

LGA Leadership Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 1 March 2017
2.00 pm

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House,
76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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

Guidance notes for members and visitors

Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

Welcome!

Layden House is located directly opposite the Turnmill Street entrance to Farringdon station, which is served by the Circle, Hammersmith & City, and Metropolitan lines as well as the Thameslink national rail route.

Security

Layden House has a swipe card access system meaning that a swipe enabled security passes will be required to access the lifts and floors 1-5.

Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor** of Layden House which is open access and therefore does not require a swipe enabled security pass. **Access** to the rest of the building (floors 1-5) is via swipe enabled security passes.

When you visit Layden House, **please show your Local Government House security pass to reception** and they will provide you with a temporary pass which will allow you access to floors 1-5 if required. **Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.**

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email [member services](#) with your name and a recent photo and a pass will be made for you. You can pick this up from the Layden House reception desk on your next visit.

Fire instructions

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately via the nearest fire exit onto Turnmill Street and take the next turning on your left – Benjamin Street to St John's Gardens.
DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.
DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

Soft Seating Area

There is a small soft seating area on Floor 2 which will also operate as an 'Open Council' area for visiting members and officers from member councils. Please note however that unlike Open Council, this area does not have tea and coffee facilities, nor access to computers.

Toilets

There are accessible toilets on the Ground Floor, 2nd and 4th floors.

Accessibility

If you have special access needs, please let the meeting contact know in advance and we will do our best to make suitable arrangements to meet your requirements.

Parking is available at the rear of the building for Blue Badge holders, accessed via the Turks Head Yard, North underpass. Disabled WCs are situated on the ground and 4th floors. An induction loop system is available in the 5th floor conference venue. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

Guest WiFi in Layden House

WiFi is available in Layden House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling "Wireless Network Connection" on your computer and connecting to LGA-Free-WiFi. You will then need to register,

either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

Why have the LGA's Headquarters moved?

The LGA has temporarily relocated from Local Government House (LGH) in Smith Square to Layden House in Farringdon, effective from Monday 31 October 2016. This is to allow extensive refurbishment work to be carried out to LGH.

The refurbishment works will see the ground floor conference centre and all meeting rooms fully refurbished. Floors 1, 2 and 3 will be upgraded and released for commercial letting to enable the LGA to maximise the income from this building as part of its drive for financial sustainability. A new and larger Open Council will be located on the seventh floor. The refurbishment is expected to last for nine months and we expect to be back in LGH by September 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

LGA Leadership Board
1 March 2017

There will be a meeting of the LGA Leadership Board at **2.00 pm on Wednesday, 1 March 2017**
Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

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.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

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

LGA Contact:

Frances Marshall
0207 664 3220 / frances.marshall@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.20 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

LGA Leadership Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr David Hodge CBE (Vice Chairman)	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Baroness Coultie of Downe Philippa Coultie (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 MBE (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	14/9/16	19/10/16	8/12/16	18/01/17
Councillors					
Conservative					
Lord Porter of Spalding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Hodge CBE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Simmonds CBE	Yes	Yes	Via video	Yes	Yes
Baroness Coultie of Downe	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Peter Fleming OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sean Anstee	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Labour					
Nick Forbes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Sharon Taylor OBE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Peter Box CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Anne Western CBE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Sue Murphy CBE	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Independent					
Marianne Overton MBE	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Peter Reeve MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liberal Democrat					
Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Agenda

LGA Leadership Board

Wednesday 1 March 2017

2.00 pm

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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11. Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee Inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government	
To follow.	
12. Local Government House & Layden House Refurbishment Update	
Verbal update at the meeting.	

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 5 April 2017, 2.00 pm, Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Housing White Paper

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The Department for Communities and Local Government published the Housing White Paper 'Fixing our broken housing market' on 7 February 2017, which set out the Government's aims for building more of the right homes in the right places.

The LGA's Briefing on the publication is attached as **Appendix A**, and includes a link to the White Paper. The briefing summarises the main announcements of relevance to local government and the LGA's initial response. Further lobbying on announcements in the White Paper, or issues not addressed by the White Paper, will be undertaken as directed by Members.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board discuss the response to the Housing White Paper and next steps to be taken.

Action

As directed by Members.

Contact officer: Nick Porter
Position: Senior Adviser – Housing and Planning
Phone no: 0207 664 3113
Email: Nick.porter@local.gov.uk

Appendix A: Housing White Paper – Local Government Association briefing

10 February 2017

The Housing White Paper *Fixing our broken housing market* sets out the Government's strategy for building more of the right homes in the right places. It was published on 7 February 2017.

The [full document](#) is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) website.

This briefing summarises the main announcements of relevance to local government and sets out the Local Government Association's (LGA) initial response. The LGA's [press release](#) responding to the White Paper is available on the LGA website.

SUMMARY

- *Fixing our broken housing market* includes some encouraging proposals that reflect the recommendations in the LGA Housing Commission report, such as removing the starter homes requirement and increasing funding for planning departments.¹ Importantly, it emphasises building the right homes in the right places to meet our wider ambitions for communities.
- However, local government's ambition is much greater than the White Paper, which lacks substantive measures to support councils in enabling housing growth, and to build the genuinely affordable homes for those at the sharp end of the housing crisis.
- The LGA will work with the Government to take forward proposals, We will continue to push for an ambitious vision that recognises local government's role in enabling additional housing, and in building the genuinely affordable homes that would resolve many of the challenges facing communities, the economy, and public services. In particular, we will continue to call for the housing borrowing cap to be lifted.

Chapter 1: Planning for the right homes in the right places

- Proposals to ensure certainty and to simplify the planning system, for instance by standardising process for assessing need, will help with the plan-making process, as will measures to increase land transparency. However, it is crucial that the process remains locally led and that measures do not impose national housing targets on local communities.
- New powers for councils to establish local development corporations provide an opportunity for councils to innovate in the delivery of

¹ Final report of the LGA housing commission, 2016 http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/8116240/PUBLICATION

sustainable new communities. While councils support the intention behind proposals to require 10 per cent of sites being 0.5 hectare, it will be difficult to achieve in practice and limit local responsiveness and so should be pursued voluntarily.

Chapter 2: Building homes faster

- Local planning authorities were under-funded by £195 million in 2015/16 and the LGA had called for local discretion over planning fees to address this.² The commitment to increase planning fees by 20 per cent will provide additional resources to fulfil duties and deliver homes. It is important that all areas with varying levels of housing growth should benefit from opportunities to access additional funding to respond to demand, and to seek to increase proactive delivery of additional homes.
- Applying fees to appeals, allowing councils to compulsory purchase undeveloped land with permission, and to require starts on site within two years are steps in the right direction. However, measures to hold councils to account through a delivery test will only succeed if the councils have greater powers to ensure development than those proposed in the White Paper.
- Local government must play a central role in coordinating infrastructure investment linked to housing growth. The LGA will contribute to future consultations on the review of Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Reforms should focus on providing simplicity, certainty and transparency that reduce the likelihood of developers overpaying for land. This is crucial to ensuring that the community benefits from approving housing with services, infrastructure and affordable well-designed, sustainable homes. Local government is exploring new routes to financing infrastructure, such as through land value capture.

Chapter 3: Diversifying the market

- The LGA has argued for strategies that stimulate wider interventions supporting building by councils, housing associations, developers and other partners through partnership. Local government is at the heart of this and can play a central role in stimulating and attracting new investment.
- The commitment to offer some support for councils to build through their Housing Revenue Accounts and other ventures is important. However, it must go much further to ensure all councils have the financial flexibilities and powers to build homes that are able to help those at the sharp end of the housing crisis. Councils need borrowing freedoms and the ability to retain 100 per cent of Right to Buy receipts to build new affordable homes.

² Local authority revenue expenditure and financing, 2015/16
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing-england-2015-to-2016-individual-local-authority-data-outturn>

The housing crisis will persist until there is significant immediate investment in genuinely affordable homes.

- Councils must have flexibility to meet local need for affordable rented homes through delivery vehicles and other ventures. We are concerned by the suggestion that the Government wants to see an offer similar to Right to Buy in housing delivered through such ventures. Councils have often sought to build in ownership options into rented property and it is vital that they maintain this flexibility so that the delivery of additional homes remains viable.

Chapter 4: Helping people now

- We are pleased that the Government has listened to concerns on starter homes delivery and introduced new flexibilities on the affordable home ownership products and a lower requirement of 10 per cent. However, every housing market is different and councils should have further flexibilities to adjust requirements to meet their new objectively assessed need, for instance to provide other affordable rent options.
- We want to have further discussion with the Government on how better to provide homes for our ageing population in ways that reduce pressures on health and social care services.
- The Government will need to go much further in allowing councils to build homes and to redress the impact of welfare reforms if it is to reduce homelessness.

BACKGROUND

CHAPTER 1: PLANNING THE RIGHT HOMES IN THE RIGHT PLACES

Getting plans in place

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Consult on options for introducing a standardised approach to calculating assessed housing need.
- Set out in regulations a requirement for local plans and other local development documents to be reviewed at least once every five years.
- Consult on a requirement for local authorities to prepare a Statement of Common Ground, setting out how they will work together to meet housing requirements and other issue that cut across boundaries.
- Remove the expectation that every authority should be covered by a single local plan, enabling allocation of strategic sites through spatial development strategies produced by combined authorities or elected Mayors.

- Improve the availability of data on interests in land and consult on improving the transparency of contractual arrangements used to control land.

LGA view:

The LGA has raised concerns about the considerable time and resources required to get a plan in place, including evidence requirements and overall policy uncertainty. Standardised methodology for calculating assessed housing need could help streamline the plan-making process by reducing inefficiencies and providing certainty to councils. It is important that councils retain the freedom to plan and meet the objectively assessed local housing need and to ensure land with community support for housing is made available. Measures in this White Paper should not set national housing targets on local communities.

Co-operation across wider areas can identify sufficient land for housing, but it can be difficult to achieve. Measures supporting wider strategic planning are encouraging, though it is important that proposals for areas to produce a Statement of Common Ground are not unnecessarily bureaucratic.

The LGA has argued that councils should have more tools and flexibilities to engage and shape local land markets. An effective land supply is critical to house building and measures that increase transparency of land ownership and the options on land would help enable councils to fulfil this role.

Making enough land available in the right places

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Deliver more homes on public sector land including provision of a new £45 million Land Release Fund, ensuring authorities can dispose of land with the benefit of planning permission granted by themselves.
- Introduce legislation that will allow locally accountable New Town Development Corporations to be set up, so that local areas can use them as a delivery vehicle for new settlements including garden cities, towns and villages.
- Consult on extending flexibility to dispose of land at less than best consideration.
- Bring more brownfield land back into use through amendments to the NPPF to indicate that great weight should be attached to using suitable brownfield land within existing settlements for housing
- Support small and medium sites through expectation on local planning authorities to support small 'windfall' development sites, where at least 10 per cent of residential sites allocated in local plans are of half a hectare or less. There will also be an expectation that local planning authorities will work with developers to encourage the sub-division of large sites.
- Maintain existing strong protections for the Green Belt and clarify that boundaries should only be amended in exceptional circumstances.

LGA view:

The LGA has argued for additional levers and support to release public sector land, and the new Land Release Fund will help with this policy ambition. The release of surplus public land is a significant opportunity to boost housebuilding, as demonstrated by the One Public Estate programme.³ It should be pursued in a long-term strategic plan to shape places and as part of a strategy to ensure land that is released is built on within an appropriate time frame.

We will contribute to the proposed consultation extending flexibility to dispose of land at less than best consideration. The LGA will continue to call for the Treasury to issue simple, clear central guidance to public bodies on how to consider land release in terms of wider public value, rather than just a short-term focus on achieving the highest immediate receipt.

The New Towns Act 1946 should be modernised to allow councils to establish and locally account for development corporations, which support councils to deliver sustainable new communities. We look forward to working with the Government to ensure the proposals allow councils to innovate in the provision and stewardship of new places. This may include forward financing infrastructure through land value capture, or enabling the release of land at values enabling mixed communities contributing towards affordable homes and community services.

Councils are seeking to do more to support small and medium-sized builders, including allocating land suitable for a mix of developers. However, the requirement for 10 per cent of sites being at 0.5 hectares or less will be very difficult to implement in practice and restrict the capacity of the local plan to respond to need. Instead, this target should be voluntary.

Strengthening neighbourhood planning and design

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Strengthen the importance of early pre-application discussions, make clear that local and neighbourhood plans should set out clear design expectations, recognise the value of using design standards, and consult on improving energy performance requirements on new homes.
- Make further funding available to neighbourhood planning groups and amending planning policy so that groups can obtain a housing requirement figure from the local planning authority.
- Make better use of land for housing by encouraging higher densities.

LGA view:

Councils recognise the importance of ensuring that new developments are sustainable, high quality, and are places where people want to live, work and enjoy their time. The commitment to review current energy performance standards is important. The Government should go further to review on housing

³ <http://www.local.gov.uk/onepublicestate>

standards to look at where improvements can be made to the baseline quality of new homes.

Councils are responding positively to neighbourhood planning. The commitment for further funding to neighbourhood planning groups should be taken further with a full review of the financial support provided to councils to meet their statutory duties in relation to neighbourhood planning.

Approved neighbourhood plans have significant status in the determination of applications for planning permission. As such it is crucial that they are based on a robust evidence base with deliverable policies, in the same way that applies to developing a Local Plan setting out the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

Councils recognise the need to maximise delivery on suitable sites, particularly in areas where there is high housing demand. Many are already seeking to secure higher density housing. It is important that councils retain local discretion to decide the right levels of density for new housing across their local areas based on local context, including accessibility, infrastructure capacity and local housing needs.

CHAPTER 2: BUILDING HOMES FASTER

Resourcing planning departments and increasing certainty

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Allow local authorities to increase planning fees by 20 per cent from July 2017 if they commit to invest the additional fee income in their planning department, and consider allowing an increase of a further 20 per cent for those delivering a given level of housebuilding, and making £25 million available for areas planning for more homes.
- Consult on introducing a fee for making a planning appeal, which could be capped at £2,000 for a full inquiry.
- Give local authorities the opportunity to have their housing land supply agreed on an annual basis, and fixed for a one-year period.

LGA view:

The LGA has argued that council planning departments need to be sufficiently resourced to fulfil their functions and to deliver more housing. We are pleased that this has been acknowledged in the White Paper. Currently taxpayers are subsidising approximately 30 per cent of the estimated cost of processing planning applications,⁴ and we have argued that fees should be set locally by councils. Charging fees for appeals will be another important step for reinforcing the prominence of the Local Plan. Councils should be able to retain the fees to invest in planning departments.

⁴ LGA media release, December 2016

http://www.local.gov.uk/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/8115844/NEWS

Currently councils that have successfully demonstrated a five-year housing land supply can still be subject to speculative appeals, leading to approval of inappropriate development sites outside the Local Plan. It is important that when councils have spent time establishing a Local Plan and identified land for housing that the assessment is fixed, reducing the opportunity for developers to appeal.

We are pleased that the White Paper will fix housing land supply assessments for a one-year period and will pursue discussions on how areas could fix longer time-frames. There should also be greater recognition of councils longer term housing land supply beyond five years, for example approved major developments have a ten-year land supply.

Infrastructure and skills for housing

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Review the system for how developers contribute towards infrastructure and affordable housing through Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy, to be published in the Budget on 8 March 2017.
- Ensure provision of infrastructure through the £2.3 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund which will be open to bids in 2017 with funding for four years, consulting on requiring council planning policy to deliver digital infrastructure, and to review how utilities companies can be prevented from holding up development.
- Pursue measures to address skills shortages in the construction industry.

LGA view:

The LGA has argued that local communities are most likely to support development when it is accompanied with the supporting services and infrastructure that places need to prosper. Councils must be at the centre of models for bringing together infrastructure strategy and spending in ways that build homes.

We will contribute to the review on Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy, which needs to be robust, clear, transparent and simple. Reforms should also offer absolute certainty in the obligations on developers to provide infrastructure and affordable housing contributions, in ways that reduces the risks that a developer overpays for land.

The LGA has argued for innovation in infrastructure spending. The Housing Infrastructure Fund will provide crucial opportunities for councils to deliver infrastructure-led housing. We will work with the Government on the detail of the programme, and will be keen that councils have maximum flexibilities to invest in the infrastructure needed locally to deliver housing. We want to take forward more ambitious approaches to forward financing infrastructure, such as through land value capture.

The LGA has called for greater tools to hold utilities companies to account when development is held up, including for digital infrastructure. We will push for

reforms to planning policy to support local authorities to have more meaningful discussions with broadband providers and help cement the link between digital infrastructure provision and new housing developments.

Councils are well-placed to work with schools and colleges to ensure people can gain the skills that local companies desperately need to design and build homes, and should have greater powers to resolve skills mismatches in local economies. In *Skills to Build* we have set out our case for how councils can help provide developers with the skills that they need.⁵

Local authority and developer accountability for building homes

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Introduce a housing delivery test to hold local authorities and their wider interests to account for delivering homes, requiring a local authority to publish an action plan where the numbers of new homes are lower than the number of those suggested are needed.
- Hold local authorities and developers to account by requiring information about the timing and pace of delivery for new housing, encouraging local authorities to consider potential build out rates when granting permission.
- Consider options for shortening the timescales for developers to implement a permission from three years to two years, and supporting councils to use compulsory purchase powers to support build out of stalled sites.

LGA view:

The LGA has argued that it is essential councils have real tools to engage and incentivise developers to build out sites where communities have agreed to development. We look forward to working with the Government on the detail.

Support for councils to make greater use compulsory purchase powers to unlock stalled sites is significant in helping ensure development on sites with permission, although this will do little to speed up build-out rates. Similarly, while measures requiring starts within two years of being granted permission would be a step in the direction, it does not ensure homes are completed at a reasonable rate.

House building is generally complex and risky, involving a wide range of partners. Councils are committed to building homes where they are needed but do not have all the planning powers, such as those set out in our Housing Commission report⁶, to actually ensure it. This must be recognised by the proposal to apply delivery test and requiring action from councils when housing delivery has not met forecast need, and the measures put in place to reduce the risk of reverting to presumption in favour of sustainable development.

⁵ <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/49942/Skills+to+build+-+Creating+the+houses+and+jobs+our+communities+need/c624085f-6e56-4cb7-9e83-5a37f481fea5>

⁶ <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/LGA+Housing+Commission+Final+Report/a84df8b5-4631-4320-8b33-567c549aadfa>

CHAPTER 3: DIVERSIFYING THE MARKET

Council and housing association house building

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Determine a rent policy for council and housing association landlords for the period beyond 2020 to help them borrow against future income.
- Work with councils to understand all the options for increasing the supply of affordable housing, perhaps develop bespoke housing deals with authorities in high demand areas and with an ambition to build, and consider whether additional capacity support is needed for councils to innovate in housing delivery.
- Encourage councils delivering affordable rented housing through alternative vehicles to offer tenants similar rights to other affordable rented homes, including the Right to Buy.
- Commit to implementing measures to allow housing associations to be classified as private sector organisations, and urge them to explore every avenue for building more homes and improve efficiency to focus on house building.

LGA view:

Councils play a wide and varied role in enabling housing growth across their areas working with housing association and developer partners. It is important that this enabling role continues to be acknowledged, encouraged, and supported.

The LGA has argued for greater longer-term certainty and flexibilities for Housing Revenue Accounts so that councils can plan investment in delivering new housing that helps them meet their housing duties. Rental certainty after 2020 will be an important first step; however, councils need borrowing freedoms and the ability to retain 100 per cent of Right to Buy receipts to rapidly build new affordable homes. The housing crisis will persist until there is significant immediate investment in genuinely affordable homes.

It is important to acknowledge and encourage the role councils are playing in seeking to plug gaps in local housing markets through local housing companies and other delivery vehicles. Councils must have flexibility to meet local need for affordable rented homes through delivery vehicles and other ventures. We are concerned by the suggestion that the Government wants to see an offer similar to Right to Buy in housing delivered through such ventures. Councils have often sought to build in ownership options into rented property and it is vital that they maintain this flexibility so that the delivery of additional homes remains viable.

Housing associations will be vital partners for councils in helping to build more homes and house the more vulnerable in our society. We are supportive of measures urging housing associations to build more and councils want to work with them to meet the needs of everyone in their local area.

Diversification of private house builders

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Support the market of small and medium-sized builders and custom builders by launching the £3 billion Home Building Fund and partnering with them in the Accelerated Construction programme to build on surplus public land.
- Build more homes for private rent by changing the NPPF encouraging councils to plan for Build to Rent products and make it easier for developers to offer affordable private rented homes.
- Ensure three or more year tenancies on schemes that benefit from these changes.
- Support modernisation of the housebuilding sector and faster methods of construction, including through the Accelerated Construction Programme and Home Builders Fund and work with industries and local areas keen to promote this type of manufacturing.

LGA view:

We have called for new measures to support the diversification of the private housebuilding industry. The strategy for supporting the diversification of the private market will take time to deliver, and is unlikely on its own to build all the housing our communities need. In the short-term it is critical to enable councils to build more affordable homes where the market has undelivered.

There is a good opportunity to stimulate additional supply through institutional investment in Build to Rent products, which councils are keen to enable as part of the wider housing mix. The wider role for councils in stimulating institutional investment into new housing should also be better acknowledged and supported. Three-year tenancies in Build to Rent property are welcome but will likely form a very small proportion of overall housing stock, we are also interested to understand more about a new affordable private rented property.

Future role of the Homes and Communities Agency

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Relaunch the Homes and Communities Agency as Homes England, which would support councils to build on public sector land working with local public sector partners, deliver housing of all tenures, and support infrastructure delivery linked to housing.

LGA view:

The LGA has argued for greater capacity support for local areas to deliver additional housing, and councils themselves can play a significant role in enabling house building locally. A reformed role for the Homes and Communities Agency working with local partners could play an important role in enabling this, and we

will work with Homes England to support councils and their local partners to build more homes.

CHAPTER 4: HELPING PEOPLE NOW

Starter Homes

The White Paper has set out measures to:

- Target starter homes at households that need them most with an income of less than £80,000, or £90,000 in London, and that eligible first-time buyers would also be required to have a mortgage.
- Implement a 15-year repayment taper so that when the property is sold some or all of the discount is repaid.
- Replace the proposed starter homes requirement with an affordable home ownership requirement of 10 per cent on a site-by-site basis, and it be for councils to work with developers to agree the mix of starter homes, rent to buy, shared ownership or other products.
- Amend the NPPF to allow brownfield land to be released with a higher proportion of starter homes, extending the exception site policy to include other forms of brownfield land, and to support land remediation with the £1.2 billion starter home land fund.

LGA view:

The LGA has argued for local flexibility in delivering starter homes alongside the mix of other affordable housing products that meet the locally assessed need, including affordable homes for rent. Therefore, we are pleased that the Government has listened to these concerns and that the starter homes requirement of 20 per cent is not being pursued. Looking ahead we want to explore flexibilities for councils in housing markets that find that 10 per cent requirement home affordable ownership products on sites do not meet their new assessments of local housing need.

Helping people afford a home

The White Paper has set out:

- Plans to introduce the Lifetime ISA, supporting younger adults to save flexibly for the long-term giving them a 25 per cent bonus on up to £4,000 of savings a year.
- Plans to consult on the future of the Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme.

LGA view:

Research for the LGA's Housing Commission highlighted the financial pressure on first time buyers.⁷ We want to contribute to the discussion on future policy of

⁷<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/LGA+Housing+Commission+Final+Report/a84df8b5-4631-4320-8b33-567c549aada>

interventions that support households to save for home ownership, and welcome the focus on both older and younger people from the White Paper as neither group are well served in the current housing market.

Extended right to buy for housing association tenants

The White Paper has set out:

- The Government's existing commitment to extend the Right to Buy to housing associations through a regional pilot.

LGA view:

We are pleased that the costs for the extended pilot are being met by the Government. However, it is still not clear how the extension of the Right to Buy will be funded in the longer term. Councils are still facing uncertainty over the prospect of a forced sales of their assets to fund the extended right to buy.

The LGA wants to decouple the two policies and make it voluntary for councils to decide whether or not to sell their higher value homes. The policy should also be implemented in ways that allow councils to build more homes. Councils should be able to keep 100 per cent of receipts to invest in building new homes.

Government funding for affordable housing

The White Paper has set out:

- The Government's existing commitment to fund a broader range of tenures through the Affordable Homes Programme, including the additional £1.4 billion announced in the Autumn Statement 2016.

LGA view:

The LGA continues to push for flexibility in the range of new homes delivered through the Affordable Homes Programme, including for social rent. We will continue to work with Government to ensure that funding for affordable housing is delivered effectively with councils as a key partners. Councils and housing associations will be able to deliver more homes if given flexibilities, for example, to combine grants with Right to Buy receipts, and to deliver more social rented properties more affordable lower-income households.

Protection for private tenants and leaseholders

The White Paper has set out:

- Existing measures on the private rented sector, consolidating them into a 'fairer deal' for rents, including a proposed ban on letting agent fees.
- Problems for leaseholders and the Government's intention to consult on reforms designed to tackle unfairness.

LGA view:

We share the Government's concern about the lack of clarity for private tenants. These are helpful measures but they do not tackle the underlying challenges arising from a legal and regulatory system that is out-of-date and requires reform to match the pace of the reality of the current private rented housing market.

The volume and complexity of regulations governing the sector can be confusing for landlords, tenants and councils. We want to work with the Government to review and modernise the framework to support councils' ability to meet the expectations of their residents.

The LGA has supported proposals to encourage longer tenancies, as insecure housing can prevent people from living a full life. Councils argued for families to have 10-year tenancies during the debate on reforming the length of tenancies through the Housing and Planning Act, and for local flexibility on the length of tenancies for council housing, particularly for tenants with children.

We support the principle of greater protection for leaseholders and will be working with the Government to explore the role for local government and how this would be resourced

Making best use of existing homes

The White Paper sets out:

- Existing policies on second homes and empty homes and reiterates the Government's support for councils to take action on empty homes using existing powers
- Plans to consider whether additional measures are needed on top of tools that direct the receipts from the Stamp Duty Land Tax on second homes to a Community Housing Fund.

LGA view:

It is important to make use of existing homes, although this will not solve problems with supply. We are pleased that the Government recognises the contribution that local government has made to bringing down the number of empty homes.

Housing for older people

The White Paper sets out plans to:

- Produce guidance for planning authorities on how their local planning documents should meet the housing needs of older and disabled people.
- Engage widely with stakeholders, including local government, on the different strategies through which partners can deliver better outcomes for older people.

- Publish a green paper on the future of Supported Housing this Spring following the consultation on a new funding model

LGA view:

There is an acute need to integrate housing with health and social care further and in ways that improve well-being and reduce demand on care services. This means building more attractive and suitable homes for older people, and adapting existing housing to better support ageing in ways that reduce pressures on health and social care services.

We will engage with the Government on its proposals for guidance to local authorities on the assessment of housing needs for older and disabled people. To deliver councils need tools in their viability negotiations with developers to ensure developers deliver more accessible homes.

We aim to take forward our ideas further with the Government and partners. Councils have responsibilities for planning, housing, social care and public health, as well as playing a strategic role in partnership with clinical commissioning groups and others in the planning and provision of healthcare services. They are well placed to proactively plan for meeting the housing, care and health needs of their ageing populations.

Preventing homelessness

The White Paper sets out:

- Recent government proposals to address homelessness such as their support for the Homeless Reduction Bill, doubling of the Rough Sleeping Fund, and refocusing on prevention.
- The intention to establish a network of expert advisors to work closely with all local authorities to help bring them to the standard of the best

LGA view:

The Government must work with councils to address the causes of homelessness by building more genuinely affordable homes and redressing the impact of welfare reforms that may increase the risk of homelessness among certain groups, for instance by lifting the Local Housing Allowance cap.

Councils are having to pick up the pieces from the failure to address rising homelessness, being forced to place more people in expensive temporary accommodation that is estimated to have cost £3.5 billion over the last five years.

We have supported the intent of the Homeless Reduction Bill to widen support available to non-priority groups which is in far more workable than the initial draft. Legislative change alone is unlikely to succeed unless councils gain greater tools to build council homes, to redress the gap between household incomes and rents, and sufficient resources to deliver duties.

The LGA will push to host the network of expert advisors, as it will be best placed to build positive relationships with councils and pursue a sector led approach to improvement.



Chief Executive's Report – March 2017

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2016/17 centres on seven external priorities:

- Britain's exit from the EU
- Funding for local government
- Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
- Children, education and schools
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Devolution
- Sector-led improvement

Part 1 of the six-weekly Chief Executive's report sets out the LGA's main achievements against those priorities. Part two focusses on our internal priority – A single voice for local government - including membership and our media outreach activities.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for March 2017.

Action

As directed by members.

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Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2017

Achievements against our seven external priorities

Priority 1 – Exit from the EU

- 1.1 **Local government post-Brexit** – building on the initial principles developed by the City Regions and People and Places Boards, work is underway to develop a wider policy and lobbying approach which seeks to address questions related to the future autonomy of local government across the UK and local councils in England.
- 1.2 **Brexit White Paper** – the Government published the paper which contained a commitment to devolving greater powers to local government where there is economic rationale to do so. We are publishing a response that will set out the impact of recent developments on local government's priority recommendations.
- 1.3 **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive** – responded to a FCA consultation on the EU's Markets in Financial Instruments Directive due to come into force in January 2018, via the LGPS Advisory Board.
- 1.4 **Regional seminars** – worked with DCLG to organise a series of seminars examining the impacts of Brexit in different local areas. The first three sessions took place in Newcastle, Cornwall and London, with further sessions being organised around the country.

Priority 2 – Funding for Local Government

- 2.1 **Spring Budget 2017** – submitted our [response](#) to the call for representations on the budget, which calls for new Government funding to help support people to live independent, fulfilling lives, in quality homes that meet their needs, and in communities that are more economically prosperous.
- 2.2 **Provisional local government finance settlement** – submitted our [response](#) to the consultation on the settlement and held a briefing event on the settlement for Parliamentarians. The Chairman and Group Leaders met with the Secretary of State to highlight key concerns in our response.
- 2.3 **Local Government Finance Bill** – engaged with MPs on the Bill, and published a [briefing and submitted amendments to the Bill](#). Cllr Nick Forbes gave evidence to the Bill Committee, and our Chairman also met the Secretary of State and the Minister for LG, resulting in an agreement to work with us on reducing business rates avoidance.
- 2.4 **Fair Funding Review** – at the time of writing, a further Government consultation was expected and likely to focus on the potential variables and factors that could be considered within the relative needs assessment, such as key cost drivers for services.
- 2.5 **Local Infrastructure Rate** – submitted our [response](#) to HM Treasury's consultation on the introduction of this rate. Under the Government's proposals, local authorities would be able to borrow at a lower rate from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLb).
- 2.6 **Education Services Grant** – following LGA lobbying against the £600m cut to the Education Services Grant, the DfE announced a £50m a year fund for local authorities to continue to monitor and commission school improvement for low-performing maintained schools.
- 2.7 **Strategic School Improvement Fund** – the DfE announced a £140m per year 'Strategic School Improvement Fund' be established for academies and maintained schools. Although these funds represent a reduction in direct funding to councils, they are a recognition of a continuing council role in commissioning support for maintained schools.
- 2.8 **Public Sector Audit Appointments** – submitted a response to the PSAA [consultation](#) on proposals for the work that external auditors will undertake and the associated scale of fees for 2017/18.
- 2.9 **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive 2 consultation** – submitted our [response](#) to the Financial Conduct Authority's consultation on the implementation of the MiFID2 directive. The proposals will impact on local authorities' treasury management activities and pensions management.

Priority 3 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 3.1 **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** – ahead of Committee Stage Lord Porter tabled an amendment on permitted development rights, which was supported by Labour and Liberal Democrat peers. We briefed in favour of allowing local authorities to recover costs for assistance to the community with neighbourhood planning.
- 3.2 **Homelessness Reduction Bill** – briefed MPs ahead of the committee and report stage on the importance of a wider strategy to tackle homelessness. We called for a review of the Bill's impact two years after implementation and for any further new burdens on councils to be fully funded.
- 3.3 **Industrial strategy green paper** – published our response to the Government's industrial strategy [green paper](#), highlighting our views on a range of policy areas including skills, housing and infrastructure. We circulated our response to MPs.
- 3.4 **House of Commons Public Accounts Committee on housing** – the LGA Chairman Lord Porter gave evidence to this inquiry to discuss the key findings of the National Audit Office's report *Housing in England: overview*. He called for the housing borrowing cap to be lifted and for significant and immediate investment in genuinely affordable housing.
- 3.5 **Unlocking growth in partnership** – the British Property Federation and the LGA launched [a good practice guide](#) on unlocking commercial growth through long-term public/private collaboration. The report highlights best practice of councils and developers.
- 3.6 **Highways England Road to Growth Consultation** – submitted a written submission to HE consultation making a case for HE to consider the impact of their work on the whole network. We also urged a flexible approach to funding
- 3.7 **EFRA Committee inquiry into rural tourism** – Cllr Paul Bettison gave evidence to the inquiry highlighting the importance of universal broadband coverage, to help rural businesses struggling to market their services, and spoke about the importance of effective transport links in ensuring visitors can reach all parts of the UK.
- 3.8 **Digital Economy Bill** – worked with peers to table amendments in favour of a broadband social tariff to prevent digital exclusion, as well as to compel Ofcom to report annually on the success of the Government's universal broadband rollout.
- 3.9 **Annual Licensing Conference** – over 80 delegates attended the conference to reflect on recent developments and look ahead to expected changes in licensing in the coming year.

Priority 4 – Children, education and schools

- 4.1 **National Citizen Service Bill** – we support the Bill's ambition to engage young people in positive activities and have worked with MPs to seek assurances that the substantial funding commitments for the NCS programme will not put funding for vital local services at risk.
- 4.2 **Children and Social Work Bill** – submitted written evidence to the Children and Social Work Bill Committee. Our submission highlighted our support for the Bill's strong focus on children in care, including extending personal support for all care leavers until aged 25.
- 4.3 **Working to support positive parenting and relationships** – published the report [Working to support positive parenting and relationships. What can councils do?](#)
- 4.4 **Dubs Amendment** – the Government has [announced](#) that it will resettle 350 children, with 200 already arrived post a [consultation](#) with local authorities. There has been tremendous local, regional and national [leadership](#) shown in supporting the [750](#) children transferred from France, with the majority placed with family members following assessments by Councils. The LGA is holding an [event](#) on resettlement for members with the Home Office on 28 January. Further information will continue to be placed on the [LGA website](#).

4.5	Gender Pay Gap reporting – LGA representations helped to persuade Government to amend its proposals so that authorities will not now have to include most school-based staff in their reporting.
4.6	Guide to LGPS for academies – worked with colleagues at DfE and DCLG on the development of a guide to the LGPS aimed at academies due to be published in early Spring 2017.
Priority 5 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing	
5.1	Public Accounts Committee inquiry into the sustainability of the NHS – we submitted written evidence to the Committee on the sustainability of the NHS and social care, which highlighted the link between the £2.6 billion funding gap facing adult social care and the current pressures on the NHS.
5.2	Public Accounts Committee roundtable on social care – Deputy Chief Executive, Sarah Pickup, attended a Public Accounts Committee roundtable on the sustainability of the NHS and social care.
5.3	Public Accounts Committee – Deputy Chief Executive, Sarah Pickup, gave oral evidence to a Public Accounts Committee on health and social care integration.
5.4	Health Committee inquiry into suicide prevention – Cllr Richard Kemp gave evidence to the Committee on suicide prevention. Cllr Kemp explained that 95 per cent of councils currently have, or are developing, a local suicide prevention plan, and that councils provide vital support to local mental health and wellbeing.
Priority 6 – Devolution	
6.1	Leading Places – confirmed arrangements for national conclusion event for pilot phase on 28 March, initiated procurement and design process for second phase due to commence in April 2017.
6.2	Support to Combined Authorities – continued to support work of combined authorities and to develop a leadership offer for existing and potential CAs by agreeing new work programmes with two prospective CA areas and refreshed the online DevoHub.
6.3	Support to elected mayors – met with DCLG officials to agree an approach to supporting incoming Mayors and their work with combined authorities. Completed the preparation of support programmes for Mayoral candidates.
6.4	Industrial Strategy green paper – we urged the Government to open the door to more ambitious forms of fiscal devolution, allowing local leaders to work with communities and businesses. We also called for targeted infrastructure investments in support of future and existing growth.
Priority 7 – Sector-led Improvement	
7.1	LGPS member website – made a variety of updates to the national website for members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, including the introduction of three new interactive calculators, greater accessibility functionality and a mobile version of the site.
7.2	LGPS consultation – held discussions with DCLG on the planned next steps for a consultation undertaken by the Department in Summer 2016. A further consultation on Fair Deal is likely but other proposed changes may proceed and will be considered case-by-case.
7.3	Libraries – supported three regional workshops to communicate the recently launched ‘Libraries Deliver: Ambition for public libraries’. LGA officers led sessions on mapping need, including using LG Inform, secured speakers for a commissioning session, and took part in panel debates.
7.4	Culture and Sport – delivered culture and sport leadership essentials courses to equip portfolio holders with the skills to champion sporting and cultural achievements in their localities and transform local services. We have also supported two councils through a cultural peer challenge.
7.5	Memorandum of Understanding – the Fire Service Management Committee has co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding on equality, diversity, behaviours and organisational culture in the Fire Service, with trades unions and groups representing female BME and LGBTQ+ fire service staff, following recommendations in the Thomas report last year.

Internal Priority – A single voice for local government**LGA Membership**

1. Discussions are ongoing with the four local authorities currently on notice to leave the LGA on 31st March 2017:-
 - 1.1. Hartlepool Borough Council
 - 1.2. Gosport Borough Council
 - 1.3. Preston City Council
 - 1.4. London Borough of Richmond
2. Six of the 10 National Parks Authorities that subscribe to National Parks England have confirmed their intention to remain in Associate membership once NPE's corporate membership ends on 31 March 2017.
3. Four councils are currently on notice to leave on 31 March 2018 – East Staffordshire, West Sussex County Council, Manchester City Council and Hart District Council. A further three remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet.
4. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Membership visits by the Strategic Management Team:

Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 19 January – 1 March 2017	
20 January	West Sussex Chief Executives meeting
31 January	London Borough of Richmond
2-3 February	DCN Annual Conference – Warwickshire
6 February	Newcastle City Council
7 February	South Tyneside Council
24 February	South West Chief Executive meeting
Forward plan: 2 March – 5 April 2017	
6 March	Kingston-upon-Thames
14 March	Bassetlaw District Council
16 March	East Sussex
29-30 March	Meeting with West Midlands Combined Authority Chief Executives hosted by Wolverhampton
Deputy Chief Executive's: 19 January – 1 March 2017	
23 January	Local Government Commission in Manchester
3 February	Stevenage
Director of Communication's Membership Visits: 19 January – 1 March 2017	
2 February	Camden Council
16-17 February	Plymouth Council
Forward Plan: 2 March – 5 April 2017	
3 March	Sandhurst
17 March	Lincoln Council

Head of Workforce forward plan: 2 March – 5 April 2017	
13 March	Warwick District Council
20 March – 4 April	Watford Borough Council

In the Media

Exit from the EU and Devolution
Lord Porter featured on i paper online with the LGA's response to the Government's Industrial Strategy, calling for greater devolved powers to help councils play a bigger role in economic growth and for a UK regional aid scheme to replace EU regeneration funding.
Funding for Local Government
The Telegraph, Mail, Times, Guardian, Sun, Mirror and Express reported the LGA's warning that the Care Act faces failure unless government funds it properly. Cllr Izzi Seccombe interviewed live on LBC and Cllr Jonathan McShane appeared on Good Morning Britain .
Lord Porter interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live and Cllr Peter Fleming appeared on Good Morning Britain with the LGA's warning that more than two thirds of councils will have to find greater savings than expected savings next year due to funding reforms. This was also reported on TalkSport, Mail, Express and Mirror .
The LGA's estimates of a £2.6 billion shortfall in funding for adult social care by 2020 were reported on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show , as well as in the Times, Mail Online, Mirror Online, Sunday Times, Guardian, BBC Radio 4 and on LBC . The Observer quoted the same lines and how councils could face legal challenges over failure to provide a statutory standard of care.
Lord Porter gave the LGA's lines about how the social care precept will not be enough to alleviate current and future social care pressures in the Times , whilst Communities Secretary Sajid Javid quoted the LGA's social care funding gap figures when interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme . Labour MP Bridget Phillipson cited this line and was reported on BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament and on BBC News channel's Monday in Parliament programme .
Following Surrey County Council's plans to hold a referendum on increasing council tax by 15% to provide social care the LGA's funding gap figures were featured in the FT, Mail, Express, Telegraph Online, Guardian Online, Mirror Online, Independent Online, Sky News Online, Metro Online, LBC Online and BBC News .
Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured on BBC Online and Guardian and the LGA's lines also featured on Good Morning Britain and in the Mail , in response to a call from the heads of three Commons committees to find a "political consensus" on funding social care in England before 2020.
The LGA's warnings that not being able to provide social care in the community is adding to the pressure in hospitals was reported on Guardian Online and on the Observer's front page, whilst columnist Victoria Lambert referenced the LGA's warnings about the adult social care sustainability in the Telegraph and called for families to do more to help care for the elderly.
The Express , the Guardian and Mail featured the LGA's response to analysis by LaingBuisson about the shortfall in what care homes charge and the amount councils can pay. The LGA's adult social care funding lines were also referenced on BBC Radio 4's Today programme . Lord Porter featured in the Mail about how more money is urgently needed to help prevent vulnerable people having to go to hospital and costing taxpayers more in the future.
FT Online and Guardian Online referenced the LGA's figures about the cost of providing adult social care, in separate opinion pieces raising the prospect of establishing a dedicated tax to help raise the necessary funding.
Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured on Telegraph Online and the Guardian about new figures showing a rise in hospital bed-blocking by more than 40% in a year and the need for funding to help alleviate this pressure, whilst BBC Radio 5 Live Investigates reported the LGA's lines about how some elderly patients in hospitals are facing long delays for council social care assessments.

<p>A FT comment piece referenced the LGA's lines that the Government's claim that an extra £200 million a year could be raised by increasing the council tax precept is "ambitious". Columnist Rachel Sylvester referenced this in the Times saying that the social care precept is "too little too late" and suggested adopting a system where everyone over the age of 40 pays a 1% compulsory social insurance levy for long-term care.</p>
<p>ITV Online reported the LGA's lines about how funding reductions over the last Parliament have left councils having to find £5 billion of savings from social care. Cllr Claire Kober featured on BBC Online with the LGA's lines on the need for new additional government funding to help fill the funding gap facing adult social care.</p>
<p>The Guardian featured Lord Porter's warning that even if councils abandoned non-statutory duties they still could not plug the £5.8 billion funding gap facing local government.</p>
<p>The LGA's estimates that councils face an overall funding shortfall of £5.8 billion were reported in a Observer story about business rates and Lord Porter featured in the Mirror following a report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies about how further cuts will be needed by the end of the decade to combat the UK's persistent budget deficit.</p>
<p>The LGA's concerns about the difficulties for councils in recouping the costs of funerals in cases where no one will or is able to make the arrangements to pay was reported on BBC Online.</p>
<p>The FT reported the LGA's response to government figures showing that councils were expected to invest twice as much from asset sales this financial year as the £1.5 billion generated in 2013/14.</p>
<p>FT Online and Guardian Online reported the LGA's updated lines on the ongoing application by NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts for business rates relief.</p>
<p>Inclusive growth, jobs and housing</p>
<p>Cllr Martin Tett featured on FT Online ahead of the publication of the Housing White Paper and gave the LGA's response to it on the BBC News channel and on ITV News and TalkRadio. Cllr Ed Turner also discussed the LGA's response on BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme.</p>
<p>Labour Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, John Healey, referenced the LGA's call to remove the restriction on councils borrowing capacity for new home building in an i paper online column. The LGA's calls for the housing borrowing cap to be lifted were also put to the Housing Minister Gavin Barwell on BBC Newsnight and reported across BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 2 and BBC Online.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to the Government's announcement that new Starter Homes will begin to be built in 2017 was reported on FT Online, Independent Online, Express Online, Sky News Online, Sun Online and LBC Online.</p>
<p>Lord Porter gave the LGA's response to the Government's announcement of £48 million for councils to deliver the Homelessness Reduction Bill in the Guardian, warning that homeless services face a funding gap of £192 million by 2020 and that the true costs are difficult to predict. Cllr Martin Tett gave the LGA's response to figures showing the number of rough sleepers in England had increased for the sixth consecutive year on BBC Online and the Guardian reported the LGA's lines on how cuts to local homelessness services will trigger a surge in people forced to sleep on the streets.</p>
<p>The Telegraph reported the LGA's previous suggestions about giving incentives to pensioners to downsize from largely empty family homes to flats and bungalows and how the money could be recouped with housing moves that otherwise would not have happened. Cllr Martin Tett was interviewed on LBC and featured in the Times following government plans to bring hundreds of thousands of empty homes back into use.</p>
<p>The Mirror reported the LGA's call for a reversal in the long-term decline in council housing and concerns about how some government housing reforms risk reducing the number of socially-rented homes available in local communities.</p>
<p>The Sun, Mail, Times, i paper and Telegraph reported the LGA's response to government plans to allocate £1.2 billion of funding to improve the country's roads and reduce congestion.</p>

Children, education and schools
Cllr Richard Watts featured in the Guardian and on BBC Online with the LGA's call for small council-maintained schools to be exempt from the Apprenticeship Levy, like small academies.
BBC Online reported the LGA's response to a report by the Chief Schools Adjudicator for England about how vulnerable children can struggle to find a school place if they apply mid-year, with some schools "cherry-picking" pupils. Cllr Richard Watts featured on Telegraph Online with the LGA's call for councils to be given the power to order academies to accept "hard to place" pupils after statistics show that almost 90% of applications from councils to force them to admit a child are rejected.
FT Online referenced the LGA's previous comments about how schools should be allowed to take a "common sense" approach and give "individual consideration" to parents' requests for taking children out of school during term time.
Following a Children's Commissioner for England report the Mail reported Cllr Richard Watts' comments about how councils face a gap of almost £2 billion in children's services by 2020,
Cllr Richard Watts featured on BBC Online with the LGA's response to the Family and Childcare Trust's survey into the Government's 30 hours free childcare offer, which reveals that councils are concerned that the quality of care will be reduced as a result.
Promoting health and wellbeing
The LGA's warning to New Year's Eve partygoers to beware of fake alcohol was reported in the i paper, Mirror, Guardian Online, Independent Online, Express Online, ITV Online, Star Online, Metro Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online and Talk Radio .
Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured in the Guardian with the LGA's response to an All Party Parliamentary Group study which found that smoking costs councils £760 million a year and in the Mirror with the LGA's research about how 57 million GP consultations every year are about ailments which could be treated at home, together with 3.7 million similar A&E visits, costing the NHS £2 billion a year.
Cllr Jonathan McShane was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme about the proportion of funding for mental health services which comes from local government.
Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured in the Telegraph, Guardian and Mail with the LGA's response to Age UK research about how half a million people over the age of 60 routinely go an entire week without meeting anyone.
Cllr Peter Fleming featured on Good Morning Britain and Channel 5 News about how more than 40,000 young people a year are having teeth removed, mainly due to decay. This also featured on Sky News, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC Guardian, Guardian Online, Telegraph, Times, i paper, Sun, Mirror, Express, Mail, Mail Online, ITV Online and Good Morning Britain Online (twice) . Cllr Richard Kemp was also interviewed live on BBC local radio stations and Cllr Marianne Overton featured on TalkRadio .
Sector-led improvement
Cllr Martin Tett gave the LGA's call for a further £1 billion a year into roads maintenance by investing 2p per litre of existing fuel duty on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Our release featured in the Mail, Telegraph, Sun, Express, Mirror, Sunday Times, Star, i paper, People, Mail Online, Independent Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online and LBC Online . LBC, Talksport and Talk Radio reported the LGA's lines that it would take 14 years to fix the national backlog of potholes, following a survey where one in five drivers said they would be willing to volunteer to fill potholes.
Cllr Marianne Overton was interviewed on Sky News Radio and Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson was featured on BBC Radio 5 Live with the LGA's warning about buying used tyres after Trading Standards teams found more than 80% of them in some areas are being sold illegally. This was reported on BBC Online, Telegraph, Times, Sun, Mirror, Express, LBC, Talk Radio, TalkSport and Sun on Sunday .
Cllr Martin Tett was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme and featured on Sky News, BBC News channel, BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 5 Live, Sky News Radio, LBC and BBC local radio calling for lorry drivers to be banned from using satnavs designed for cars. This was reported in the Mirror, Express, i paper, People and Sun on Sunday as well as on BBC Online, Sky News



<p>Online, ITV Online, Mail Online and LBC Online.</p> <p>The Sun reported the LGA's response to new figures showing foreign drivers owe councils up to £20 million in unpaid parking fines, due to EU rules which give non-UK vehicles six months on the roads before they have to register with the DVLA, making the drivers impossible to trace.</p> <p>BBC Breakfast, Sunday Mirror and BBC Radio 5 Live reported the LGA's statement in response to the Local Government Ombudsman's report on parking fines, which was reported in the Times and Express. Express Online reported the LGA's response to an RAC report that councils try to strike a balance when setting parking charges.</p> <p>The LGA's lines on how councils are well prepared for the low temperatures and snow was reported on BBC Online and the Mail, with about half of local authorities holding full stocks of grit and up to 1.2 million tonnes of salt.</p> <p>Cllr Martin Tett featured in the Mirror and on Mail Online, Express Online and ITV Online about how councils have issued hundreds of fines totaling more than £430,000 for fly-tipping since they were given new powers to issue 'on-the-spot' penalty fines last year.</p> <p>Cllr Simon Blackburn gave a response to an All Party Parliamentary Group review of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals recommending maximum stakes are reduced from £100 to £2 on BBC Online.</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, following the LGA's response to the Home Affairs Select Committee report into asylum accommodation, which was also covered in the FT, Guardian, Mail, Express and BBC Online.</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds gave the LGA's response to the Public Accounts Committee's report on the Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Programme on LBC and said that councils were "confident" the target of resettling 20,000 Syrian refugees by May 2020 would be reached. The LGA's lines were also reported on BBC Online, Telegraph Online and Express Online.</p> <p>The Times cited the LGA's role as a respondent in an appeal by NHS England that it had no power or duty to commission the drug PrEP, which was dismissed by the Court of Appeal.</p>

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 LGA 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.

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LGA Forward Plan

LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

APRIL

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 5.04.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Annual Perceptions Survey	To note the results of the Perceptions Survey and agree headline principles for a revised action plan
The Budget	To receive a summary of the Chancellor's Budget announcements and LGA activity on it.
General Assembly Agenda	To consider and endorse the proposed format and agenda for the General Assembly
Timetable for LGA Proportionality	To agree the process and timetable for confirming changes to LGA's political balance.
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.
Part 2: Confidential	
Note of the last Commercial Advisory Board meeting	To note the minutes of the Commercial Advisory Board last meeting.
LGA Pay Policy Statement	To review the LGA's Pay Policy Statement
Commercial Advisory Board Project	To bring forward a proposal from the Commercial Advisory Board.
LGA & IDeA Pensions	To explore options around the LGA & IDeA's Pensions
LGA Company Structures	To receive recommendations from the LGA Company Structures Task Group for Leadership Board's agreement.
LGA Constitution	To receive recommendations from the LGA Constitution Task Group for Leadership Board's agreement.
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention.
Local Government House & Layden House Update	To update on the Local Government House & Layden House refurbishment projects

There is no Councillors' Forum or LGA Executive in April due to the local elections.

JUNE

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 7.06.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
LGA Political Balance	To endorse the LGA's 2017/18 proportionality figures as the basis for negotiating the allocation of chairs/vice-chairs and populating member structures.
Vice-Presidents	To approve the Vice President nominations made by the political groups.

Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee's annual report to General Assembly.
Audit Committee Minutes	To note the Minutes of the previous Audit Committee.
LGA Consolidated Accounts	To approve the LGA's financial statements for the year to 31 March for presentation to the General Assembly.
Performance Report	To review the LGA's full year performance report.
Communications Update	To consider communications activity over the past year (3 rd and 4 th quarters).
Annual Conference & Exhibition	To consider progress on the Annual Conference & Exhibition.
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.
Part 2: Confidential	
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit
Local Government House & Layden House Update	To update on the Local Government House & Layden House refurbishment projects

Councillors' Forum 8.6.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
TBC – Education	Rt. Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education & Minister for Women and Equalities, has been invited to address the June Cllrs' Forum. Attendance 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 8.6.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Queen's Speech	To approve the suggested priority Bills for the LGA.
General Assembly Motions	To agree any Motions for recommendation to the 2017 General Assembly.
LGA Political Balance	To note the revised proportionality and the implications for the distributions of seats on governance structures
Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee's annual report to General Assembly
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.

JULY

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 19.07.17

Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Membership, Terms of Reference and future meeting dates	To note the new membership, terms of reference and meeting dates.
Annual Conference & Exhibition	To provide early feedback on the Annual Conference
Future Business Plan Priorities	To provide a steer on the high level priorities for business planning prior to full report in September.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Leadership Board's Review of the Year	To reflect on the work of the Board and its key achievements over the previous 12 months.
Annual Reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups	To note the Annual Reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention.
Local Government House & Layden House Update	To update on the Local Government House & Layden House refurbishment projects

Councillors' Forum 20.7.17

Item	Summary / Purpose
Industrial Strategy	The Rt. Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will speak on the Government's Industrial Strategy and what it means for localities.
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 20.7.17

Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
LGA Boards' Annual Review of the Year	To note achievements against the objectives and deliverables agreed for the year.
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.

SEPTEMBER

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 13.09.17	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Centre for Public Scrutiny	To submit an annual report on CfPS's activity for 2016/17.
Local Partnerships	To submit an annual report on Local Partnership's activity for 2016/17.
Review of Annual Conference	To review feedback from the 2017 Annual Conference.
Autumn Budget Submission	To comment on the Autumn Budget submission to Treasury and commend to Executive for approval the following day.
LGA Business Plan	To agree and recommend the Business Plan to the LGA Executive.
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.
Part 2: Confidential	
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates Retention.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
Local Government House & Layden House Update	To update on the Local Government House & Layden House refurbishment projects

There is no Councillors' Forum in September as the LGA's annual Member Induction takes place instead.

LGA EXECUTIVE 14.09.17	
Summary / Purpose	
Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments	To note membership, terms of reference and appointments to LGA Governance Structures
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.
Part 2: Confidential	
Autumn Budget	To discuss and approve the Autumn Budget submission to the Treasury
Note of LGA Leadership Board Meeting	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting the previous day.
Note of LGA Executive meeting	To agree the note of the last meeting.

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Appendix A: Local Government Association briefing: The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union

February 2017

Key messages

- **Double devolution:** The White Paper states that the Government will 'continue to champion devolution to local government and are committed to devolving greater powers to local government where there is economic rationale to do so.'ⁱ The Local Government Association (LGA) called for this immediately after the referendum. We welcome this approach and will continue to work closely with the local government associations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to develop the detail of 'double devolution' to ensure that powers repatriated from the EU do not stop at Whitehall, Stormont, Cardiff Bay and Holyrood.
- **Local regeneration funding:** Councils welcome the reaffirmation in the White Paper that European funding for local regeneration will be guaranteed up to the point the UK exits the European Union (EU). It is crucial that central and local government now work together to develop a locally driven UK replacement for EU 'regional aid'.
- **Trade:** It is clear from both the Prime Minister's speech on 17 January 2017 and the White Paper that the work to develop new trading links is taking place. Councils have a long track record of building successful European and international relationships that have secured trade and investment, boosted jobs and infrastructure and helped attract visitors up and down the country. Local government therefore has an important role to play in this area.

Background

1. Over the past few weeks, the Prime Minister's speech setting out the Government's 12 negotiating priorities for Brexit,ⁱⁱ the UK Supreme Court's Article 50 judgement,ⁱⁱⁱ and the Government's White Paper on *The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union* have all provided more detail on how Britain will exit from the EU.
2. Building on the LGA briefing of 22 December 2016,^{iv} this note sets out our analysis of the new policy announcements and how we will pursue the needs of local government throughout the Brexit negotiations.
3. Local government holds a range of views about the future of Britain's relationship with the EU and the LGA remained neutral during the referendum campaign.
4. The UK's exit from the EU will have a significant impact at local authority level, creating challenges that will need to be addressed, but also opportunities to do things differently. For instance, the next few years will be extremely challenging for councils who we estimate face an overall £5.8 billion funding gap by 2020 linked to care costs, among other key pressures.^v Meanwhile, Treasury figures

Briefing

indicate a net contribution of £8.5 billion annually to the EU.^{vi} Upon leaving the EU the Government has choices about how any such funds are redeployed. There are clear reasons why they should consider the needs of local communities as these post-exit financial decisions are made.

5. In this briefing, we set out the impact of the recent Supreme Court judgement and the Government's policy statements on our 'seat at the table' and our priority recommendations. We also set out where new LGA work is being developed.

A seat around the negotiating table

6. At our annual conference in July 2016, the Government offered the LGA a place at the negotiating table to ensure that the needs of local government are heard. However, the subsequent legal debate about who could trigger Article 50 meant that there was some uncertainty as to when the conversations on the UK's negotiating positions would take place.
7. On 24 January 2017 the UK Supreme Court ruled in the case of *R (on the application of Miller and another) (Respondents) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Appellant)*. By a majority of eight to three, the court ruled that the UK government could not use the 'royal prerogative' to notify the European Council of its intention to leave the EU under Article 50. Rather, the court stated that a law would have to be passed to authorize Article 50, but the precise form such legislation should take was a matter for Parliament.
8. Shortly thereafter, the Government introduced the two-clause European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill, which seeks to confer power on the Prime Minister to trigger Article 50. Parliament is currently debating the Bill.
9. While the Supreme Court judgement is confined to Article 50, there will be a longer-term role for Parliament in developing and commenting on the negotiating process. This has been confirmed in the White Paper.^{vii}
10. The LGA has a clear position about the risks and opportunities of Brexit for local government. We will work with Government, both Houses of Parliament and councils as we seek to influence the Brexit process and the future of local government outside of the EU.
11. Accordingly, the LGA will continue to brief the Government and Parliament on local government's priority recommendations over the next two years. This process is already advancing well. Following widespread consultation with councils, we circulated a briefing paper to parliamentarians in December 2016 setting out local government's five priority issues for the negotiations. While the legal issues surrounding the Article 50 process have been debated, we have been proactive in communicating these priorities to key stakeholders. For instance: the LGA has presented local government's position to MPs, Peers and the frontbench parliamentary teams. We continue to work closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through regular meetings at officer level. In January, David Jones MP, Minister of State, Department for Exiting the EU, addressed an EU Committee of the Regions

meeting hosted by the LGA. We also continue to work closely with the other UK local government associations following the publication of our joint position statement.^{viii}

Our priority recommendations:

The future autonomy of local government

12. The day after the referendum the LGA set out a public position that responsibilities repatriated from the EU cannot be centralised in Whitehall. It is clear that this view is influencing Whitehall policy.
13. Both the Prime Minister's speech and the White Paper sets out an explicit work stream about the future of devolved powers in Britain and the White Paper was explicit about the devolution of powers to the local level:
 - 13.1. As the powers are repatriated to the UK from the EU, we have an opportunity to determine the level best placed to make new laws and policies on these issues, ensuring power sits closer to the people of the UK than ever before.^{ix}
 - 13.2. We will work with the devolved administrations on an approach to returning powers from the EU that works for the whole of the UK and reflects the interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.^x
 - 13.3. We will also continue to champion devolution to local government and are committed to devolving greater powers to local government where there is economic rationale to do so.^{xi}
14. We are working closely with the local government associations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and we are in discussion with ministers to develop the detail of 'double devolution' to ensure that powers repatriated from the EU do not stop at Whitehall, Stormont, Cardiff Bay and Holyrood.
15. Crucially, just as the context in which the settlements with the devolved administrations was agreed has changed significantly over the last two decades, English local government has seen its responsibilities and functions expand to support economic growth and drive public service reform through the process of negotiated devolution deals. We will be working with our membership and with ministers to ensure that the future autonomy and position of English local government reflects these developments and its unique role in connecting powers and opportunities to people.

Developing a new legal base for local government

16. Many laws of EU origin affect the day job of councils. In the LGA's December 2016 briefing, we set out 10 areas of law where communities would benefit from powers and responsibilities being held closer to the citizen through stronger local government after the UK exits the EU.^{xii}

17. The Great Repeal Bill, which is due to be published in the next Queen's Speech, will transpose all existing EU laws into UK law upon our exit. After we leave, the UK Parliament will then be able to decide which elements of this body of law to keep, amend or repeal.
18. Through the White Paper, we know that the Government intends to 'bring forward a White Paper on the Great Repeal Bill that provides more detail about [their] approach.'^{xiii} We also know that the Great Repeal Bill 'will enable changes to be made by secondary legislation to the laws that would otherwise not function sensibly once we have left the EU.'^{xiv}
19. The LGA has already set out where post-Great Repeal Bill reviews would be of benefit to local communities and we have been briefing MPs and ministers on local government's 'asks' as set out in our December briefing paper. We will be providing more detail of such benefits over the coming months.

Securing investment for local growth

20. Government needs to develop a growth policy which is fully funded to deliver its ambitions post-Brexit. Importantly, we have stated the need for a replacement for EU funding to support infrastructure, enterprise and social cohesion.
21. After much LGA lobbying, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP, announced in October 2016 that local areas with existing EU funding agreements signed off by the time we exit the EU will receive replacement funding once we leave. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid, subsequently reaffirmed this commitment in a letter to the LGA Chairman, Lord Porter of Spalding.^{xv} The White Paper builds on this by making it explicit that this guarantee covers EU funding for local regeneration:
 - 21.1. We recognise the importance to business of having certainty about funding arrangements over the coming years. We have already acted quickly to give clarity about farm payments, competitive grants, including science and research funding, and structural and investment funds.^{xvi}
22. The Industrial Strategy Green Paper published on 23 January 2017 is also explicit about starting work on a UK replacement of EU 'regional aid':
 - 22.1 We will also carefully consider the future of the European Structural and Investment Funds alongside the wider future funding environment following the UK's exit from the European Union.^{xvii}
23. We are currently developing work that will set out the benefits to local communities of funding regeneration schemes delivered at a local level through EU funding, and set out a framework for a UK replacement scheme that is locally driven rather than based on centralised rules from Brussels and Whitehall. This work will be available in the coming months and will be the focus of our lobbying.

24. Many local communities also currently benefit from UK participation in a range of smaller European funding programmes, such as the Horizon 2020, LEADER, URBACT III, Erasmus and INTERREG programmes.^{xviii} The White Paper states that;

24.1 Once we have left the EU... there may be European programmes in which we might want to participate. If so, it is reasonable that we should make an appropriate contribution.^{xix}

25. It is important that central and local government work together to plan how local areas will retain the benefits they currently receive from participation in these programmes post-Brexit.

Community cohesion

26. The LGA's December 2016 briefing set out the role that councils can play as leaders of their place, and the future demand for skilled workers in public services.

27. The White Paper sets out the broad policy framework for future migration and securing the rights of EU nationals in the UK. It emphasises that:

27.1. Implementing any new immigration arrangements for EU nationals and the support they receive will be complex and Parliament will have an important role in considering these matters further. There may be a phased process of implementation to prepare for the new arrangements. This would give businesses and individuals enough time to plan and prepare for those new arrangements.^{xx}

28. Beyond this, the policy detail will be developed through the negotiations. We will follow the negotiations closely from the perspective of the three main policy principles we set out in our December 2016 briefing:

- Strengthening social cohesion, and avoiding social and economic exclusion.
- Ensuring public service standards are maintained through a supply of trained workers for key posts.
- Developing skills in those communities that have felt no benefit from past growth programmes.

Local impacts

29. The risks and opportunities of leaving the EU will be different in different areas of the UK. As such, the LGA has been working with numerous Government departments to ensure that their analysis of Brexit is informed by the different needs of different local areas. The Government's receptiveness to this LGA approach is reflected in the White Paper's acceptance of the principle that:

29.1 [The Government] will need to understand the potential impacts of any proposed changes in all the parts of the UK. So we will build a

comprehensive picture of the needs and interests of all parts of the UK and look to develop a system that works for all.^{xxi}

30. Councils and LEPs have been working with their local communities, universities and businesses to assess the risks and opportunities of Brexit and they have already submitted much place-based evidence.
31. As the Government's negotiating position is now clearer, we will encourage councils and local partners to refresh their evidence to ensure that any new opportunities and risks are being captured and understood by policy makers. For example, it is clear that the Government's negotiating position does not favour general inclusion in the Single Market, yet the White Paper states that the final UK-EU agreement
 - 31.1 May take in elements of current Single Market arrangements in certain areas as it makes no sense to start again from scratch when the UK and the remaining Member States have adhered to the same rules for so many years.^{xxii}
32. Councils should provide evidence of the consequent risks and opportunities of this stance. The LGA is committed to ensuring that this information forms part of the Government's and Parliament's evidence base for decision making. For example, immediately following the referendum we worked with government officials to craft a specific call for information identifying key areas where it would be mutually helpful to feed analysis from local authorities into government work. This was publicised to stakeholders through our regular LGA Brexit bulletin and on the LGA Brexit webpage: www.local.gov.uk/brexit. We have subsequently highlighted key place-based issues to relevant government departments, and will continue to do so. At the same time, we have worked with government officials to organise a series of seminars on the place-based impacts of Brexit that have been held with councils and LEPs across the country. We will continue this programme of seminars in addition to our regular meetings of the LGA Brexit Sounding Board, which brings together chief executives and senior officers from a range of councils.

Trade

33. From the Prime Minister's speech and the White Paper, we know that the work to develop new trading links is taking place. We will be crafting and setting out an explicit local government offer in this debate.
34. Whilst central government has not needed trade skills since 1973 (the year in which the UK joined the European Economic Community) local government has continued to develop close commercial links and 'trade deals' with other parts of the world. Councils have a long track record of building successful European and international relationships. In recent years, these have secured trade and investment, boosted jobs and infrastructure and helped attract visitors up and down the country.

35. Councils play a unique combination of roles in local economic life as promoters of economic development, regulators of standards, and providers of public services. As such, through their international trade work councils have gained valuable experience of how to strike an appropriate balance between competition, regulation and public service standards. We presented these balanced arguments during the development of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the United States of America (USA) – now, in practice, on hold.
36. The White Paper makes no reference to the relationship between trade agreements and public services such as social services and health. There is clearly a role for local government expertise to inform this debate, in partnership with other interested stakeholders such as business and public sector partners. The LGA is now working in more detail to build a balanced evidence base that demonstrates the essential role of councils in securing investment and growing local economies.

ⁱ The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union, 2 February 2017, paragraph 3.8, p.19.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589191/The_United_Kingdoms_exit_from_and_partnership_with_the_EU_Web.pdf

ⁱⁱ The government's negotiating objectives for exiting the EU: PM speech, 17 January 2017, <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-governments-negotiating-objectives-for-exiting-the-eu-pm-speech>

ⁱⁱⁱ UK Supreme Court, R (on the application of Miller and another) (Respondents) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Appellant), 24 January 2017, <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2016-0196.html>

^{iv} LGA Briefing, Local Government and the EU, 22 December 2016, <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5533246/December+2016+-+local+government+and+EU+briefing.pdf/ebabb7b4-2386-47c9-81f8-0a0c6fc0ecea>

^v LGA submission to the 2017 Spring Budget, <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11411/2017+Spring+Budget+-+Local+Government+Association+submission.pdf/d0ad569b-c19e-4202-a223-5331b1deb6a3>

^{vi} HM Treasury, European Finances 2015, December 2015, p.14, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/483344/EU_finances_2015_final_web_09122015.pdf

^{vii} In the same judgement, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland do not need to be consulted in the process of triggering Article 50, and do not have a right to veto Article 50.

^{viii} LGA media release, UK local government leaders unite in Brexit devolution call, 16 November 2016. http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/8044933/NEWS

^{ix} The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union, 2 February 2017, paragraph 3.5, p.18. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589191/The_United_Kingdoms_exit_from_and_partnership_with_the_EU_Web.pdf

^x Ibid., paragraph 3.7, p.19.

^{xi} Ibid. paragraph 3.8, p.19.

^{xii} LGA Briefing, Local Government and the EU, 22 December 2016, Appendix A.

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5533246/December+2016+-+local+government+and+EU+briefing.pdf/ebabb7b4-2386-47c9-81f8-0a0c6fc0ecea>

^{xiii} The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union, 2 February 2017, paragraph 1.4, p9.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589191/The_United_Kingdoms_exit_from_and_partnership_with_the_EU_Web.pdf

^{xiv} Ibid., p.10.

^{xv} Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government letter to LGA Chairman, 25 October 2016.

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11309/Letter+to+Lord+Porter+Octo+2016.pdf/65e06555-daf7-49dd-a98c-cc438ef5755e>

^{xvi} Ibid., paragraph 1.13, p.11.

^{xvii} Building our Industrial Strategy: Green Paper, 23 January 2017, p.114.

https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/supporting_documents/buildingourindustrialstrategygreenpaper.pdf

^{xviii} The full range of smaller EU funding programmes that benefit local communities, along with specific examples of local benefits, is available in the LGA's Guide to EU Funding, July 2015.

http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/6869714/L15_292+Structural+Funds+and+Beyond_v11.pdf/09ee0508-7770-419b-8f46-c572a8cec6b7

^{xix} The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union, 2 February 2017, paragraph 8.51, p.49.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589191/The_United_Kingdoms_exit_from_and_partnership_with_the_EU_Web.pdf

^{xx} Ibid., paragraph 5.10, p.27.

^{xxi} Ibid., paragraph 5.9, p.27.

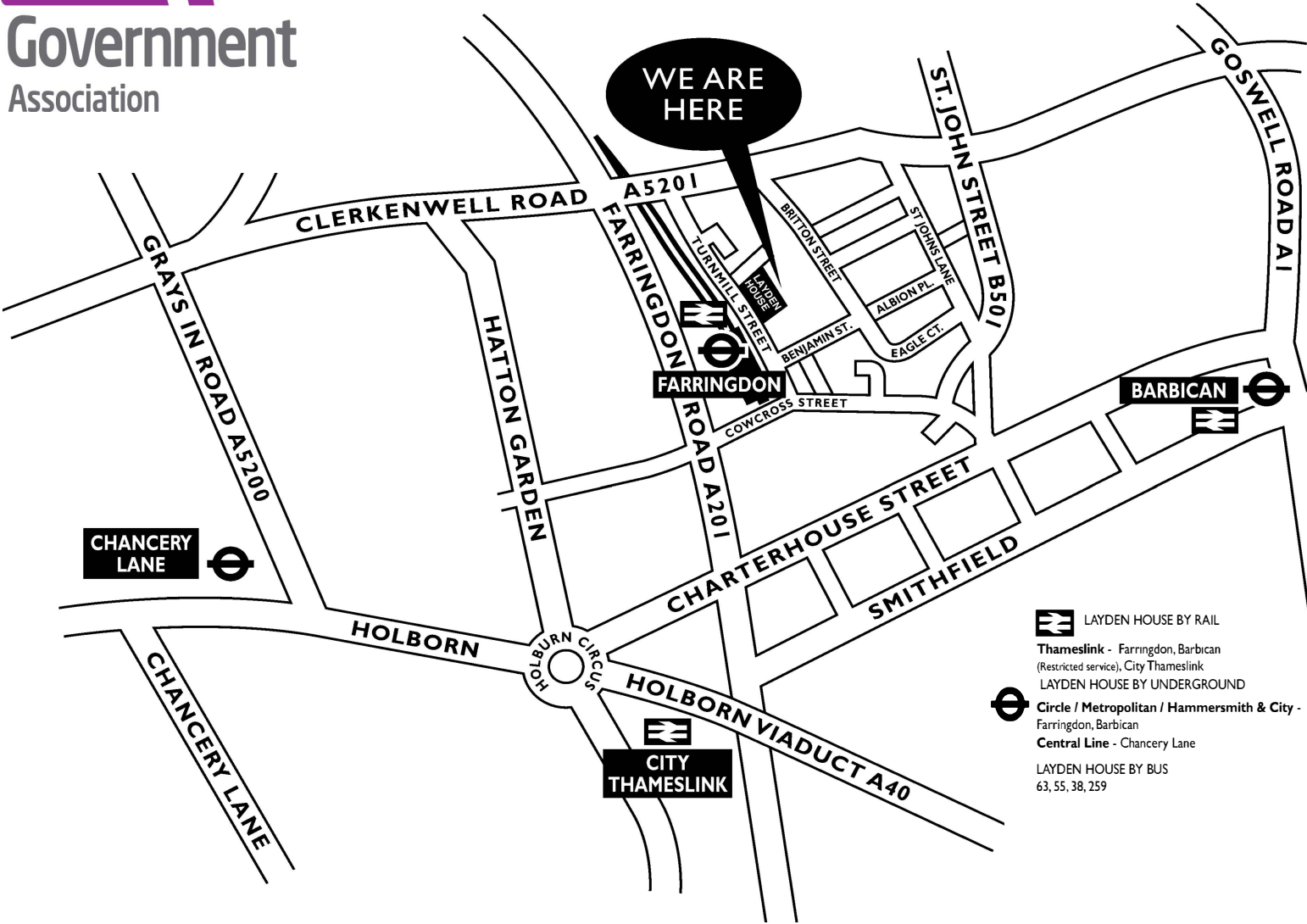
^{xxii} Ibid., paragraph 8.8, p.35.

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-  LAYDEN HOUSE BY RAIL
- Thameslink** - Farringdon, Barbican (Restricted service), City Thameslink
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY UNDERGROUND**
-  **Circle / Metropolitan / Hammersmith & City** - Farringdon, Barbican
- Central Line** - Chancery Lane
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY BUS**
63, 55, 38, 259

Layden House

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 London
 EC1M 5LG

Tel: 020 7664 3000 Fax: 020 7664 3030

**The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment takes place at their offices in Smith Square.*

Public Transport

Layden House is served well by public transport. The nearest mainline station is **Farringdon** (Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines. It also has Overground lines)

Bus routes - Farringdon Station

- 63 - Kings Cross - Crystal Palace Parade (**Stop A/B**)
- 55 - Oxford Circus -High Road Leyton (**Stop E/K**)
- 243 - Redvers Road - Waterloo Bridge (**Stop E/K**)

Cycling Facilities

The nearest Santander Cycle Hire racks are on Theobold's Road.
 For more information please go to www.tfl.gov.uk

Car Parks

- Smithfield Car Park - EC1A 9DY
- NCP Car Park London Saffron Hill - EC1N 8XA