

# Councillors' Forum

## Agenda

Thursday, 2 March 2017  
12.30 pm

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

**To:** Members of the Councillors' Forum  
**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 4<sup>th</sup> floors. An induction loop system is available in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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  
2 March 2017

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There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 2 March 2017** 5th Floor Conference Suite, (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm.

**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 as follows.

- 11.00am – Conservative, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Suite (South Side)
- 11.00am - Labour Rooms, A and B (Ground Floor)
- 11.00am - Independent, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room (North Side)
- 11.00am - Liberal Democrat, Rooms D and E (Ground Floor)

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.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: <a href="mailto:Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk">Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

**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](mailto: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
<b>Conservative ( 41)</b>	
Lord Gary Porter CBE (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 Coultie of Downe Philippa Coultie	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	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 Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council

<b>Labour ( 40)</b>	
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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
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
Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council

<b>Independent ( 11)</b>	
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
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 9)</b>	
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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
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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### Councillors' Forum

Thursday 2 March 2017

12.30 pm

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

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 8 June 2017, 12.30 pm, 5th Floor  
Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill  
Street,. London, EC1M 5LG





## **The Health and Social Care Agenda for Local Government**

### **Purpose**

As background to the discussion.

### **Summary**

David Mowat MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care, will join Councillors' Forum for this item and will discuss issues affecting local government, in particular the future of adult social care, councils' role in promoting public health and partnership working with the NHS on the delivery of Sustainability and Transformation Plans. This session provides an opportunity for councillors to raise questions for the Minister.

A biography is attached at **Appendix A**.

### **Recommendation**

That LGA Cllrs' Forum note the presentation and raise issues from a local government perspective.

### **Action**

Officers will take forward actions identified.

**Contact officer:** Alyson Morley  
**Position:** Senior Adviser (Health Transformation)  
**Phone no:** 0207 664 3230  
**Email:** alyson.morley@local.gov.uk

## **The Health and Social Care Agenda for Local Government**

### **Background**

1. Health and social care issues have consistently been at the forefront of policy agenda for the LGA and feature prominently in our corporate priorities. The LGA's Business Plan December 2016 to November 2017 includes the following priorities:
  - 1.1. Promoting health and wellbeing to work with councils to support their citizens to live healthy, active lives and to remain at home and independent for as long as possible.
  - 1.2. Creating a Social Movement for Social Care to demonstrate the importance of social care to the public, with the aim of pushing it further up the political agenda and making the case for sustainable funding.
2. This session presents an important opportunity for the Under Secretary of State to discuss with councillors a wide range of health and social care issues affecting local government. The key issues for LGA are summarised below.

### **Funding for adult social care**

3. The Local Government Finance Settlement, published on 20 February has confirmed that the Government will not provide any new funding for councils in 2017/18. The LGA Chairman has said that this is "hugely disappointing". The LGA submission to the 2017 Spring Budget emphasised the urgency of the situation facing adult social care, a funding gap of at least £2.6 billion by 2020. The LGA emphasised that it cannot be left to council taxpayers alone to meet the funding gap. It is essential that genuinely new funding is invested in adult social care.
4. The LGA has found the almost all councils will make use of the council tax precept flexibilities in 2017/18 but increasing council tax raises different amounts of amount in different parts of the country. Overall councils will be no better off in terms of annual income by 2019/20. Cuts to the New Homes Bonus funding will result in the majority of councils having to find millions more in savings than expected next year. It is imperative that the Government now uses the Spring Budget to take urgent steps to improve the immediate funding outlook for local government and secure its financial sustainability in the long-term.
5. The Government has paved the way for meaningful change to happen with its new review of care and health. This must identify long-term solutions and resist the temptation of providing further incremental short-term fixes. The scale of the pressure facing adult social care, and its implications for older and disabled people, demands bold thinking.

### **The future of integration**

6. The Care Act 2014 places a duty on councils to promote integration and health and wellbeing boards have a duty to encourage integrated working. But integration is not an

end in itself. It is a means of improving the health and wellbeing outcomes of citizens by joining up services and making the best use of public resources. The LGA has a long-held commitment to support councils and their health partners to significantly escalate the scale and pace of integration of health and social care.

7. In June 2016, we published “Stepping up to the place: the key to successful integration” with the NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. It sets out our system-wide vision for a fully integrated health and care system. In July 2016, we followed this up with a self-assessment framework for local system-leaders to assess their own readiness to drive forward integration. The facilitated integration workshops, which use the tool are now part of our Care and Health Improvement offer to councils and their health partners. We have already successfully piloted it in nine areas and we aim to roll out the workshops as a key component of our support offer throughout 2017/18.
8. The £5.3bn Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced by the Government in the June 2013 spending round, to ensure a transformation in integrated health and social care. It creates a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to shift resources into social care and community services for the benefit of the people, communities and health and care systems.
9. In some places the BCF has provided an impetus to joint working and in many it has supporting existing joint work. The way in which the fund was set up from existing funding streams, however, along with financial pressures in both CCGs and councils as well as the complexity of the conditions attached to the fund means that in some places the impact has been less positive. Since its introduction in 2015, the LGA has worked closely with NHS England and the government departments to ensure that the BCF continues to meet its original objectives.
10. We are currently working with our national partners to support local health and care systems to improve BCF and to agree how areas can graduate from the Better Care Fund. It is the LGA's ultimate aim for all areas to reach a level of integration that no longer requires national mandation, but until then, we recognise the continuing contribution of BCF.

### **Public Health**

11. Councils and their public health teams have been innovative in finding ways of meeting their public health responsibilities despite reductions in the ring-fenced public health grant. They have formed partnerships with the local NHS and voluntary sector, sharing public health initiatives and sometimes even public health teams across councils, decommissioning services that aren't effective and recommissioning services in order to achieve more with less.

12. We continue to press for properly resourced public health services across the country. The return of public health to local government is welcome but it is difficult to embed it fully within councils while continually retrenching to make budget reductions.
13. Public health has huge potential to turn the growing tide of long term conditions facing health and social care. Many councils are beginning to change services to help people live healthy lives with less dependence on acute health and care services and reduce the burden of long-term ill-health on the public purse.

### **Sustainability and Transformation Plans**

14. STPs (Sustainability and Transformation plans) are part of a new planning framework for NHS services. Announced in the NHS planning guidance in December 2015, STPs are strategic, multi-year plans running to March 2021 which aim to address the three major challenges facing health and care systems: health and wellbeing; quality and safety; and finance and efficiency. Across England there are 44 STPs that cover the full range of health services, from primary care to specialist services, with an expectation that they also cover local government provision. All 44 areas submitted detailed plans in October 2016 and they have all now been published.
15. The LGA has worked hard to ensure that STPs provide an opportunity to strengthen local relationships across the health and care services to develop clear plans to transform health and care. They also have huge potential to reshape and integrate health and care services for the benefit of local communities. Lastly, STPs can identify the totality of the health and social care funding gap and support partners to work together to improve quality, service user experience and outcomes, and provide value for money.
16. However, while we strongly support the principles of STPs the LGA has expressed concerns about how the STP process has been implemented in some areas, in particular the lack of meaningful engagement with elected members and local communities. Looking to the future, the LGA has called for the leadership of STPs to give priority to the following issues:
17. Meaningful political engagement is essential to ensure that STPs build on existing place based strategies such as joint health and wellbeing strategies and better care fund plans. STPs will also need to demonstrate to political leaders how STPs will achieve the triple challenge of improving health and wellbeing outcomes, improving the quality and safety of services and ensure the finance sustainability of the health and care sector.
18. It is crucial that there is an 'honest conversation' with the public on the challenges facing the NHS and the changes that need to happen in order for STPs to deliver the objectives of the Five Year Forward View. Councils have a long track record in public engagement and a wide reach into their communities. They are best placed to advise on early and effective public engagement to support development and implementation of STPs. Integration must be a core component STPs, with each area including their aspirations for integration of health and social

## **Appendix A**

### **David Mowat MP**

#### **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care**



David Mowat was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care at the Department of Health on 17 July 2016. He was elected as the MP for Warrington South in May 2010.

David was educated at Lawrence Sheriff School and then studied engineering at Imperial College London. After graduating, David qualified as a chartered accountant. He joined the consultancy firm Accenture where he became a global managing partner.

Prior to his election to Parliament, David served as the chairman of Fairbridge, a charitable organisation in Salford which helps to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people. David also served as a councillor on Macclesfield Borough Council from 2007 to 2008.

Before he arrived at the Department of Health, Mr Mowat was previously: Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury from 2012 to 2016, a member of the Scottish Affairs Select Committee from 2010 to 2012, a member of the Joint Select Committee on the draft Financial Services Bill, a trustee of the House of Commons Pension Fund and on the Board of the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (non-partisan body on science and technology within Parliament).





## **Chairman's Update**

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum: 20 October 2016 – 2 March 2017.

### **LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business**

- Cllr Claire Kober (Resources board) – LGA
- Cllr Martin Tett (Environment, economy, housing and transport board) – LGA
- UK Forum (LGA, WGLA, COSLA, NIGLA)
- Women's Local Government Society
- European Committee of Regions UK delegation AGM
- Markku Markkula (President) – European Committee of the Regions
- Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP (Secretary of State) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Marcus Jones MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Local Government) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Andrew Jones MP (Parliamentary under Secretary of State – Department for Transport)
- Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Parliamentary Under Secretary) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP (Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service) – Home Office
- Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP (Secretary of State) – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Rt Hon David Jones MP (Minister of State) – Department for Exiting the European Union
- Gavin Barwell MP (Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Minister for London) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Parliamentary Under Secretary) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- UK LG associations (LGA, WLGA, COSLA, NILGA) meeting with Rt Hon David Jones MP (Minister of State) – Department for Exiting the European Union

### **Meetings with organisations and individuals**

- Dorset meeting with the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP (Secretary of State) – Department for Communities and Local Government
- Marc Vlessing (CEO) – Pocket Living
- Alan Ward, (Chairman) – Residential Landlords Association

### **Events and speaking engagements**

- CIH & Inside Housing parliamentary reception
- County APPG autumn parliamentary reception
- LGiU Councillor awards
- University of Lincoln parliamentary reception

- LGA Conservative Group Vice Presidents lunch
- LGA Labour Group Vice Presidents lunch
- LGA Independent Group annual conference
- LGA Independent Group Vice Presidents lunch
- CCN annual conference
- LGA staff conference
- DCN Assembly
- Localis report launch
- APPGPC meeting on pancreatic cancer treatments
- Public Sector Show
- APPG for the Private Rented Sector
- NALC Larger Councils conference
- De Montfort University David Wilson lecture
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation's report launch - Gypsy/Traveller Accommodation
- Federation of Master Builders and the LGiU housing report launch
- LGA annual finance conference
- CFI Parliamentary Reception
- Holocaust memorial Day 2017 UK commemorative ceremony
- LGA's parliamentary finance briefing
- Local Government APPG
- DCN annual conference

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

### **Conferences, Meetings and Public Events**

1. I jointly chaired the last meeting of the LGA/ADCS/Solace Children's Improvement Board, which took place on the 24 January. Discussions focussed on developing a sector response to the National Audit Office 'Children in Need of Help or Protection' report, and the effectiveness of the Department for Education's 'Partners in Practice' programme. The Board also received a presentation from the Isos partnership on an LGA-commissioned project looking at the role of different delivery models in driving improvement in children's services.
2. Cllr Roy Perry gave a keynote presentation at an Inside Government 'Children's Services Inspections: Raising Standards, Improving Outcomes' conference on 25 January. His speech focussed specifically on how different agencies can integrate and work together to improve outcomes for children.
3. Cllr Gillian Ford attended the London stakeholder event for the new Home Office funded Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, led by Barnardo's. The Centre aims to help bring about significant and system-wide change in how child sexual abuse is responded to locally and nationally, by identifying, generating and sharing high quality evidence of what works to prevent and tackle CSA and child sexual exploitation. The LGA is a core partner on the Centre's advisory board, and is helping to shape its priorities over the coming years.
4. Cllr Gillian Ford attended the fourth meeting of the Expert Working Group on improving mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children and young people in care. The overall aim of the project is to ensure that the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people in care, those adopted from care or under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), and care leavers are better met. The aspiration is that in the future, children and young people in care will have access to high-quality services, based on a clear assessment of need, from a range of professionals working across agencies.

### **Special Meeting on Children and Young People's Mental Health**

5. I attended a Special Meeting on Children and Young People's Mental Health with Lead members of the Community Wellbeing Board and Children and Young People Board on 23 February to learn more from a number of speakers on key issues for children and young people's mental health. Speakers included The Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, young people who have experience of mental health and wellbeing services and Pooky Knightsmith, Vice Chair of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition. Members used the session to determine next steps and activities in relation to children and young people's mental health across both Boards, including an LGA campaign to raise awareness of key issues.

### **Roundtable discussion with the Schools Minister**

6. I participated in a roundtable discussion with the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, on 19 January on the proposed introduction of a national funding formula for schools.
7. I raised concerns about the proposed timeline for introducing the new national formula, specifically around the one year of the transitional or 'soft' formula in 2018-19, before the introduction of the 'hard' formula in 2019-20, which will be challenging for all schools, but particularly for those facing a reduction in funding. I also questioned the introduction of the proposed 'top-slice' for additional school improvement support in 2018-19 and its effectiveness in freeing up sufficient funding at a local level; we do not believe that schools will be willing to fund council duties from their own budgets.

### **Publications on Children's Health**

8. In February 2017 Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board) and I jointly launched a publication on children's health: [Improving outcomes for children and families in the early years: a key role for health visiting services.](#)

### **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

9. More than 750 children have come to the UK from the Calais camp since 10 October 2016. While the majority of these children were reunited with family under the Dublin Treaty, approximately 200 children were placed in local authority care under the "Dubs Amendment". Approximately 150 children are expected to follow before the end of March, at which point the Government has indicated that it intends to end the Dubs Scheme. Councils continue to demonstrate tremendous leadership at a local, regional and national level in resettling these children, and the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children living in England increased by more than 50 per cent to over 4,000 in the last year. Further information, including the enhanced funding available both for individual children and to build wider capacity, will continue to be placed on the LGA website, and we continue to push for full recovery of costs and for better, more transparent information.

### **Children and Social Work Bill**

10. The Children and Social Work Bill has now reached Report Stage in the House of Commons. The LGA has briefed actively throughout, and we have achieved a number of important concessions. In particular, we argued strongly that applications for powers to test new ways of working should always be council-led, allowing local authorities to make decisions based on the needs of local children and young people that they know best. We are therefore pleased that government has removed provisions that would have allowed the Secretary of State to make these decisions on behalf of local authorities in intervention. We are also pleased that the Government has listened to our concerns and made clear that these powers can only be used where the proposals are clearly demonstrated to be in best interests of children.
11. The LGA has also secured important concessions in relation to social work regulation. The LGA previously raised concerns that the new social work regulator proposed in the Bill would not have the guaranteed independence necessary to balance the needs of the

public, requirements set by government, the interests of the profession, and the organisational requirements of employers who will have overall management responsibilities. We are pleased the Government has addressed these concerns, but much will depend on how the regulator operates in practice.

12. Other important clauses in the Bill concern corporate parenting principles, a local offer for care leavers, care planning and new flexibilities around multi-agency safeguarding partnerships and serious case reviews. All the LGA's briefings on this Bill are available [here](#).

### **Press Releases and Statements**

13. I have recently made public statements on the [Family and Childcare Trust's survey into the Government's 30 hours free childcare offer](#), [the Fostering Network 'State of the Nation's Foster Care 2016' report](#) and [the Government's announcement of a £40 million package to tackle child sexual abuse and trafficking](#).

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

### **Brexit and the Industrial Strategy**

1. In light of the Government's recently published Modern Industrial Strategy and with a steer from the City Regions Board, the LGA has commissioned research into the development of a strengthened sub-national trade and investment policy.
2. The City Regions and People and Places Boards have recently considered a set of draft principles to guide work on the future autonomy of local government as part of the LGA's co-ordinated response to Britain's impending departure from the European Union. In December, these were endorsed by Leadership Board and circulated to Parliamentarians.

### **Skills and Employment**

3. With the People and Places 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, and has commissioned research on a public employment and skills service.
4. The City Regions, People and Places, and Community Wellbeing Boards and Cllr Claire Hudson, lead portfolio holder of the Resources Board, jointly submitted a response to the wide-ranging Green Paper on Work, Health and Disability.

### **Leading Places Project**

5. On 28 March, representatives from each of the pilot areas and delegates from councils and higher education institutions will attend the national conclusion event for the first pilot phase of the Leading Places programme, facilitated by the consultants the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE). The event will showcase the work of the six pilot partnerships, conclude their formal involvement with the project and introduce Leading Places Phase Two.

### **RSA Inclusive Growth Commission**

6. I was pleased to welcome Charlotte Alldritt, Director of Public Services and Communities at the RSA, to speak at the January board meeting on the recent activity of the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission, which the City Regions Board is supporting. Building on the evidence gleaned from a series of roundtable discussions as well as the formal call for evidence, the Inclusive Growth Commission's final report with recommendations will be launched on the 7 March. Board members will attend this event after the City Regions Board Meeting.

### **IPPR Research:**

7. The board will be supporting a research project to examine gender representation in local government as devolution progresses conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research. The research will compare countries that have devolved political

systems, how they perform on gender diversity measures and their strategies and activities to improve representation. It will make recommendations for what political leaders in local government and national government and other key actors can do to help build a stronger pipeline of female talent.

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## **Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chairman)**

### **Conferences, Meetings and External Events**

1. On 19 January Cllr Richard Kemp and Mayor Cllr Kate Allsop represented the Community Wellbeing Board at a meeting with Board Members of NHS Clinical Commissioners to discuss future joint working.
2. On 26 January, Mark Lloyd and I met Stephen Dorrell, Chair of NHS Confederation and Niall Dickson, the newly appointed Chief Executive of NHS Confederation to discuss the scope for future partnership working.
3. On 8 February the LGA hosted a meeting of partners across the social care and support sector to progress discussions on a new social movement/campaign for adult social care. The aim of the campaign is to secure a more sustainable settlement for social care in the next Spending Review in 2020. By having a long lead-in time, and harnessing the voices of the entire sector - most particularly people with lived experience - the intentions are to: raise awareness of what social care is and why it matters; highlight the importance of quality in the sector; and be clear about the scale of funding pressures facing the system and their impact. A further meeting is being planned to maintain momentum on this important piece of work.
4. On 15 February, I addressed the East Midlands Councils to give views on the challenges facing local health and care systems.

### **Suicide Prevention**

5. Cllr Richard Kemp gave evidence at the [Health Committee Inquiry into suicide prevention](#) on 21<sup>st</sup> January, highlighting that 95 per cent of councils now have a suicide prevention strategy in place. Cllr Kemp also spoke at the National Suicide Prevention Conference on 7<sup>th</sup> February on the role of local government in suicide prevention.

### **Supported Housing**

6. We held a very successful consultation engagement event with 60 councils on 11 January, helping to inform the [LGA's response](#) to the future funding of supported housing consultation, which we submitted in good time for the deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> February. I also independently chaired the first DCLG Task and Finish Groups on roles and responsibilities with regards to the future of supported housing on 26<sup>th</sup> January at the Chartered Institute for Housing. I chaired the second of three meetings on 16 February here at the Local Government Association.

### **Work and Health Unit Green Paper**

7. We submitted a response to the Work and Health Unit's '[Work, Health and Disability Green Paper](#)' on 17 February.
8. The Green Paper has significant cross-over with issues around mental health and adult social care.

### **Publications**

9. In February 2017 Cllr Richard Watts (Chair of the Children and Young People Board) and I jointly launched a publications on children's health; [Improving outcomes for children and families in the early years: a key role for health visiting services](#).
10. In February 2017 I launched a publication on health and wellbeing; [Working with faith groups to promote health and wellbeing](#).

### **Discussion with MIND**

11. Chief executive of MIND, Paul Farmer CBE, came to speak with members of the Community Wellbeing Board on 16 February. Paul led the NHS 5 year forward view mental health taskforce work and has now been asked by the Prime Minister to lead on a new project looking at employment and mental health. Paul was very positive about the broad role that councils play on mental health and mental wellness, and offered his supported in the development of a new LGA report on mental health and councils.

### **Special Meeting on Children and Young People's Mental Health**

12. I chaired a Special Meeting on Children and Young People's Mental Health with Lead members of the Community Wellbeing Board and Children and Young People Board on 23 February to learn more from a number of speakers on key issues for children and young people's mental health. Speakers included The Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, young people who have experience of mental health and wellbeing services and Pooky Knightsmith, Vice Chair of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition. Members used the session to determine next steps and activities in relation to children and young people's mental health across both Boards, including an LGA campaign to raise awareness of key issues.

### **Press Releases and Statements**

13. We have recently made public statements on reports by the [All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health](#), [Royal Society of Medicine linking 30,000 excess deaths in 2015 to cuts in health and social care](#), [Age UK on the health and care of older people](#), [NHS England on delayed transfers of care figures](#), [Office for National Statistics figures on alcohol-related deaths](#) as well as the [National Audit Office report on health and social care integration](#).
14. 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.
15. The LGA has warned that the Care Act faces failure unless government announces new money for social care, as part of the association's Budget submission to the Treasury. I was interviewed live on LBC and Cllr Jonathan McShane also appeared on Good Morning Britain to discuss this further, more information on this can be found [here](#).



**Councillors' Forum**

2 March 2017

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

### **Libraries**

1. We continue to support the proposals set out in the report 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021' by the Libraries Taskforce to ensure funding is 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.

### **Sport and Physical Activity**

2. Working closely with Sport England on the delivery of their strategy 'Towards An Active Nation 2016-2021', we are ensuring 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.
3. I met with Robert Sullivan, Strategy & Communications Director at the Football Association, on the 17 January, to discuss the Parklife football hub programme and the common goals between local government and the FA, including encouraging more people to take up the playing of sport.
4. I also responded to the CLG select committee on public parks, published on 11 February. This made some welcome recommendations about not putting parks on a statutory footing, supporting alternative models of delivery, and councils' ability to charge for some types of park use. However, I cautioned against proposals to require councils to publish formal strategies on parks.

### **Culture**

5. Cllr Faye Abbott attended the British Board of Film Classification's meeting on the 10 February as the CTS board's representative. The board watched the film ELLE and discussed classifying depictions of sexual violence.
6. I will be attending the launch of Coastal Culture Network in Parliament on 27 February. This network will help connect arts and cultural organisations, local authorities, Coastal Community Teams and others to increase the number of cultural events and activities taking place in seaside towns. It will share information and opportunities, and encourage the role of culture in regeneration.
7. I will be launching a new publication on the role of culture in placemaking at the CTS conference on 23 February. This publication, jointly developed with the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association, showcase ten examples of where councils have used arts and culture to tackle key local problems, such as homelessness, civic engagement, skills and public health.

### **Tourism and the Visitor Economy**

8. Cllr Paul Bettison gave 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. He advised the Committee of the need for councils to have access to the right powers in order to create the conditions for the growth of the visitor economy - one of the country's fastest growing sectors.

9. Cllr Colin Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board meeting on 30 January, which explored a number of key issues currently impacting the tourism industry. In particular, there has been a focus on the possible implications of the exit from the European Union, coupled with an analysis of the positive figures from last quarter's visitor numbers.

### **Historic Anniversaries**

10. 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 met with the LGA Chairman and Deputy Chief Executive on the 26 January. The project's website will launch on the 8 March (International Women's Day).

### **CTS political leadership offer 2016-17**

11. 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).

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

### **Ministerial Meeting**

1. On Tuesday 21 February I met with the Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities following our previous meeting in November. The meeting was focussed on discussion of urban recycling rates and how they can be improved. Many thanks to all the Board members who provided me with feedback in preparation for the meeting.

### **The Road ahead for Buses**

2. This week the LGA hosted and I chaired 'the road ahead for buses'. A conference examining the future for the bus industry and local government's role in supporting bus services. We heard from the DfT on the latest developments with the Bus Services Bill which will give councils new powers as well as forcing bus operators to open up more data. There was also discussion of how buses will fit in with new developments in transport technology like connected and autonomous vehicles. Authorities from around the country shared what they have been doing to drive growth in bus passenger numbers. Details of the presentations can be found on the LGA events pages.

### **National Infrastructure Commission**

3. The LGA has been engaging with the National Infrastructure commission and their work on producing the National Infrastructure Assessment. The National Infrastructure assessment will be produced for parliament and will outline the long term infrastructure needs of the country.
4. We have recently responded to a call for evidence providing Local Government's perspective on a wide variety of infrastructure sectors. We have urged the Commission to consider how greater devolution of funding and greater power for councils can reduce the need for large capital intensive schemes and ensure that the country's infrastructure is well maintained and used as efficiently as possible.

### **Highways England**

5. The LGA has contributed to Highways England's discussion paper The Road to Growth. It is part of their commitment to publish a strategic economic growth plan for maximising the economic contribution of the Strategic Road Network. It highlighted the key roles the network plays in economic growth.
6. We welcomed the document and made clear that for this approach to be a success it needs to be embedded throughout Highways England. They also need to recognise their role in ensuring the entire transport network is functioning efficiently. Only by all areas of the transport network functioning efficiently together can we ensure that the SRN unlocks the maximum benefit.

### **Unlocking Growth in Partnership**

7. Melanie Leech, Chief Executive of the British Property Federation, and I jointly launched [a good practice guide](#) on unlocking commercial growth through long-term public/private collaboration. The report highlights best practice of councils and developers and identifies key asks of central government to help attract investment into local areas and achieve better growth.

### **Housing White Paper**

8. The Government published its Housing White Paper which included a number of lobbying wins for the EEHT Board, including: more resourcing for planning departments; the dropping of the starter homes requirement; powers for councils to set up local development corporations and more. However, councils are more ambitious than the White Paper which lacked substantive measures to support councils to build affordable homes rapidly. The EEHT Board will work with the Government on influencing the detail of proposals, and campaign for new flexibilities and powers so that councils can meet local need. An LGA briefing is available [here](#).

### **Homelessness Reduction Bill**

9. The Homelessness Reduction Bill has finished its progress in the House of Commons and enters the Lords on 24 February. The Bill places 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, and helped secure over £60 million to meet new duties and a commitment from the Government to review this within a couple of years. However, 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.

### **Neighbourhood Planning bill**

10. 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 and now through the House of Lords. 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.

### **Housing Conference**

11. The EEHT Board has been preparing a free national housing conference to explore and set out councils' future role in meeting local housing need. To view the programme and register visit the LGA events page linked [here](#).



**Press Releases and Statements**

12. I have recently made public statements on a report by a new [Local Government Ombudsman on parking fines](#), as well as [new government statistics which show an increase in the number of people sleeping rough](#) and the publication of the governments [Housing White Paper](#).

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

### **Improvement**

1. Last year the Board commissioned an independent evaluation of the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) programme. Following several months of extensive fieldwork the interim findings were presented to our Improvement and Innovation Board in January. The findings demonstrate the continuing value of peer challenge, how and where CPC is having an impact and value for money. The final report will make recommendations to further improve the programme, which we will consider at our next meeting.

### **Leadership**

2. In partnership with the Institute of Directors we have developed a course to equip councils with the skills to undertake more commercial activity. The course will cover governance, strategy, finance and supplier relationship management.
3. Candidate applications for the ngdp (National Graduate Development Programme) closed on 11 January for Cohort 19. There were 2548 applications, a 43% increase on last year. We are now assessing those applications. Meanwhile, councils have until 31 March to register their interest in participating as an employer.
4. Amongst other LGA Board members who have acted as programme coordinators or facilitators on a range of events, Cllr Tudor Evans has been the programme co-ordinator for Leadership Academy Programme 166 modules, and Cllr Judi Billing has facilitated and delivered on our Effective Opposition programmes.

### **Productivity**

5. The Board recently launched our Digital Channel Shift programme to help councils support this change in their areas. 63 applications were received by the deadline and we are now assessing the bids. Successful bids will receive confirmation by the end of March.
6. January 2017 saw the announcement of an expansion to the One Public Estate Programme (OPE). A further 79 councils in 17 partnerships have joined OPE. The 17 partnerships have been allocated over £2 million funding for 2016/17 to work collaboratively on land and property initiatives, generating new jobs and homes, creating more joined up public services to local communities, and delivering savings for the taxpayer. A further £2.45 million has been earmarked to these partnerships for 2017/18 with a formal announcement anticipated in the new financial year.
7. The 43 existing OPE partnerships also had the opportunity to apply for additional funding to expand their current OPE programmes. A further £1.6 million has been allocated to councils across 21 existing partnerships 2017/18, with a further £2.36 million earmarked for 2017/18.

## **Transparency**

8. The LGA and Lancashire County Council have developed a new data standard for describing local services. The programme aims to develop a consistent way of describing local services so, when published, it can easily be put into apps and programmes to help people find them. This could help people self-serve, and reduce enquiries to councils and their partners. A pilot will be run in the Chorley area this year, focussing on health and well-being, which will test an app that may be used by local government more widely in future to help users identify local services.

## **Innovation**

9. We have commissioned the Behavioural Insights Team to work with a number of councils on a range of projects focusing on managing demand in overstretched services as part of our Behavioural Insights Programme Phase 2. Projects will apply a behavioural insights approach to issues of childhood obesity, sexual health, domestic abuse and homelessness.

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

### **Brexit and the Industrial Strategy**

1. In light of the Government's recently published Modern Industrial Strategy and with a steer from the People and Places Board, the LGA has commissioned research into the development of a strengthened sub-national trade and investment policy.
2. The People and Places and City Region Boards have recently considered a set of draft principles to guide work on the future autonomy of local government as part of the LGA's co-ordinated response to Britain's impending departure from the European Union. In December, these were endorsed by Leadership Board and circulated to Parliamentarians.

### **Skills and Employment**

3. With the 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, and has commissioned research on a public employment and skills service.
4. The People and Places, City Regions and Community Wellbeing Boards and Cllr Claire Hudson, lead portfolio holder of the Resources Board jointly submitted a response to the wide-ranging Green Paper on Work, Health and Disability.

### **Leading Places Project**

5. On 28 March, representatives from each of the pilot areas and delegates from councils and higher education institutions will attend the national conclusion event for the first pilot phase of the Leading Places programme, facilitated by the consultants the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE). The event will showcase the work of the six pilot partnerships, conclude their formal involvement with the project and introduce Leading Places Phase Two.
6. On 31 January, I spoke at Inside Government's *Higher Education Community Engagement Event: Increasing Cooperation Between Higher Education and Local Economies*, where I reflected on the progress of the Leading Places Project.

### **Superfast Broadband and Mobile Connectivity**

9. I was delighted to welcome Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom, to speak at the January board meeting and to discuss key issues with members, including the LGA's lobbying on the [Digital Economy Bill](#), the Universal Service Obligation and equality of access to broadband, and adequate mobile coverage in rural areas.
10. I look forward to opening the LGA local government digital connectivity summit: *Connecting the Nation*, on 16 March with Matthew Gould, Director General of Media and Digital at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. This event will bring together government, telecoms, regulators and business to discuss the role of local government in supporting both improved mobile and broadband connectivity across the country.

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

### **2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement**

1. The LGA [responded](#) to the [consultation](#) on the provisional 2017/18 local government finance settlement, which closed on 13 January. Our response highlighted the serious pressures facing adult social care services and called for new additional funding to tackle this growing crisis. We also called on the Government to reverse the reductions in the New Homes Bonus and use new money to fund the adult social care grant in 2017/18. Following our submission, the Chairman and Group Leaders met with the Secretary of State to highlight the key concerns identified in our response and we also held a briefing session on the settlement in Westminster for parliamentarians, ahead of the debate on the final local government finance settlement.
2. At the time of writing, the final local government settlement had not been published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). However, the parliamentary debate and final approval of the settlement by the House of Commons were not expected to take place until after 20 February, when Parliament returns from recess.

### **Spring Budget 2017**

3. The LGA submitted a [response](#) to the Government's call for representations on the Spring Budget 2017, which the Chancellor will deliver on 8 March. Our submission 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.

### **Business Rates Retention**

4. The LGA has been engaging with MPs and Peers as the [Local Government Finance Bill](#) begins its passage through Parliament. The Bill will provide the enabling legislation for further business rates retention, which the Government wishes to implement from 2019/20. Ahead of the Second Reading, we published a [briefing](#) for MPs outlining our key messages on the Bill. We have also submitted a number of amendments to the Bill and briefed MPs for the Committee Stage which is, at the time of writing, underway.
5. The LGA's Senior Vice-Chair, Cllr Nick Forbes, gave evidence to the Local Government Finance Bill Committee. He welcomed powers in the Bill to allow for central funding of appeals and emphasised the importance of wider reforms to reduce the number of speculative appeals. MPs also asked questions on needs and redistribution, responsibilities and the capacity of councils to deliver the Bill's provisions. Separately, our Chairman also met the Secretary of State and the Minister for Local Government to discuss the LGA's views on the Bill.
6. As the Bill progresses through Parliament, we will continue to work with MPs and Peers to ensure local government's views are represented. The Government is expected to publish its response to the summer consultation on business rates retention, and a further more detailed technical consultation, shortly.

### **LGA Local Government Finance Conference**

7. I chaired the LGA's annual [local government finance conference](#) on 5 January at the Coin Street Conference Centre in Waterloo, London. The conference focussed on the proposals for further business rates retention and the provisional local government finance settlement for

2017/18. Over 90 delegates heard from speakers including our Chairman, Lord Porter, as well as other members and officers from the LGA, DCLG, CIPFA and local authorities.

### Consultation Responses

8. In addition to the consultation on the provisional settlement, the LGA has responded to a number of other consultations on local government finance issues in recent weeks.
9. We [responded](#) to HM Treasury's [consultation](#) on the introduction of Local Infrastructure Rate, first announced in the Autumn Statement 2016. Under the Government's proposals, local authorities would be able to borrow at a lower rate from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). We also submitted a [response](#) to the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) [consultation](#) on the implementation of the MiFID2 directive. The proposals will impact on local authorities' treasury management activities and have serious implications for pensions management.
10. We also submitted a response Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) [consultation](#) on proposals for the work that external auditors will undertake and the associated scale of fees for 2017/18.

### Sector-led Improvement

11. Croydon Council have recently been awarded Timewise Council status, becoming the fifth London Council to be recognised. Read more about their award and what it means to them [here](#).
12. We have made a variety of updates to the [national website](#) for members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) including the introduction of three new interactive calculators, greater accessibility functionality and a mobile version of the site.
13. We have held discussions with DCLG on the planned next steps for a consultation on the LGPS 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.

### Britain's Exit from the EU

14. We have responded, via the LGPS advisory board, to a FCA consultation on the EU's Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) due to come into force in January 2018.

### Children, Health and Schools

15. We have worked with colleagues at DfE and DCLG on the development of a guide to the LGPS aimed at academies. The guide is due to be published in early Spring 2017.
16. Regarding the gender pay gap, the LGA has made representations aimed to persuade the Government to amend its proposals such that authorities will not now have to include most school-based staff that they employ in their reporting figures.

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

### **Licensing**

1. Councillor Clive Woodbridge, Deputy Chair of the Board, chaired the annual LGA licensing conference at the start of February. Over eighty delegates, the majority of them councillors, heard about the future of the Licensing Act 2003, using health data in licensing, taxi licensing (in particular accessibility and safeguarding), managing the night time economy, the use of risk assessments and local area profiles from the Gambling Commission, the digitalisation of licensing, and the role of the member on licensing committees. I also chaired the final regional licensing workshop in the North West on licensing and its role in tackling child sexual exploitation.

### **Domestic Abuse**

2. The National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse, chaired by the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, met on 23 January and I represented the LGA at the meeting. The agenda covered progress by the police in addressing the various Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary reports on the police response to domestic abuse, commissioning services and the National Statement of Expectation, and the police response to honour based violence.

### **Meeting with the Home Secretary**

3. Councillors Hilton and Knox, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, met the Home Secretary to discuss the government's fire reform agenda on 24 January. The meeting covered the Thomas Review and workforce reform, including changes to the National Joint Council, collaboration between the emergency services and other partners such as health, the resilience of the services, and the creation of a new inspection regime.

### **Gambling**

4. Councillor Joy Allen attended a roundtable with the Gambling Minister, Tracey Crouch MP, as part of the Government's review of gaming machines and social responsibility on Wednesday 25 January. Others in attendance were Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham, and Councillor Dave Smith, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment, Bournemouth Council.

### **Meeting with Sarah Newton MP**

5. I met with Sarah Newton MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism on 16 January to discuss the future of the National FGM Centre, delays experienced by London boroughs in obtaining Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks, issues with the flow of information from the police where they had arrested taxi or private hire vehicles drivers, the Common Law Police Disclosure Scheme, licensing fees and Domestic Homicide Reviews.

### **Prevent Champions Network**

6. Along with a number of members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, as well as members of other LGA boards, I attended a roundtable for the newly-established Prevent Champions Network chaired by Ben Wallace, Minister of State for Security at the Home Office

on 23 January. Members of the network are councillors who will be supporting and advising other elected members on Prevent, championing Prevent in local communications and leading sessions in a series of regional events for elected members organised by the Home Office.

### **Tackling Radicalisation**

7. On 9 February I addressed a conference on Tackling Radicalisation in the UK 2017 organised by Inside Government, where I spoke about the role of local authorities in preventing extremism. My speech stressed the unique position local authorities are in to combat extremism and radicalisation, by virtue of their local knowledge and the need for effective local partnerships if this work is to succeed.

### **Minister's speech on fire reform**

8. Members of the Fire Services Management Committee, including the Chair, attended a speech by the Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, on the fire reform programme on Tuesday 7 February. The Minister addressed the issues of accountability and transparency, efficiency and collaboration and workforce reform. The Minister said he had been 'encouraged to see that reform is happening across the service' but wanted the pace of reform to increase.

### **Counter Extremism**

9. I spoke at an LGA Leadership Essentials course for elected members on Counter Extremism at Warwick University on 28 February and 1 March. The event explored in detail local government's role in countering extremism and delivering local government's Prevent duty, how to challenge extremist ideologies, approaches for building community cohesion and resilience and effective response to hate crime.

### **Fire Reform Board**

10. The lead members of the Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) attended the first meeting of the Fire Reform Board (England) on 27 January. This board has been established jointly with the Home Office and the National Fire Chiefs Council to oversee the fire reform programme in England.

### **Reducing reoffending**

11. In mid-February DragonGate launched their Breaking Barriers report into the criminal justice system and options for local areas to create end-to-end and whole systems solutions to reducing reoffending. I gave a key note speech at the national summit held to launch the report on the role of local authorities in preventing crime and offending, and the future opportunities that devolution offers for remodelling the criminal justice system.

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

12. At the end of January, the FSMC launched a Memorandum of Understanding on equality, diversity, behaviours and organisational culture in the Fire Service. This was co-signed by trade unions and groups representing female BME and LGBTQ+ fire service staff. The MoU, published on 31 January, commits its signatories to demonstrably uphold and promote the principles it sets out, deliver the commitments within it and take the specific actions it contains with the timetable agreed. In particular the MoU states that the fire and rescue service as a whole and specific groups within it, such as firefighting personnel, should reflect the diversity of the community it serves.



**Councillors' Forum**

2 March 2017

**FOBTs**

13. At the end of January, I responded to an All Party Parliamentary Group review of the maximum stakes on fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) and urged the government to use the current review to lower maximum stakes.

**Retained Firefighters Union**

14. The Chair of the FSMC met Tristan Ashby, CEO of the Retained Firefighters Union, representing some 2,500 firefighters, to discuss the fire reform programme, also on 7 February. Topics covered included the future pattern of recruitment and NJC reform.

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## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Councillors' Forum
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 19 January 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,. London, EC1M 5LG

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government</b>	
	The Chairman introduced the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communicates and Local Government.	
	Mr Javid discussed Adult Social Care and the challenge facing the public sector in light of the demand on care services. Although recognising that there was more to do in this area, he stressed that taxpayers' money had to be spent carefully. Following concerns that attendance allowance would need to be raised through business rates, he assured the forum that this was no longer being considered. He praised co-operative working, highlighting the efficiency of councils working in partnership with their local health trusts. He assured members that the government would publish the Better Care Fund Framework in order to share best practise.	
	He discussed the housing shortage and the forthcoming Housing White Paper which would set out long term reforms for building new homes. He stressed that local government would play a new role in the future of housing. On devolution, he acknowledged that different challenges in different areas meant not all areas would benefit from having a mayor. However, areas opting for an elected mayor would have a greater degree of powers. Whilst the government wanted to make a success of existing deals, it was also open to hearing from local authorities who wished to put forward new plans.	
	He discussed the negotiation strategy for Brexit, highlighting that local government would play a part in this, and informed members that the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union would begin discussions with local leaders on this issue shortly.	
	Following this, the Chairman opened the floor for questions.	

- Concerns were raised on the funding gap for adult social care. Members asked what contingency plans the government had in the event of the failure of a provider. They were assured that officials were looking carefully at the market and were aware of the pressures - government had not lost sight of the need for reform and were considering a longer term solution.
- There was a discussion on the new homes bonus and the changes to this despite agreement in four year finance deals. It was emphasised that this fund had been accounted for in budgets and that removing it now was damaging. Members asked if the government would provide transitional measures to ease this change. They were advised this decision had been made following a government decision to put more funds into adult social care at a time when new funds were unavailable. The decision had been carried out after a consultation.
- A point was raised on the need to agree correct funding formulas before business rates reform came into effect. Members were assured that changes to the funding formula would be made in tandem with business rates reform.
- The housing shortage was discussed. Members asked if the government was prepared to remove the cap on borrowing on social housing in the housing white paper. Members were assured that the government would consider other ways to help, but would not remove the cap on borrowing as there needed to be oversight of this since it was part of the national debt. There was a further discussion on councils being able to borrow to build other facilities, whilst being restricted when it came to housing. It was acknowledged that these rules were outdated, and it was important to reconsider them in order to ensure they reflected current priorities. In relation to developers, it was recognised that there needed to be a greater diversity of housing providers (more small to medium firms).
- Members asked whether the government would be supporting the work of the prevent agenda. They were assured that the Casey Review would be taken seriously in considering the role councils played in safeguarding across the country.
- It was highlighted that around 50% of school leavers were accruing extensive debts at university, leaving them struggling to buy a home later in life. Members asked what the government was doing to support these young people. They were assured that the government was assisting young people through a range of measures, including through starter home schemes. However, it was emphasised that increasing the overall supply of housing would be a significant solution, as this would address the house price inflation, making homes more affordable.
- Concerns were raised around the future of devolution deals which had not been agreed or which had collapsed. Members were advised that although the government would prioritise existing

deals, it was open to discuss deals in areas where there was consensus to take things forward.

Members thanked the Secretary of State and the discussion was drawn to a close.

**3 Chairman's Update**

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

**4 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports**

Members **noted** the Board and Portfolio Chairs/Chairmans' Reports.

**5 Digest of the last meeting**

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

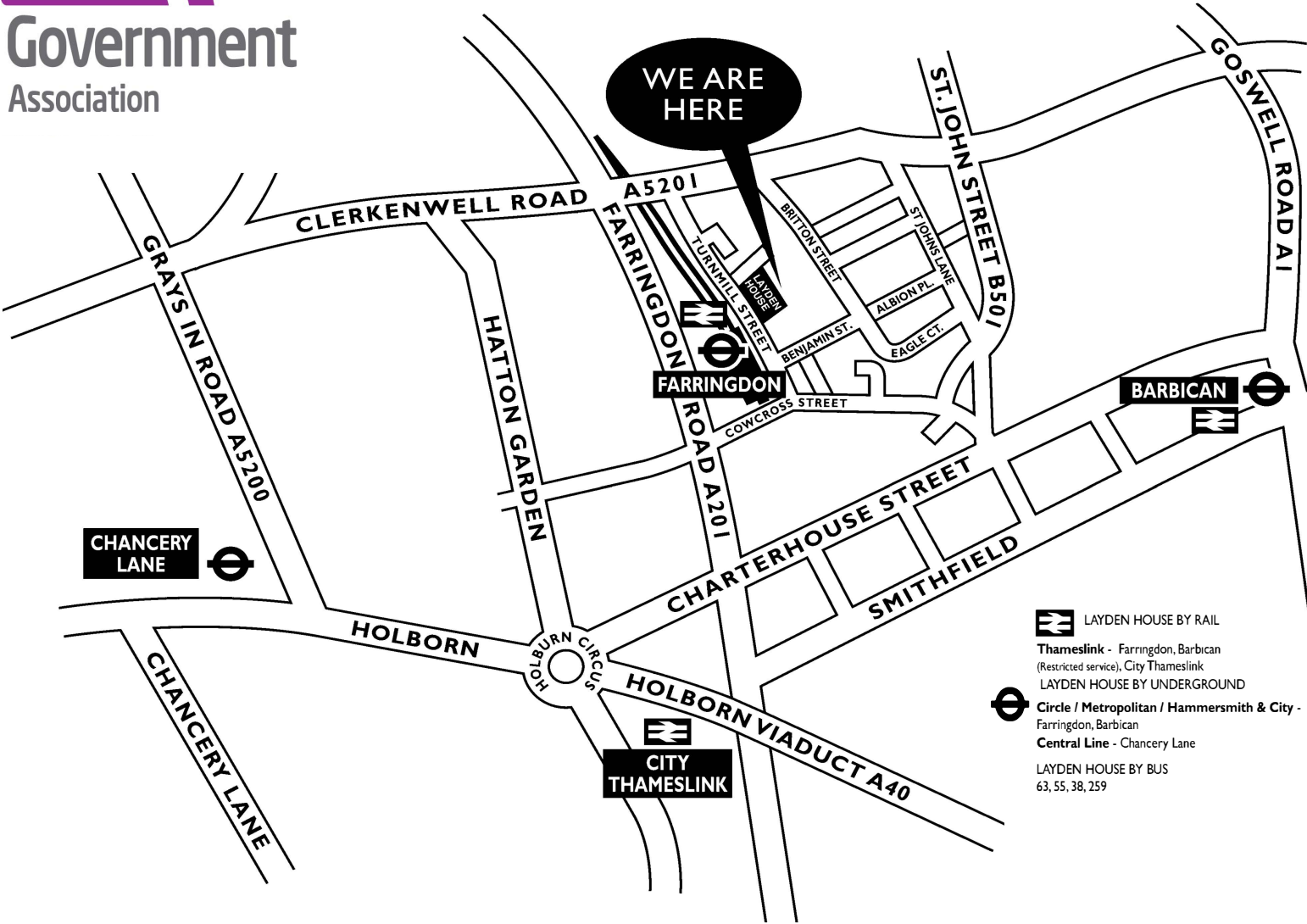
**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Members	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 Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Tony Jackson	East Herts Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE	Bedford Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council



Cllr Claire Kober OBE  
Cllr Barrie Grunewald  
Cllr Anthony Hunt  
Cllr Alan Rhodes  
Cllr Rishi Shori  
Cllr Amy Cross  
Cllr Chris Townsend  
Cllr Mike Eathorne-  
Gibbons  
Cllr Mike Bell

Haringey Council  
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council  
Blackpool Council  
Surrey County Council  
Cornwall Council  
North Somerset Council



 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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*\*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](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

**Car Parks**

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