Borrowing and Internal Lending Strategy	To receive an update on the LGA's Borrowing and Internal Lending Strategy

Councillors' Forum 20.10.16	
Item	Summary / Purpose
TBC	TBC
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA EXECUTIVE

LGA Executive 20.10.16	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Devolution	To consider update and stocktake on devolution as requested by Leadership Board at their April meeting and to consider the response to the LGA's Green Paper launched at conference.
LGA Business Plan	To agree the Business Plan as recommended by the Leadership Board.
Note of LGA Leadership Board Meeting	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting the previous day.
Note of the last LGA Executive meeting	To agree the note of the last meeting.

DECEMBER

LEADERSHIP BOARD

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 08.12.16	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Autumn Statement	To discuss the Autumn Statement and the LGA's response.
Local Government Finance Settlement	To receive a summary of the Local Government Finance Settlement and seek Members' views to inform the LGA's response.
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention.
LGA Business	
LGA Membership	To agree a proposed approach to the LGA membership offer for the following year.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Confidential	
Note of the last Commercial Advisory Board meeting	To note the minutes of the CAB last meeting.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit

There is no Cllrs Forum in December.

LGA EXECUTIVE

LGA Executive 08.12.16	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Autumn Statement	To discuss the Autumn Statement and the LGA's response.
Local Government Finance Settlement	To receive a summary of the Local Government Finance Settlement and seek Members' views to inform the LGA's response.

Note of Leadership Board Meeting	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting the previous day.
Note of the last Executive meeting	To agree the note of the last meeting.

JANUARY

LEADERSHIP BOARD

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 18.01.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention.
LGA Business	
Communications Update	To consider communications activity in the third quarter
LGA Budget	To provide an outline budget prior to this being agreed in March.
Treasury Management	To consider the performance of treasury management over the year
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Audit Committee Minutes	To note Audit Committee minutes of its last meeting
Confidential	
Note of the last Commercial Advisory Board meeting	To note the minutes of the CAB last meeting.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit

Councillors' Forum 19.1.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
TBC	TBC
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA EXECUTIVE

LGA Executive 19.1.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Local Government Finance Settlement	To consider a summary of LGA activity on the LG Finance Settlement.
Note of Leadership Board Meeting	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting the previous day.
Note of the LGA Executive meeting	To agree the note of the last meeting.

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LGA location map

Local Government Association

Local Government House
 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131
 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@local.gov.uk
 Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

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

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

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

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

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

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

