

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 19 January 2017
12.30 pm

5th Floor Conference Suite (South side),
Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,
London, EC1M 5LG

To: Members of the Councillors' Forum
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

www.local.gov.uk

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.

Councillors' Forum
19 January 2017

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 19 January 2017** 5th Floor Conference Suite (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

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

11.00am	Conservative	5 th Floor Conference Suite (South Side)
11.00am	Labour	Rooms A and B (Ground Floor)
11.00am	Independent	5 th Floor Board Room (North Side)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Rooms D and E (Ground Floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in the 5th Floor Board Room (North Side).

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

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

Eleanor Reader-Moore
eleanor.reader-moore@local.gov.uk, 0207 664 3383

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.

Social Media

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

Councillors' Forum – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (41)	
Lord Gary Porter (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr David Hodge CBE	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset County Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Baroness Couttie of Downe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
Cllr Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
Labour (40)	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council

Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Warren Morgan	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr John Clarke	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Tom Beattie	Corby Borough Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Independent (11)	
Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council

Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons	Cornwall Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (9)	
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Mike Bell	North Somerset Council
Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE	Bedford Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Ross Henley	Taunton Deane Borough Council
Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council

Agenda

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 2 March 2017, 12.30 pm, 5th Floor
Conference Suite, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,. London, EC1M 5LG



Councillors' Forum

19 January 2017

The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, will join Councillors' Forum for this item and will discuss issues affecting local government. This session provides an opportunity for councillors to raise questions for the Secretary of State.

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

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The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

1. The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP was appointed Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14 July 2016. He was elected Conservative MP for Bromsgrove in 2010.
2. Mr Javid served as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from May 2015 until July 2016. He was Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from April 2014 to May 2015 and previously he was both the Economic and Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He was a member of the Work and Pensions Select Committee from June to November 2010.
3. Since July 2016, the following key announcements affecting local government have been made. In November 2016, the Autumn Statement included plans to invest in building new homes, plans to invest in flood defences, and a commitment to devolving powers to support some local areas, although the gap in funding for adult social care and the Education Services Grant were not addressed.
4. In December 2017, in the Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18, the Government recognised the LGA's call for the urgent need to help councils tackle some of the immediate social care pressure by bringing forward council tax raising powers, although the flexibility does not fully address the £2.6 billion funding gap facing social care by the end of the decade. The settlement also includes a new one off grant for social care of £241 million in 2017/2018 that has been funded by reductions to the New Homes Bonus scheme. This change actually reduces total funding for 57 social care authorities as compared to the 2017/2018 figures published in the 2016/2017 settlement.

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum: 20 October 2016 – 19 January 2017.

LGA business

- UK Forum – Local Government Associations meeting
- Cllr Ian Stephens, LGA's Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
- District Councils Network assembly
- County Councils Network annual conference
- Cllr Martin Tett – LGA's Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board
- LGA annual Finance conference
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency
- LGA's Labour Vice-presidents lunch
- LGA's Conservative Vice-presidents lunch
- Togethensure
- Dorset Councils meeting with the Rt Hon Sajid Javid (Department for Communities and Local Government)
- NALC conference
- LGA's Independent Group annual conference
- Gillian Guy (Chief Executive) – Citizens Advice
- Cllr Claire Kober (LGA's Resource Board)
- Mendip Council

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

- The Rt Hon Lord Freud (Minister of State for Welfare Reform) – Department for Work and Pensions
- Marcus Jones MP (Minister for Local Government) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Andrew Jones MP (Parliamentary under Secretary of State) – Department for Transport
- The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP (Secretary of State) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom (Secretary of State) – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- The Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP (Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service) - Home Office
- The Rt Hon David Jones MP (Minister of State) - Department for Exiting the European Union

- Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) - Department for Communities and Local Government

Meetings with organisations, individuals, conferences and external events

- Chartered Institute of Housing & Inside Housing parliamentary reception
- County APPG Autumn parliamentary reception
- Universities and the Next Generation reception
- LGiU Cllr awards
- Public Sector Show Manchester
- De Montfort University - David Wilson Lecture
- APPG on pancreatic cancer
- Federation of Master Builders and LGiU report launch
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Traveller Accommodation report launch

Children and Young People Board – report from Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)

Conferences, Meetings and Public Events

1. On Monday 24 October Cllr Gillian Ford (Vice Chair of CYP) gave oral evidence to an All Party Parliamentary Group for Children inquiry into children's social care. She specifically spoke on inspection and accountability.
2. I met with the Children's Commissioner on 1 November, along with Cllr David Simmonds, to discuss the Stability Index that is to be introduced this year to drive improvement in the stability of children in care, including in relation to education and residence. The LGA and ADCS will continue to engage with the Children's Commissioner on the project to make sure that it proves to be a useful tool for councils to make a real difference to children.
3. Cllr Gillian Ford took part in a roundtable discussion on 10 November regarding the future of Family Drug and Alcohol Courts. The meeting was convened by the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, Isabelle Trowler, and considered the benefits of the FDAC approach along with local authority experience of it. The Chief Social Worker will provide further information in due course as to whether, and how, the programme will be rolled out nationally.
4. On 17 November, I met with representatives from the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, including Dr Carol Homden, CEO of foundation, Dr John Simmonds, Director of Coram BAAF and Alan Read, Coram's Whitehall liaison. We discussed their views on ongoing changes in adoption and foster care, especially in regard to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
5. On 24 November, I met with the National Citizen Service Trust. The National Citizen Service (NCS) Bill currently going through Parliament will expand the service further, and this meeting was a positive opportunity to consider how the NCS offer could be adapted to the needs of young people in different areas.
6. On 1 December, Cllr Roy Perry took part in a panel session at the Public Policy Exchange event *Putting Children First: Improving Outcomes for Looked-After Children and Young People*. Cllr Perry contributed to the discussion on a range of topics, including;
 - 6.1. The role of local authorities in promoting the education of looked-after children, including the role of the Virtual School Head.
 - 6.2. The importance of placement stability.
 - 6.3. The need for powers to direct academies and free schools to accept children where this is in their best interests.
 - 6.4. Issues around mental health services for children and young people.

Publications on Children's Health

7. In December 2016 Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board) and I jointly launched two publications on children's health; [Healthy futures: supporting and promoting the health needs of looked after children](#) and [Working to support positive parenting and relationships. What can councils do?](#)

National Children's and Adult Services Conference 2016

8. The LGA Children and Young People Board led a number of successful sessions at this year's NCAS conference which took place at the start of November. Topics covered included emerging research on the effectiveness of different models in driving children's services improvement, life chances and family stability, what works in preventing child abuse and neglect and tackling radicalisation in schools. We also held a lively Education Question Time debate, met with the Children's Minister, Edward Timpson MP and met with the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter.

Isos action research workshops

9. We have held four regional workshops during the last month, focussing on sharing the learning from LGA-commissioned research undertaken by the Isos partnership into improvement in local children's services. These workshops took place in London, Taunton, Manchester and Birmingham and were attended by over 85 members and senior officers.

Children and Social Work Bill

10. The Bill has now reached the [Committee Stage](#) in the House of Commons. The Board has consulted a wide array of stake holder and [briefed ahead of this stage](#). The LGA welcomed the Bill's focus on support for children in care and clarification that proposed freedoms to innovate must only be used where proposals are clearly in the best interests of children. However we also highlighted that new burdens must be fully funded and reflect existing local government expertise.

Early Years National Funding Formula

11. The Board responded to the Government's recent announcement on 1 December regarding EYNFF, highlighting the possible costs of new burdens which are unmet by current increases in funding.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

12. The LGA Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group reports to the Children and Young People's and Community Wellbeing Board. The Government has [confirmed](#) that since 10 October more than 750 children from the Calais camp have come to the UK, including approximately 200 children under the 'Dubs Amendment'. There has been tremendous local and regional as well as national leadership shown in building capacity

for this group of children at pace and at scale. We continue to push for full recovery of costs and for better, more transparent and real time information.

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

Devolution

1. On 17 October, the LGA hosted a well-attended event exploring the benefits of enabling citizens to influence local decision making and service design in the context of devolution. In addition, work commissioned from the New Economics Foundation (NEF) to develop materials that assists councils and combined authorities to engage citizens in devolution was formally launched on the LGA's [DevoHub](#) at the event.
2. I welcomed assurances in the [Autumn Statement](#) that the Government remains committed to devolving powers to support local areas.

Brexit

3. The City Regions and People and Places Boards have jointly developed a set of draft principles regarding the role of English local government in post-Brexit Britain. These were endorsed by Leadership Board in December and have now been [published](#).

Skills and Employment

4. Ahead of Autumn Statement, Cllr Mark Hawthorne and I urged Government to address our concerns with the [Work and Health Programme and devolve greater responsibilities to councils](#). The LGA will continue to push for integrated and localised interventions for jobseekers furthest from the labour market.
5. Working jointly with the People and Places Board, we have commissioned the Learning and Work Institute to model an improved employment and skills system. They will work with a number of councils across the country.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

6. The board continues to support the work of the RSA's independent Inclusive Growth Commission and has submitted its response to the Commission's call for evidence. We look forward to welcoming Charlotte Alldritt, Director of the Inclusive Growth Commission, to attend the January board meeting to discuss the commission's findings and emerging recommendations. The final report will be published in March 2017.

Leading Places project

7. The City Regions and People and Places Boards are working with Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Universities UK to deliver the [Leading Places Project](#): a pilot programme that explores the opportunities for collaborative leadership between the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth. On 21 November, representatives from each of the six pilot areas attended a national event facilitated by the project consultants the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE).

Other Events and Activity

8. The board's Deputy Chairman, Councillor Robert Light, attended the Select Committee on Charities in Parliament on 22 November to give evidence on the role of voluntary organisations and charities within local communities and their relationship with local government.
9. In December, I wrote an article in City AM on [Manchester's Smarter City Strategy](#), which uses new technologies and ways of working to help better understand the needs of Manchester's residents and businesses, and optimise public services to improve how people live, work and play, move, learn and organise.

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Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair)

Autumn Statement and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

1. In the run up to, and following, both the 2016 Autumn Statement and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, I set out the LGA's position on social care funding and the organisation's views on the Government's announcements, giving interviews across national TV and radio and being quoted in the print media.

Evaluation of Integration Self-Assessment Pilots

2. The evaluation of the Integration Self-Assessment pilots has now been completed. The integration self-assessment workshops were very highly evaluated by all of the participating pilot areas and, subject to funding, this will become a core component of the Care and Health Improvement Programme support offer on integration.

Autism

3. Cllr Meldrum attended a special round table on 8 November looking in more depth at issues associated with diagnosing and supporting girls with Autism. She also chaired a very successful LGA event on Autism on 23 November.

Infant and Toddler Forum Study Day 2016: The Childhood Obesity Challenge – Prevention is Action

4. In November 2016, Cllr Jonathan McShane provided the key note address at the 2016 Infant and Toddler Forum Study Day 2016: The Childhood Obesity Challenge – Prevention is Action. The speech provided an opportunity to highlight to health and child care professionals, the different ways in which local councils across England are rising to the obesity challenge.

Workforce

5. On 18 November Cllr Jonathan McShane spoke at a session for senior HR professionals in local government and the NHS exploring the workforce challenges and solutions for effective integration of health and social care.

Supported Housing

6. The Future Funding for Supported Housing consultation was launched on 21 November, and the Community Wellbeing Board debated a paper on the issue at our last meeting. We are holding a consultation engagement event with councils on 11 January to help inform the LGA's response to the consultation. I will also be independently chairing one of four DCLG Task and Finish Groups looking at key issues in the consultation. Reports from these groups will contribute to the Government's Green Paper on Supported Housing, expected in the spring.

Disabilities

7. I gave oral evidence to the Women and Equalities Committee inquiry into disability and the built environment on 23 November, covering a number of issues including the link between the planning system, and the provision of extra-care housing.

Technology and Integration

8. I was invited to speak at a county-wide conference in Hampshire on 30 November on Technology and Integration. I was able to provide participants with a taster of the LGA's new publication on information technology: Transforming social care through the use of information technology, which was formally launched at the NCAS services conference on 2 November.

Calais resettlement completed

9. The LGA Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group reports to the Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People's Board. The Government has [confirmed](#) that since 10 October more than 750 children from the Calais camp have come to the UK, including approximately 200 children under the 'Dubs Amendment'. There has been tremendous local and regional as well as national leadership shown in building capacity for this group of children at pace and at scale. We continue to push for full recovery of costs and for better, more transparent and real time information. If you have any experiences or issues you would like to share for the LGA to raise with government, please email info@local.gov.uk or contact your Regional Strategic Information Partnership. Further information, including the funding available both for children and to build wider capacity, will continue to be placed on www.local.gov.uk/refugees.

Armed Forces

10. The LGA joined the MOD at the annual Armed Forces Covenant event for councils and partners on 1 December. Cllr Meldrum also met with the Shadow Defence Secretary, Nia Griffith MP, on 7 December to discuss veterans and housing. The Chairman of the LGA, Lord Porter, will be speaking in the House of Lords on Monday 9 January on the role of the Armed Forces Covenant in supporting our armed forces community.

Publications on Children's Health

11. In December 2016 I jointly launched two publications on children's health, with Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Children and Young People Board); [Healthy futures: supporting and promoting the health needs of looked after children](#) and [Working to support positive parenting and relationships. What can councils do?](#)

National Children and Adult Services Conference

12. LGA Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members all played an active and vital role in this year's National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester, 2-4 November by it through media work, chairing policy sessions, and speaking at high profile sub-plenaries. Lead Members championed the LGA's and local government's efforts in social care and health and delivered clear messages on the need to: address the funding crisis in adult social care; raise awareness of social care amongst the public; support the development of



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a high quality workforce; and ensure proper and meaningful engagement with local government in the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

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

Libraries

1. I provided the joint foreword to, and welcomed, the publication of 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021' by the Libraries Taskforce in early December. We support the proposals set out in the report and the funding that has been made available to help libraries transform. The joint LGA and DCMS Taskforce was set up to create a vision for the future of library services and prepare them to meet the needs of communities of the future, as well as place them on a more sustainable footing.
2. I will be attending the launch of the Libraries all Party Parliamentary Group on 31 January. This APPG will provide information and opportunities for debate about the important role libraries play in society and their future, as well as highlighting the contribution that a wide variety of library and information services make.

Sport and Physical Activity

3. We continue to work closely with Sport England on the delivery of their strategy 'Towards An Active Nation 2016-2021' to ensure that councils and local partners are central to their plans to tackle inactivity, and to re-balance funding away from national organisations and towards local bodies. I will be meeting with Robert Sullivan, Strategy & Communications Director at the Football Association, on the 17 January to discuss the Parklife football hub programme (which is part of the strategy).
4. On 16 November, Cllr Greg Smith attended the Everyone Active talent development scheme launch of Everyone Active's Sporting Champions, a talent development programme which aims to provide ongoing support for talented athletes across the UK.

Culture

5. I wrote, with Councillor Tett, to Karen Bradley MP, Secretary of State for Culture, to urge her to provide clarity on whether UK cities would still be able to bid to host to the European Capital of Culture in 2023. I am pleased that it has now been announced that the bidding round will launch as planned.
6. I was delighted to meet Diane Lees, Chair of the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC) and Director General of the Imperial War Museum on 15 November. We discussed museums within the current local government context. The LGA and NMDC agreed to keep in touch on key issues such as council funding and supporting museums, and will continue to share good practice.
7. On 31 October, Cllr Mike Bell attended the Historic England Angel Awards. The Angel Awards were founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber and celebrate the efforts of local people who have saved historic buildings and places.

Archives

8. On 29 November and 30 November 2016, Cllr Greg Smith and Cllr Faye Abbott attended National Archives Expert Panels on Resilience and on Demonstrating Impact. The events presented opportunities to collaborate with archive professionals and key stakeholders; and to reinforce the LGA's support for the development of a strong strategic vision for archives as part of the nation's heritage.

Tourism and the Visitor Economy

9. I will be giving evidence on rural tourism at the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee in Parliament on the 11 January, with a specific focus on council and LEP support for/promotion of tourism as a key sector providing rural economic growth.
10. We were delighted to welcome Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE from Visit-England, Patricia Yates from Visit-Britain and Kurt Janson from the Tourism Alliance to the CTS board meeting on the 12 December. This was an excellent opportunity for members to engage with three key tourism organisations and we had an excellent discussion. We will continue to work with these organisations going forward.
11. Cllr Colin Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board meeting on 7 December, which explored the Alliance's contributions to the Tourism Industry Council's work on the impact of Brexit. This is in turn informing the CTS Board's work on this matter.

Historic Anniversaries

12. The Women's Local Government Society (WLGS) is working with Buckinghamshire County Council and the LGA on a national project to mark the centenary of women's suffrage in 2018. Volunteers will find and pay tribute to 100 pioneers who fought for universal suffrage and then participated in public life. Representatives from the WLGS and Buckinghamshire County Council will be meeting with the LGA Chairman and Deputy Chief Executive on the 26 January.

CTS political leadership offer 2016-17

13. I am delighted that the next CTS Annual Conference will take place on 22-23 February 2017 in Bristol. Keynote speakers for 2017 will include: Dame Kelly Holmes DBE, Tracey Crouch MP (Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage) and Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE (Visit-England), Sheila Healey (Arts Council England) and Duncan Wilson (Chief Executive of Historic England).
14. I was pleased to give the introductory presentation at the latest Sport England/LGA Leadership Essentials Sport Programme on 17-18 November 2016. I also spoke alongside Cllr Faye Abbott and Cllr Mike Bell at the Leadership Essentials Culture programme on 8-9 November. Cllr Mike Bell also spoke at the Leadership Essentials Culture programme on the 7-8 December. These events, organised in partnership with Sport England and Arts Council England, support portfolio holders and help councils meet the challenges facing sport and cultural services.

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Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Martin Tett (Chairman)

Conferences, Meetings and External Events

1. On Tuesday 25 October I met with Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, to discuss common priorities between the LGA and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We discussed concerns around connectivity, especially the last 5% of people who don't have access to broadband. I raised the possibility of looking at planning law so that broadband services are automatically included in any new build planning applications, as well as using both cellular and fixed line services to deliver an overall increase in coverage. Concerning litter, I stressed the budgetary pressures around litter and both sides agreed to try and work more closely on this issue. This meeting also included animal welfare, where both parties were keen to ensure that reforms to the animal licensing system reflects council priorities. Officers at the LGA are currently in the process of arranging a subsequent meeting.
2. On Wednesday 2 November I met with the Rt Hon Gavin Barwell MP, Minister for Housing and Planning, to discuss mutual commitments between the Department for Communities and Local Government and the LGA. These included the importance of resourcing planning departments, supporting local authorities to build homes outside their Housing Revenue Accounts, diversifying the types of developers engaged in construction, kick-starting development of those sites which have already received planning permission, developing an accelerated construction plan especially regarding provision of land, as well as the importance of delivering housing for a range of different needs locally. We agreed to continue working together on priority areas, including regular future meetings.
3. On Wednesday 2 November I also met with Bob Gallienne and Jane Smith, respectively the CEO and Head of Public Affairs of the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG), the UK Trade Association which represents utilities and their contractors on streetworks issues. I emphasised the importance councils place on minimising the disruption caused by street works. NJUG wishes to work closely with the LGA to highlight and encourage best practice. I made it clear that I feel the LGA's relationship is that of a critical friend. We share the utilities providers desire to minimise the amount of times that streets are dug up whilst acknowledging that this will be a key challenge given the growth in house building the UK is forecast to see. We must work in more intelligent and more collaborative ways in order to ensure that our roads are not gridlocked by constant streetworks nor our road surfaces destroyed by repeated reopening and reinstatement. It is also incumbent on the utilities sector to ensure that their works reach the right standard first time. There is significant overlap between what councils want to see and what utilities and contractors want. We should work on this common ground in order to ensure that street works are minimised.
4. On Saturday 19 November, Cllr Keith House (Deputy Chair) attended the Politicians In Planning Association Annual Conference in Manchester, where he discussed the impact of the Housing and Planning Act in England.
5. On Tuesday 22 November I met with the Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities. We discussed areas of mutual interest including the environment, rural issues, flooding, air

quality and waste management. It was a positive first meeting and officers at the LGA are currently in the process of arranging a subsequent meeting.

6. On Monday 12 December the LGA hosted 'Homelessness in London: achieving sustainable temporary accommodation solutions', attended by colleagues from local government and the private sector the event sought to facilitate innovation in providing temporary accommodation.

Publication of the LGA Housing Commission

7. The Board has launched the final copy of the [LGA Housing Commission](#) on Thursday 22 December in advance of the Housing White Paper. Following extensive engagement with over 100 partners the final report makes 37 recommendations for how local and national government can work together to: build more of the right homes in the right places; create prosperous and well-functioning economies; help more people into work and to increase their earnings, and; better meet the housing needs of our ageing population.

European Capital of Culture

8. On Thursday 1 December, Cllr Ian Stephens (Chairman of the LGA Culture, Tourism & Sport Board) and I sent a joint letter to the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport. This letter sought clarity on the continuing eligibility of UK cities for European Capital of Culture funding. The Secretary of State has subsequently announced that a nationwide competition to find the 2023 European Capital of Culture has been launched.

Responses to select committees and other consultations

9. The Board has engaged with a range of select committees and other consultations, including:
 - 9.1. Responding to a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs consultation on the implementation of Clean Air Zones in England. This included LGA officers meeting on the 9 November with officials representing the 5 cities and 3 other places that may consider a CAZ on a voluntary basis. This was used to help inform the LGA's response to Defra's consultation.
 - 9.2. The EEHT Board has submitted written evidence to the Transport Select Committee's inquiry on urban congestion. We made the case that councils should have the power to manage street works, introduce the workplace parking levy and enact full implementation of part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.
10. The Board has also provided briefings on a range of Bills passing through Parliament, including:
 - 10.1. **Bus Services Bill** - the Bus Services Bill has now passed through the Lords and has had its first reading in the Commons. The LGA has briefed on the bill throughout its passage through the Lord's and the EEHT Board is in ongoing discussion with the DfT about the guidance and secondary legislation that will enable the bill.

- 10.2. **Homelessness Reduction Bill** - the Homelessness Reduction Bill will likely gain Royal Assent, placing further duties on local government. We have worked hard to remove some elements of the original Bill that would have been unworkable for many councils to deliver. The EEHT Board will continue to push for adequate resources to deliver new duties, and for wider housing and welfare reforms that will be crucial to delivering ambitions to reduce homelessness.
- 10.3. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** - the EEHT Board has briefed MPs in advance of debates on the Neighbourhood Planning Bill as it has worked its way through the House of Commons. We have stressed that the Bill could do more to help the Government achieve its ambitions on speeding up the delivery of new homes and to enable local authorities to deliver responsive planning services through adequate resourcing. The LGA has been quoted widely by MPs in their discussions, including our concerns about the proposed reforms to the use of planning conditions, local development plans and our research on office to residential permitted development rights. Cllr Tony Newman gave evidence at the Public Bill Committee which focused on the provisions of the Bill which restrict the use of pre-commencement planning conditions. He highlighted the LGA's view that the reforms are unnecessary and in addition raised the LGA's call for locally set planning fees. We will continue to work with Parliamentarians to shape the Bill as it works its way through the House of Lords early in 2017.

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Improvement and Innovation Board – report from Cllr William Nunn (Chairman)

Improvement

1. Councils' take-up of our sector-led improvement support offer (peer challenge, leadership programmes, etc) remains strong. We have published [this report](#) to provide details of take-up so far in 2016/17. The report also invites reflections on future support needs to inform our discussions with DCLG.
2. The LGA is working with Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) to encourage councils to opt in to the national scheme for the appointment of auditors. PSAA was set up by the LGA as the Sector Led Body and has been prescribed as the 'appointing person' by the Secretary of State. The LGA supports the national scheme as it provides a cost-effective means to meet Councils' statutory requirement for audit and will ensure a high quality audit service is put in place. Take up is encouraging, with at least 178 bodies having already opted in and a further 80 indicating their intention to do so, and the numbers are increasing on a daily basis. The deadline for response is 9 March.

Leadership

3. Cllrs William Nunn, Michael Wilcox, Richard Wenham, Colin Glover and Ron Woodley attended our Leading Edge Programme Event on 2 and 3 November. Cllrs David Hodge, Tom Fitzpatrick and Neil Clarke from the Executive Board also participated.
4. Some of our Board Members have been amongst those who have participated recently as Leadership Academy programme coordinators or have otherwise been involved in delivering our leadership programmes, or participated in our Finance and Elective Opposition Academies.
5. Cllr Judi Billing compered the Isle of Wight 'Be a Councillor' event in October and will be chairing an event in February to launch our new resources to help councils engage and consult effectively with their communities.
6. The LGA has, with various regional employers' support, refreshed our [Member Development Charter](#), which signifies an authority's commitment to support and encourage member development. More information is available [here](#).

Productivity

7. In November we published this [shared management report](#), which highlights how around 45 English councils in about 20 different partnerships have already delivered savings of over £60 million through sharing a chief executive and senior management team and the associated greater efficiencies. Most of these councils also share at least some services.

Transparency

8. We have upgraded [LG Inform Plus](#) search pages to include new search functionality and new standard reports. Subscribing users can now search through metrics types and

reports by theme and categories. There are also links to new standard reports for that metric type, these shows the metric type as a report in its own right.

Innovation

9. We are inviting councils and organisations to submit their ideas by the end of February of what to showcase in our Innovation Zone at the LGA Annual Conference from 4 – 6 July in Birmingham. Contact jane.marcroft@local.gov.uk if you are interested in showcasing your or others' innovative work.
10. In December we launched a [webpage](#) of case studies from councils that have participated in the 'Design in the Public Sector' programme. The programme teaches participants to use strategic design approaches, such as prototyping and visual techniques, to deliver impact for local communities.

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

Devolution

1. On 17 October, the LGA hosted a major event which explored the benefits of enabling citizens to influence local decision making and service design in the context of devolution - [Shaping Devolution: the role of communities and citizens](#). This was well-attended by members across the sector. In addition, work commissioned from the [New Economics Foundation](#) (NEF) to develop materials that assist councils and combined authorities to engage citizens in devolution was formally launched on the LGA's [DevoHub](#) at the event.
2. In October, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to seek clarity on the Government's approach to devolution in rural areas. Whilst I welcomed assurances in the [Autumn Statement](#) that the Government remains committed to devolving powers to support local areas, board members have raised concerns that devolution to non-metropolitan areas is proceeding at a slower pace than desired.

Skills and Employment

3. Working jointly with City Regions Board, the board continues to make the case for the current employment and skills service to be more integrated and localised and for the sector to benefit from a devolution deal process which offers more freedoms and flexibilities.
4. It is the firm view of both Boards that national agencies such as Jobcentre Plus seldom coordinate their services and align even less with local services, making it difficult to integrate interventions. In 2018, JCP estate contracts are due to expire. The LGA believes this is an opportunity for reform, collaboration and integration to develop a locally relevant employment and skills system. Lead Members last discussed this in November. The project runs from December to July 2017. The Learning and Work Institute has been commissioned to develop it, bringing on board a range of councils.
5. In November, myself and Cllr Sir Richard Leese urged Penny Mordaunt MP to make changes to the [Work and Health Programme](#) national offer (WHP) to better fulfil the commitment to reduce the disability employment gap and reduce long term unemployment. We pointed to significant limitations with Whitehall's approach – large contract areas, limited local involvement (design, commissioning and performance management), employment support alone being wholly insufficient to support people with complex needs, with a markedly reduced funding envelope compared to its predecessor Work Programme – would mean difficult choices of too few people getting support, or too many receiving inadequate support. Given the range of concerns, the LGA was unable to endorse the national offer, and will continue to push for integrated and localised interventions for jobseekers furthest from the labour market.
6. On the 6 December, Cllr Philip Atkins spoke on local government's role in ensuring public sector apprenticeship delivery at Inside Government's Future of Public Sector Apprenticeships Forum. Cllr Atkins discussed the role of local government in building the local economy and growing the workforce of the future by supporting talent pathways.

Leading Places Project

7. With leadership from both the City Regions and People and Places Boards, the LGA is continuing to work with HEFCE and UUK to deliver the [Leading Places Project](#): a pilot programme that explores the opportunities for collaborative leadership between the higher education and local government sectors in support of devolution, public service reform and economic growth.
8. On 21 November, representatives from each of these areas attended a national event facilitated by the project consultants the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE).
9. On 31 January, I will be speaking at Inside Government's *Higher Education Community Engagement Event: Increasing Cooperation Between Higher Education and Local Economies* reflecting on the progress of the project.

Superfast Broadband and Mobile Connectivity

9. I welcomed the announcement in the Autumn Statement of plans for significant investment in 5G technology, which has the potential to make Britain a global leader in mobile digital connectivity. However, I cautioned Government must not lose sight of the needs of rural communities already struggling to receive a basic broadband services.
10. We continue to press these points as part of our lobbying on the [Digital Economy Bill](#) and in responding to DCMS's recent announcement of [further funding for the Superfast Broadband Programme](#) and [Ofcom's Connected Nations](#) report. We look forward to welcoming Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom, to the January board meeting to discuss this issue.

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

Autumn Statement

1. The LGA published an [on-the-day briefing](#) on the key announcements in the Autumn Statement - announced by the Chancellor on 23 November - relevant to local government. The Resources Board also considered a report on its impact on local government finance.
2. The Chancellor confirmed the expenditure totals agreed for local government, though there were no announcements of new funding for local government. The Government reaffirmed its commitment to identify a further £3.5 billion of savings from public spending in 2019/20 following an Efficiency Review. Up to £1 billion of these savings will be reinvested in priority areas. The Efficiency Review will report on progress in autumn 2017.
3. The Chancellor announced a new 100 per cent five-year business rates relief for new full-fibre broadband infrastructure and a permanent doubling of Rural Rate Relief to 100 per cent, both from April 2017. We expect that local authorities will be compensated by grant and for this to be taken into account as part of the reforms for increased business rates retention.

Local Government Finance Settlement

4. The [provisional local government finance settlement](#) for 2017-18 was announced by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, on 15 December 2016. The LGA responded in a [press release](#) and published an [on-the-day briefing](#). The final settlement is expected to be announced in early 2017.
5. The Government did not announce any extra funding for local government. However, councils have been given flexibility to increase the adult social care precept by up to 3 per cent per year in 2017/18 and 2018/19, as long as the overall increase over three-year period to 2019/20 remains limited to 6 per cent.
6. The Government also confirmed the council tax referendum threshold for 'basic' council tax increases (excluding the adult social care precept) would remain at 2 per cent, with additional flexibility for district councils, and Police and Crime Commissioners, with the lowest council tax levels. The Government will not set referendum principles for town and parish councils, but will keep the issue under review.
7. Savings of £241 million from the reform of the New Homes Bonus will be allocated to social care authorities through a new Adult Social Care Support Grant for 2017/18 only. Other changes were made to the New Homes Bonus reducing the number of years it is paid for and introducing a threshold of housing growing to be achieved before the grant will be paid.
8. The provisional settlement also set out the Government's proposed approach to the issues it consulted on in the technical consultation, which closed in October 2016. The LGA [responded](#) to the technical consultation and the Government has published a [summary of responses](#).

Business Rates Retention

9. The provisional settlement confirmed that pilots for further business rates retention will begin in six areas from 2017/18. In return for retaining business rates, they will forego Revenue

Support Grant and a number of funding streams. The Government has committed to the pilot arrangements not impacting financially on non-pilot authorities.

10. The LGA continues to work with the Government on further business rates retention reform, with the LGA's own policy on business rates retention continues to be formulated and refined by the Task and Finish Group of which I am Chair. Recently, the Group has considered papers on councils' responses to the summer consultation, needs indicators and progress of the Fair Funding Review and the impact of the 2017 revaluation, amongst others.

Business Rates Revaluation

11. The LGA [responded](#) to the Government's consultation on transitional arrangements for the 2017 business rates revaluation. We highlighted the continuing impact of business rates appeals on local authorities and repeated our call for the Government to provide sufficient resources to resolve currently outstanding appeals by April 2018.

London Finance Commission

12. Cllr John Fuller (Vice-Chairman) gave oral evidence to the relaunched London Finance Commission, which due to release its final report in early 2017. The session explored fiscal devolution, including business rates and other taxation currently managed at a national level.

EU work stream

13. Our EU work stream lobbying priorities are focusing on the immediate and key local government issues, risks and opportunities, that either Government or Parliament will need to consider when Article 50 is triggered.
14. Our lobbying approach and policy positions to public procurement, state-aid and successor arrangements for EU regional funding were recently discussed and endorsed by both Resources and Leadership Board. The Resources Board's EU Funding Task Group, led by Cllr Clarence Barret (Deputy Chair), has also commissioned new work to drive and lead this important debate. I will keep you updated as this work develops.

Welfare

15. Cllr John Fuller gave oral evidence to the House of Lords Financial Exclusion Committee on 25 October. The committee were particularly interested in the role of councils in providing a local safety net and the ongoing impact of Government reforms to working age welfare benefits. A full transcript of the evidence session is available [here](#).

Come Back to Social Work Programme

16. The first national Come Back to Social Work programme - led by the LGA, Department for Education (DfE) and Department of Health (DH) - is nearing completion, with experienced children's and adults' social workers ready for council interviews in February 2017. The programme has been successful in attracting talented and qualified social workers back into local government and DfE and DH are keen to run further programmes.

Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) Advisory Board

17. The LGPS Advisory Board met on 6 December 2016 and discussed investment pooling as well as receiving an interim report from PwC on the impacts for the LGPS of an increased number of academies. The final report is expected in March 2017. Further details of the Board's discussions can be found [on their website](#).

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

Counter-Extremism

1. Cllr Janet Daby attended the roundtable the Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism, Sarah Newton MP, held with a number of councils the Home Office is working with on countering extremism in mid-December. The roundtable discussed the challenges councils face in tackling extremism, the range of activities councils are undertaking to build community cohesion, and how the new community coordinators could best support this.

FGM

2. The December meeting of the National FGM Centre's Advisory Group, chaired by Cllr Lisa Brett, discussed the support the range of social work support the Centre can offer councils on FGM, the 136 families it has worked with over the last 18 months on behalf of the six pilot councils it is engaged with, and the 5 FGM Protection Orders it has been involved with on behalf of councils. The Group went on to discuss the sustainability of the Centre in 2017/18.

FOBTs

3. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport announced the long-awaited review of gaming review stakes at the end of October, and in our response I raised the concerns councils have about the number of high-stakes fixed odd betting terminals and betting shops on our high streets.

Minibus licensing

4. I warned of the loophole in the law that means people licensed to drive public carriage vehicles – those seating between nine and sixteen passengers – by the DVLA are not subject to criminal records checks. Taxi or minicab drivers who have had their licence taken away or their application refused by councils are able to obtain a public carriage vehicle licence and continue to operate in the same area. Following the LGA raising this issue, the Department of Transport has committed to reviewing the law.

Taxi licensing events

5. A number of Board members supported a series of regional events on taxi licensing. Held in Telford, Gateshead, London and Cambridge, the events highlighted best practice in taxi licensing and focused on the role of members sitting on licensing committees.

Fire and Rescue Services conditions of service

6. Cllr Jeremy Hilton responded to the publication of the long awaited independent review of conditions of service for fire and rescue staff by Adrian Thomas at the start of November. The review had a wide ranging set of recommendations, a number of which were directed at the LGA, including proposals to make the fire service more reflective of the communities it serves. Fire Services Management Committee will be looking at how to build on the work already underway to address the issues identified in the report.

Fire Reform

7. Lead members from the Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) met the Fire Minister Brandon Lewis MP in October to discuss the Government's fire reform agenda. The discussion covered the need to increase diversity within the fire service, improving procurement, the introduction of a new fire service inspectorate and associated changes to the LGA's peer support offer, governance issues and the FSMC's work with the Chief Fire Officer's Association.

Tattooists

8. Safer and Stronger Communities Vice-Chair, Cllr Morris Bright, warned about the dangers of using illegal tattooists in a feature on the issue in the Sunday Mirror.

National Trading Standards

9. Councillor Nick Worth met with Lord Harris, Chair of National Trading Standards, for an update on the work of NTS in tackling regional and national consumer protection issues.

Alcohol licensing event

10. Councillor Joy Allen, one of the Board's licensing champions, gave a speech at an event entitled 'Alcohol licensing: responding to reform.' Cllr Allen reiterated the messages in the LGA's House of Lords Select Committee review into the Licensing Act 2003, arguing that on balance the Act provides a solid basis for regulating alcohol, but setting out our call for a health objective to be added to the Act.

Death, funerals and coroners conference

11. On 1 December, Cllr Morris Bright, chaired the LGA's Deaths, funerals and coroners conference. The programme covered a wide range of issues including funeral poverty, the implementation of the medical examiners service, and the future of the services, pathology and commercialisation. Cllr Ian Gillies, SSCB Bereavement Services Champion, provided the opening address and outlined the work of the LGA on these issues. The conference welcomed approximately 60 attendees and the feedback received so far has been positive.

Public Spaces Protection Orders

12. On 25 October, Cllr Anita Lower attended the launch of a report by the Kennel Club on Public Spaces Protection Orders controlling dogs.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 20 October 2016
Venue: Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 What Next for Housing?

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed members and introduced guest speakers.

Terrie Alafat, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute for Housing, informed members that the Institute were convening roundtables with local authorities and housing associations to discuss working together to address the growing pressure for housing, particularly in the wake of increasing consumer concern with the shortage. She discussed problems with current housing policy, and the past focus on economic growth. She emphasised that a long term strategy to address the problem would be needed, which considered the effects of the economic downturn, complications resulting from a long term undersupply, and issues such as ageing and homelessness. The private sector would be unable to deliver the houses needed alone, and local government could play a role in addressing the problem.

Hugh Ellis, Interim Chief Executive of the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), discussed planning and its function for place making, suggesting that it could be part of the solution to the housing crisis. He advised members of the new communities group the TCPA were running to look at delivery models and emphasised that the private sector could not fill the demand for housing alone. He highlighted the success of early new towns (such as Milton Keynes), and suggested that a new locally led model for towns was needed.

Emma Maier, Editor of Inside Housing, highlighted gaps in development and suggested that local authorities could play a major role in meeting demand for housing. She discussed a number of issues, including the greenbelt, land banking, planning consent, land contamination and problems with infrastructure which required solutions before building could begin. She highlighted the problem caused by uncertainty on whether local government could play a role in delivering housing, and that there was a variance of opinion in the sector on the way forward. Clear leadership could address this problem.

The floor was opened up for questions:

- As the build out rate in some areas was only 10%, members asked how to achieve the remaining 90% within a limited timeframe.
- Members highlighted problems with housing in unaffordable areas of London and the government's focus on the free market.
- Members agreed that local government would need to be involved in building in order to create the volume of housing needed. There was a discussion on how to capture uplift in land value.
- It was emphasised that reliance on Registered Social Landlords had been problematic, since RSLs only managed stock but did not build. It was felt local government had a role to play in delivering housing, and it would be beneficial if authorities could borrow against existing housing stock to assist them with this.
- The demands of an ageing population and the impact this would have on housing was discussed. Increasing pressure on hospitals and care homes meant that many would need to be cared for at home in the future. It was suggested existing housing stock should be adapted to provide for this.
- It was emphasised that new responsibilities delegated to local government would need to be funded.

The debate was closed.

2 Chairman's Update

Members **noted** the Chairman's report.

3 LGA Boards Chair's Reports

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

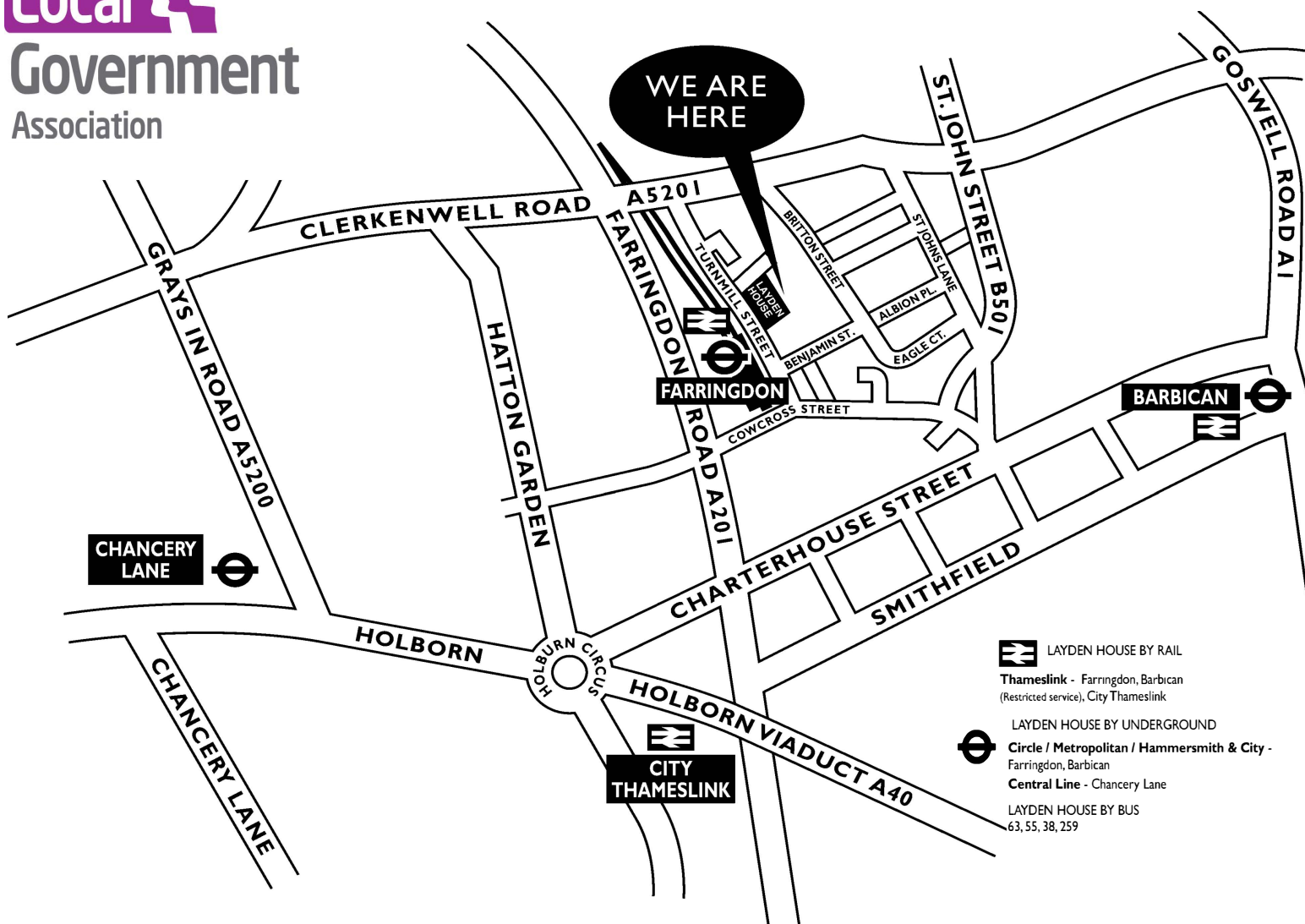
4 Digest of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate summary of the discussion.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman Vice-Chairman Deputy-chairman	Lord Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
Members	Cllr David Hodge Cllr Gillian Brown Cllr Roger Phillips Cllr Robert Light Cllr Peter Fleming OBE Cllr Colin Noble Cllr Izzi Seccombe Cllr Paul Bettison OBE Cllr Morris Bright Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick Cllr Nigel Ashton Cllr Glen Sanderson JP Cllr Tony Jackson Cllr Rory Love Cllr Simon Henig CBE Cllr Simon Blackburn Cllr Michael Payne Cllr John Merry CBE Cllr Sue Woodward Cllr Bryony Rudkin Cllr Helen Holland Cllr Linda Thomas Cllr Tudor Evans OBE Cllr Alan Rhodes Cllr Andy Moorhead Cllr Amy Cross Cllr Peter Reeve Cllr Bob Dutton OBE Cllr Alan Seldon Cllr Howard Sykes MBE Cllr Ian Stephens	Surrey County Council Arun District Council Herefordshire Council Kirklees Metropolitan Council Sevenoaks District Council Suffolk County Council Warwickshire County Council Bracknell Forest Borough Council Hertsmere Borough Council North Norfolk District Council North Somerset Council Northumberland Council East Herts Council Shepway District Council Durham County Council Blackpool Council Gedling Borough Council Salford City Council Staffordshire County Council Suffolk County Council Bristol City Council Bolton Council Plymouth City Council Nottinghamshire County Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Blackpool Council Cambridgeshire County Council Wrexham County Borough Council Herefordshire Council Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr David Simmonds CBE Cllr John Beesley Cllr Simon Cooke Cllr James Jamieson Cllr Neil Clarke MBE Cllr Rebecca Knox Baroness Couttie of Downe Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE Cllr Paul Carter CBE Cllr Keith Glazier Cllr Peter Golds CBE Cllr Kevin Bentley Cllr William Nunn Cllr John Fuller	Hillingdon London Borough Council Bournemouth Borough Council Bradford Metropolitan District Council Central Bedfordshire Council Rushcliffe Borough Council Dorset County Council Westminster City Council Gloucestershire County Council Kent County Council East Sussex County Council Tower Hamlets Council Colchester Borough Council Breckland Council South Norfolk District Council

Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
OBE	
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Cllr Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire County Council
MBE	
Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Mike Bell	North Somerset Council
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council
MBE	



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**The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment works take place at Local Government House in Smith Square.*