

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 20 July 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 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 twelve months and we expect to be back in LGH by October 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

Councillors' Forum
20 July 2017

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 20 July 2017** 5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in on 5th Floor (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 £7.50 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 (39)	
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District 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 Philippa Couttie	Westminster City Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	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 Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
Vacancy	
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 CBE	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
<i>Substitutes</i>	
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 Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Independent (10)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight 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 (8)	
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough 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

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 19 October 2017, 12.30 pm, Location tbc



Modern Industrial Strategy

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, will join Councillors' Forum for this item and will discuss the Government's Industrial Strategy. This session provides an opportunity for councillors to raise questions for the Secretary of State.

Recommendation

Members of Cllrs' Forum are invited to note the background report and, following the Secretary of State's speech, pose questions from a local government perspective.

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

Contact officer: Kamal Panchal
Position: Senior Adviser
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Modern Industrial Strategy

1. On 23 January 2017 the Government published '[Britain's industrial strategy](#)'. This Green Paper, published prior to June's General Election, sets out the Government's plans and strategy for supporting Britain's industrial sectors, improving productivity, driving growth across the country and making British business more competitive. The strategy is made up of 10 pillars (**Appendix C**) which draw together in one place a range of new and existing policy and related funding.
2. The [LGA's response](#), submitted in April 2017, was led by the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board with input from People and Places and City Regions Boards. Our submission welcomed the Government's ambition to drive growth and tackle the economic imbalances in different parts of the country. However, it was felt that at the moment the strategy was too broad and needs the participation of local government to help add a clear vision and clearer local outcomes. In order to achieve this it is vital that local leaders across the country can access the appropriate levers of growth and, in turn, match the economic performance of their global competitors. A full summary of the LGA's response is at **Appendix A**.
3. More recently, the [Conservative Party manifesto](#) made a number of references to a 'modern industrial strategy', including commitments on increasing innovation and productivity, a new Future Britain Funds, skills investment, energy and energy costs and investment in transport and other economic infrastructure. In relation to the role of local areas, the Manifesto made commitments on the role of local institutions, the status of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), future growth funding and Mayors:
 - 3.1 **The role of local institutions and LEPs:** "...we will support local growth through combined authorities, mayoralities and local enterprise partnerships. We will make each partnership and combined authority responsible for co-ordinating their own local industrial strategy in alignment with our national industrial strategy, bringing together local businesses, political and public sector leaders to drive growth and economic regeneration. We will wherever possible deliver growth funding through these organisations. We will give local enterprise partnerships greater weight by backing them in law."
 - 3.2 **Growth funding:** "We will use the structural fund money that comes back to the UK following Brexit to create a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund, specifically designed to reduce inequalities between communities across our four nations. The money that is spent will help deliver sustainable, inclusive growth based on our modern industrial strategy. We will consult widely on the design of the fund, including with the devolved administrations, local authorities, businesses and public bodies."
 - 3.3 **Mayors:** "For combined authorities that are based around our great cities, we will continue to support the adoption of elected mayors, but we will not support them for the rural counties."



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4. The LGA will continue to work with the new Government and councils to both clarify national policy in the wake of the General Election and ensure that councils and local leaders will continue to play a central role in driving local growth and productivity.

Appendix A

Summary of the LGA's response to Britain's Industrial Strategy

1. The Government's industrial strategy provides a critical opportunity to drive the creation of a successful, world-leading economy and the LGA welcomes the Government's ambition to drive growth and tackle the economic imbalances in different parts of the country. It is at the moment very broad and we believe needs the participation of local government to help add a clear vision and clearer local outcomes. In order to achieve this it is vital that local leaders across the country can access the appropriate levers of growth and, in turn, match the economic performance of their global competitors. We therefore ask the Government to focus its priorities and resources on the following:
 - 1.1 Devolving the £10.5 billion national employment and skills funding to groups of councils, and combined authorities where they exist. This is the only cost effective way and sustainable way of linking the skills needs of industry to skills provision by educational institutions in local areas.
 - 1.2 Allowing the pooling of all local infrastructure funding to enable councils and groups of councils to deliver infrastructure needs according to local priorities.
 - 1.3 Ensuring access to fast and reliable digital connectivity, which is a necessity for households and businesses across the UK. Whilst new Government-led investment in 5G and new fibre networks is good news, there will still remain rural communities not reached by adequate digital connectivity. The Government must not lose sight of these areas and needs to implement a future-proofed broadband universal service obligation and ensure comprehensive mobile coverage to residents wherever they live.
 - 1.4 Ensuring that housing is central to the Industrial Strategy. Meeting the country's urgent housing needs and ensuring a broad housing supply that provides homes in the right places and that are connected with the right infrastructure is vital to the success of any industrial strategy. With the right financial freedoms councils are best placed to deliver the housing solution to support a world-leading economy. Investment in national infrastructure must support housing delivery.
 - 1.5 Building on existing locally led economic strategies and partnerships. Councils are uniquely placed in understanding their local economies and their ability to link strategic infrastructure planning, land use planning and economic development, and have established strong sub-regional partnerships with business and public sector leaders. Investors need certainty if they are going to invest in the long-term success of an area – it is therefore important that Government builds on existing locally led economic strategies and partnerships, and not create unnecessary uncertainty or confusion through the creation of new institutions or structures.

- 1.6 While the LGA will continue to work with the Government to strengthen the capacity of Mayoral Combined Authorities, devolution cannot simply be restricted to deals for our largest cities. All councils can play a vital role in developing the Industrial Strategy to ensure it drives inclusive growth and tackles economic imbalances across the whole country. The Government therefore needs to work with local leaders across the country, including in rural and non-metropolitan areas, to enable local approaches to investment and public services that support inclusive growth that are available to all who call for it.
- 1.7 Government has an important role to play in ensuring business and investors can rely on a sound macro-economic management of the national economy, including stable monetary policy. Government investment in growth, such as R&D or infrastructure, has a major impact on local growth and helping to rebalance the economy. Going forwards, the Government, with the advice of the National Infrastructure Commission, should align its investment with local and sub-national growth priorities
- 1.8 We welcome the Government's intentions to help strengthen the many different industrial sectors that exist in the UK. It is vital that any sector deals that the Government makes must recognise the importance of the places they operate in and depend on and have the support of local leaders.
- 1.9 Securing trade deals with both European and non-European countries once the UK leaves the EU will clearly be a significant task for the Government. Domestically, strengthened sub-national economic identities that are underpinned by new and devolved approaches to integrated public service delivery, provide an opportunity to embed a stronger place-based approach to trade and investment policy. Brexit will also have disproportionate impacts on different sectors - it is vital that Government engages with places that face such uncertainty, giving them the tools and responsibility to help manage such challenges and benefit from new opportunities.
- 1.10 Central government needs to work with local government to develop a UK regional aid scheme which replaces all existing EU regeneration funding and gives local areas more say over how it is spent.

Appendix B

The Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy



1. The Rt. Hon. Greg Clark was appointed Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 14 July 2016. Prior to this, he held a number of ministerial positions: he was appointed as a Minister of State at Communities and Local Government in May 2010; as the Minister for Cities in July 2011; as Financial Secretary to the Treasury in September 2012; as the Minister for Cities and Constitution in the Cabinet Office in October 2013; as the Minister for Universities and Science in July 2014 and as Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in May 2015.
2. Mr Clark was first elected as the Conservative MP for Royal Tunbridge Wells in 2005. Before becoming an MP, he was the BBC's Controller of Commercial Policy and then the Director of Policy for the Conservative Party from March 2001 for three successive leaders - William Hague, Iain Duncan Smith and Michael Howard. He also served as a councillor and Cabinet Member on Westminster City Council from 2002 until his election to Parliament.
3. Mr Clark was born in Middlesbrough in 1967, and attended the local St Peter's Comprehensive, South Bank. He went on to study Economics at Cambridge University and was awarded his PhD at the London School of Economics. Thereafter, he worked for the Boston Consulting Group and was posted to the USA, Mexico, South America and Iceland, as well as working for clients in the UK.

Building our Industrial Strategy

Agenda Item 2c

The challenge

Our economy has great strengths, but while many people, places and businesses are thriving, opportunities and growth are still spread unevenly across the country.

Our approach

We are developing a modern industrial strategy. We want to build on our strengths to enable all parts of the country to succeed: helping to deliver a high-skilled, competitive economy that benefits people throughout the UK.

Your views

We want to hear from every part of the country, every sector of industry and businesses of every size.

This is a public consultation, and we welcome your comments and contributions to inform our industrial strategy and help deliver an economy that works for everyone.

Have your say: www.gov.uk/beis

Our 10 pillars



Investing in science, research & innovation

We will become a more innovative economy and do more to commercialise our world leading science base, developing new technologies and driving growth throughout the UK.



Developing skills

We will build a proper system of technical education, and boost key skills in science, technology, engineering, maths and digital proficiency, to ensure people have the skills employers need now and in the future.



Upgrading infrastructure

We will upgrade our digital, energy, transport, water and flood defence infrastructure, and join up central government investment and local growth priorities more effectively.



Supporting businesses to start & grow

We will support businesses and entrepreneurs across the UK, to ensure they can access finance and wider support to grow, and have the right conditions for companies to invest long-term.



Improving procurement

We will ensure public procurement drives innovative new products and services, strengthens skills, develops UK supply chains and increases competition by creating more opportunities for SMEs.



Encouraging trade & inward investment

We will make Britain a global leader in free trade, including promoting and supporting UK exports, building future trading relations and creating a more active approach to winning major overseas contracts.



Delivering affordable energy & clean growth

We will keep energy costs down for businesses, build the energy infrastructure we need for new technologies, and secure the economic benefits of our move towards a low-carbon economy.



Cultivating world-leading sectors

We will build on our areas of global excellence and help new sectors to flourish, supporting businesses to take the lead in transforming and upgrading their industries through sector deals.



Driving growth across the whole country

We will build on local strengths and address factors that prevent areas from reaching their full potential, by investing in key infrastructure projects, increasing skill levels and backing local expertise.



Creating the right local institutions

We will create strong structures and institutions to support people, industries and places to maximise local strengths, including reviewing the location of government bodies and cultural institutions.

Chairman's Update

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

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

- 30 March - Cllr Holdich, Leader of the council - Peterborough City Council
- 26 April - Cllr McGinty, Leader of the Council; Bob Brown, Corporate Director - Sedgemoor District Council
- 17 May - Cllr David Finch, Leader of the Council - Essex County Council
- 6 June - Mayor James Palmer (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority)
- 26 June - Grenfell Tower Fire all peers briefing with Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State; and Alok Sharma MP, Minister of State - Department for Communities and Local Government
- 27 June - Building Safety Ministerial Sub-group, Cabinet Office
- 28 June - LGA Chief Executive's Sounding Board
- 29 June - Ministerial Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce meetings, Cabinet Office
- 3 July - Ministerial Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce meetings, Cabinet Office
- 10 July - Ministerial Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce meetings, Cabinet Office
- 10 July - David Gauke MP, Secretary of State - Department for Work and Pensions
- 11 July - Brandon Lewis, Minister for Immigration – Home Office
- 12 July - Expert panel meeting, Department for Communities and Local Government
- 12 July - Steve Baker MP, Parliamentary under-Secretary of State - Department for Exiting the European Union
- 18 July - Ministerial Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce meetings, Cabinet Office

Meetings with organisations and individuals

- 29 March - Guido Wolf, Minister for Europe from Baden-Wurttemberg (Germany)
- 8 May - Alison Saunders, Director of Public Prosecution – Crown Prosecution Service
- 20 June - Baroness Warwick, Chair; David Orr, CEO – National Housing Federation
- 27 June - Wilfrid Petrie, CEO ENGIE UK; Paul Rawson, CEO - ENGIE Solutions;
- 11 July - Pocket Living's Mapleton Crescent project
- 13 July - Mike McTighe, Chairman - Openreach

Events and speaking engagements

- 2 March - Solace Annual Dinner 2017
- 7 March - LGC Awards Dinner 2017
- 21 March - LGA Housing Conference
- 21 March - CSJ awards 2017
- 27 March - CSJ disability employment report launch
- 28 March - Local Democracy APPG Parliamentary Reception
- 30 March - APPG on reform, decentralisation and devolution
- 18-19 April - United Cities and Local Governments Executive Bureau 2017

- 25 April - Care England - Care Home Parliamentary reception
- 3 May - IPPR/FES Gender representation in local and regional politics
- 9 May - Penna Aspiring Chief Executives
- 26 May - LGA's Learning from army basing programmes seminar
- 7 June - Savills Planning Research panel
- 14 June - FSB Chairman's reception
- 14 June - LGA Mayoral forum
- 15 June - MJ awards 2017
- 20 June - LGA Parliamentary reception
- 10 July - LGiU Summer Reception
- 12 July - Leadership Centre Reception
- 17 July - LGA roundtable on The future of Adult Social Care

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

Conferences, Meetings and Public Events

1. Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair) spoke at Inside Government's "Working in Partnership to Safeguard Children and Young People" forum, highlighting the LGA's work on children's social care improvement and innovation.
2. I met with Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England, to advise on her office's lobbying and research priorities for the coming year. I urged for a stronger focus on the challenges facing councils in meeting rapidly increasing demand for children's social care services at a time of significantly reduced resources across the public sector.
3. Cllr Roy Perry (Vice Chair), Cllr Gillian Ford and I met with Sir Martin Narey and his review team for early consultation on the government's ongoing fostering stocktake. The wide ranging discussion focussed on key points in the LGA's review submission, available [here](#), including the role of independent fostering agencies, challenges around foster carer recruitment and the importance of consistently high quality support for children in need regardless of their care status.
4. I met with Robert Goodwill MP, Minister of State for Children and Families, for an introductory discussion focused on children's services funding and demand pressures, sector led improvement, and the future of the National Female Genital Mutilation Centre.
5. I delivered the key note address at the NHS England and LGA C&YP Mental Health Transformation conference 2017. The event highlighted the good work that is underway in many areas, but also provided an opportunity to reflect on what else needs to happen. It was a fantastic opportunity to highlight to delegates the key contribution that councils make to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people both through their public health responsibilities and their corporate parenting role for looked after children. The event was attended by NHS commissioner and provider colleagues, local council commissioners and public health staff and Directors of Public Health.
6. Cllr Gillian Ford attended the fifth and the sixth meetings of the Social Care Institute of Excellence Expert Group on Improving Mental Health of Looked After Children. The overall aim of the project is to ensure that the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in care, those adopted from care or under a Special Guardianship Order and care leavers are better met. The Expert Group has developed draft care pathways and quality principles and is working on finalising these, before it reports on its work in October 2017.

Family Rights Group

7. Last year, Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division of the High Court for England and Wales, referred to the "seemingly relentless rise in the number of new care cases" as a "crisis". In response, the charity Family Rights Group is planning to carry out a sector-led review to identify key changes to help manage demand and find sustainable ways to improve outcomes for children. I attended a roundtable on 29 June to consider the scope for this review, emphasising the complexity of cases being dealt with by

children's social services and the need to consider the context surrounding those cases when it comes to safely managing demand.

Press Releases and Statements

8. I have recently made public statements on [setting school budgets from Whitehall](#), [NSPCC's "How Safe Are Our Children?" report](#), [the Queen's speech](#), [DCLG statistics on primary and secondary school offers](#) and [the £2 billion funding gap to support vulnerable children by 2020](#).
9. Cllr Roy Perry (Vice Chair) made a recent public statement on [NDNA research into funding on nurseries](#).
10. In April and March I made public statements on the [number of children securing first place primary school places](#), [the education announcement on selective schools](#), [the supreme court ruling on term time holidays](#), [children with special needs at risk of being turned away by schools](#), [the NAO report on capital funding for schools](#), [the APPG for Children's report into children's social care](#), [the Local Government Ombudsman report into school transport](#) and on [new rules and funding arrangements announced by government which could leave vital school support services at risk following funding cut](#).

Contact officer: Ian Keating
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3032
E-mail: ian.keating@local.gov.uk

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

Trade and Investment

1. Within the context of greater devolution, the Government's Industrial Strategy and the uncertainty surrounding Britain's departure from the European Union, the City Regions and People and Places Boards jointly commissioned research in support of a stronger sub-national approach to trade and investment. The independent report 'Strengthening Sub-National Trade and Investment' was presented to members at the June board meeting. Following members' comments an engagement strategy to bring the work to the attention of senior ministers is now being developed.

Skills and Employment

2. This year, with the People and Places Board, the Board commissioned work from the Learning and Work Institute (LWI) to develop a local government vision for an integrated and devolved employment and skills service which will bring agencies together so they work for everyone that needs support to progress. The draft final report on this work was presented at the June board meeting, and I was pleased to launch the final report – Work Local – at the LGA Annual Conference in Birmingham on Wednesday 5 July during the Parallel Plenary Session 'Industrial Strategy- the local response'. We now have a dedicated [Work Local webpage](#), and the proposal is open for consultation until 5 September. The LGA is grateful to the twelve local areas who contributed to the report and the Learning and Work Institute who helped shape the vision. The launch was covered in the Independent newspaper.

Devolution

3. Following the election of the new combined authority mayors on the 4 May, the LGA hosted a seminar for Mayors on the 14 and 15 June in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. The event brought the new mayors together for the first time and acted as a taster event for the type of support that the LGA can offer mayors, including presentations on the LGA's recent work on skills and employment and trade and inwards investment.

Leading Places project

4. Capitalising on the success of Phase 1 and in recognition of the growing currency of work to strengthen collaboration between universities and councils, a second phase of the Leading Places Project is now progressing in 15 areas. Furthermore, in recognition of the strong appetite for the programme the LGA is also working with HEFCE and the LGA's network of principal advisers to consider what support might be provided for areas which were unsuccessful in the bid to participate, but wish to develop their work in this area.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

5. I was pleased to attend the launch of the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission's final report with recommendations on the 7 March. The Inclusive Growth Commission was set up in April 2016 to identify practical ways to make inclusive growth a reality, and the City Regions

Board has supported this work. Board members attended this event after the March Board Meeting, which was also held at the RSA.

Gender representation and devolution

6. The Board has supported a research project conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research to examine gender representation in local government as devolution progresses. The research compares countries that have devolved political systems, how they perform on gender diversity measures and their strategies and activities to improve representation and 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. A draft of the report will be discussed at a roundtable discussion held on the 18 July in Manchester.

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Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Chair)

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. On 7 April, Cllr Linda Thomas spoke at an annual event in the North West on the state of the NHS and social care. Other speakers included Anita Charlesworth, director of research and economics at the Health Foundation, and Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers. In an event historically focussed on health, Cllr Thomas made an important contribution by providing the social care perspective, including how funding pressures on care and support are impacting across the whole system. Cllr Thomas set out the importance of social care in its own right, the scale of pressures facing the system and their consequences, and articulated the urgent need for reform to secure the short- and long-term security of social care. Cllr Thomas' remarks were very well received and delegates stated that it was very helpful to hear the local government perspective.
2. On 5 May, Cllr Doreen Huddart attended a Mental Health Workforce Roundtable to debate the pressures and needs for those working in this area.
3. On 15 June, Mayor Kate Allsop (Deputy Chair) spoke at an Age UK Influencing Conference, meeting with local Age UK organisations from across the country to discuss how local government and Age UK can work together to support the needs of older people.
4. Senior members of the CWB participated in the NHS Confederation's annual conference in Liverpool on 14 and 15 June. Cllr Richard Kemp (Deputy Chair) spoke at a popular session on the role of information technology in joining up services. Cllr Linda Thomas, (Vice Chair) took part in a panel discussion on the future of health devolution. She stressed the need for 'evolution not revolution' and that there was no single blueprint for health devolution. Building from the bottom up is the key to bringing the community with you on service transformation.
5. On 12 July, I attended the launch of 'Quality Matters'. Signed up by a range of national partners, it sets out what a range of organisations including the LGA can do to help champion a shared vision for high quality adult social care.

Board business

6. The LGA gave written evidence to the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee's inquiry on housing for older people.

7. We also gave written evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Public Health's inquiry on managing demand in primary care.
8. The chair of the Resources Board and I wrote to the new social care and mental health parliamentary-under secretary, Jackie Doyle Price, and the Secretary of State for BEIS, Greg Clark, regarding the impact of the on-going legislative uncertainty around current and back-pay arrangements for sleep-in shifts.
9. Rachel Reeves MP spoke with members of the Community Wellbeing Board at the last meeting about the work of the Jo Cox Commission. This commission is carrying on the work of Jo Cox started on addressing loneliness. This has been a priority issue for the board for the year and we published a [report](#) on the issue in January 2016.
10. At our last two Board meetings (27 April and 19 June) Members have discussed the LGA's developing position on the future of adult social care and support. This has been in anticipation of an expected green paper, or proposals for consultation. Over the course of the two meetings, Members have heard from senior sector figures including: Richard Humphries, King's Fund, Glen Garrod, ADASS, Vicky McDermott, Care and Support Alliance and Sir Andrew Dilnot. Colleagues set out very clearly the extent of pressures facing social care and the need for urgent action to secure the short- and long-term security and sustainability of the system. The Board is continuing to develop its position in light of these discussions and national developments.

Annual conference

11. We launched the Board's report on mental health "[being mindful of mental health – the role of local government in mental health and wellbeing](#)" at annual conference, and it has been extremely well received. Many influential stakeholders and colleagues were seen thumbing through its pages.
12. To support the launch, we held a plenary that was chaired by my colleague from the Children and Young People's Board, Cllr Gillian Ford. Particularly moving was a presentation from a young person, Amanda, who has had lived experience of mental health problems as a child; and her perspective on what we as councils should be focusing on to help our young people. Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Dudley Council gave a practical perspective on why economic growth needs good mental health, and Lord Victor Adebowale gave a rousing speech on the role of councils in the wider determinants of mental health.

13. I chaired a popular parallel plenary session on the urgent need to build a political consensus on agreeing a sustainable solution to funding adult social care. The session also considered the role of sustainability and transformation partnerships in achieving a sustainable health and care system. We heard from senior figures – Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHSE, Stephen Dorrell, Chair of the NHS Confederation, Clenton Farquarson, an expert by experience, and Margaret Wilcox, ADASS President in health and social care on the future holds, how we can build cross-party consensus for the way forward, and what the role is for STPs in addressing the adult social care challenges.
14. I chaired a workshop a well-attended workshop discussion on where public resources are most effectively invested in order to get the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes. We heard from three excellent speakers making a case for investing in their proposals – public health, adult social care and community support – which prompted much discussion from the audience.
15. I was also very pleased that Cllr David Simmonds, leader of the Conservative Group, gave the keynote address at a conference dinner hosted by the Citizen's Advice Bureau on mental health.

BCF Planning Requirements

16. The LGA has withdrawn its support for the new BCF planning requirements after “late” changes included a much greater focus on delayed transfers of care from hospitals, along with tougher targets on meeting reductions. The new guidance also includes the threat of withholding money in areas considered “poor performing”.
17. The LGA will continue to push back strongly on the new guidance for 2017-19, which is a step back for the integration of health and care. The change to the new guidance, published on 3 July, applies to the £2 billion ‘improved Better Care Fund’ announced by the Government in the Spring Budget.
18. Councils have argued that they need “freedom and flexibility” over how the money is spent because local health and care system leaders are best able to direct the resources to meet local challenges. The LGA says that the annual funding gap facing social care will be £2.3 billion by 2020.
19. We have had assurance that no more than 10 per cent of funding would be affected by the performance review and that all the funding would stay with councils. But the principle is wrong and difficult in practical terms; councils have already agreed their plans locally and made commitments on how to spend this year's allocation.
20. The LGA is committed to working with government to find a way forward and resolve these issues that are in the best interests of local communities.

Publications

21. On 5 July I launched the key findings of an LGA survey of councillors' views of Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships at a parallel plenary on finding a political solution for adult social care funding. The findings showed that the majority of respondents had not been involved in their STPs and did not have confidence that plans would achieve their objectives. (weblink: <https://www.local.gov.uk/councillors-perceptions-sustainability-and-transformation-partnerships-summary-key-survey-findings>)
22. On 23 June I launched the publication of a report for local authorities, local Defence Medical Services and those supporting the health needs of the armed forces community in England to help support and strengthen local relationships to meet the public health needs of armed forces populations, called meeting the [public health needs of the armed forces](#).
23. On 13 June I launched the publication '[A breath of fresh air: smokefree workplaces 10 years on](#)'. This June marked the 10th anniversary of the ban on smoking in public places. This shows what can happen when councils collectively take on a significant issue and what councils can do with their public health powers.

Press Releases and Statements

24. I have recently made public statements on [new parents needing mental health support before leaving hospital](#), [responding to the CQC report on adult social care](#), [a lack of confidence in STPs](#), [responding to government rules around social care funding](#), [the 10 year anniversary of smoke free laws](#), [the ADASS budget survey in 2017](#), [the Reform report on adult social care](#), [on the new smoking figures published by NHS digital](#) as well as responses to the Queen's Speech announcements on [social care proposals](#) and [mental health reform](#).
25. Cllr Linda Thomas has also made public statements on the [King's Fund report on HIV](#), [responding to latest delayed discharges](#), [the Independent Age report on care homes](#), [Institute of Fiscal Studies research on social care spending](#), [the new House of Lords Select Committee report on sustainability of the NHS](#), [the NHS Delivery Plan](#), [Government rules over how to spend extra £2 billion social care funding](#) and [the BMJ report on public health budgets](#).

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

Libraries and Archives

1. On the 17 April, I met with Gill Furness MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Libraries, to discuss how the LGA can, on behalf of local government, work with the All-Party Parliamentary Group to support and maintain libraries in a changing environment. The work of the joint LGA and DCMS Libraries Taskforce was also discussed.
2. On the 29 March, Cllr Greg Smith attended the launch of Archives Unlocked, the National Archives' strategic vision for archives, created in collaboration with the archives sector. Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, Matt Hancock MP, Minister for Digital and Culture, and Jeff James, Chief Executive and Keeper of the National Archives all spoke on the vital role played by archives and their potential in an increasingly digital world.

Sport and Physical Activity

3. On the 12 June, Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England, attended the CTS Board meeting and spoke about progress on Sport England's 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy 2016-2021. The strategy was launched in May 2016 and will triple investment in tackling physical inactivity to over £250 million and potentially open up more funding opportunities to councils and local partners.
4. At the same meeting, the Board was also joined by Mark Coulson, Parklife Programme Manager at the Football Association. Mark discussed the FA's commitment in their new football strategy to invest over £250 million in the next four years in grassroots football, including investment in the 'Parklife' football hubs programme.
5. On the 17 May, I was pleased to speak at the Why Sports Conference 'Putting policy into practice' on the role of councils as major investors in local grassroots sport and physical activity. I also discussed the benefits that devolution and localism can offer in this context.
6. I attended a roundtable with the Lawn Tennis Association on 20 June to discuss their largest investment to date in local tennis facilities. Over the next 10 years they will invest £125 million in the local game, and attract a further £125 million from private sponsors.
7. Cllr Sonja Crisp has been appointed as the LGA's representative on the London Marathon Charitable Trust. The trust provides capital funding for building or facilities projects that inspire increased participation in physical activity, sport and play. It prioritises projects that target individuals or groups that currently have low levels of activity and children and young people outside of school hours. Cllr Crisp will be attending a board meeting on the 20 July.

Tourism, Culture and Museums

8. Cllr Colin Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board meeting on 27 March as the Board's representative. The meeting discussed the tourism industry and a number of key issues currently impacting on this.
9. On the 27 March, I attended a VisitEngland reception to thank Lady Penelope Cobham for her work during her time as chair of the organisation, and to meet the new Chairman of the VisitEngland Advisory Board.
10. I attended the launch of the next phase of the Museums' Association: Museums Change Lives in London on the 29 March. This campaign helps museums to develop their role as socially purposeful organisations and highlights evidence that museums are working with their communities and delivering positive social impact.
11. On the 2 May, Cllr Faye Abbott spoke on the importance of tourism to the economy as one of the fastest growing industries, and how councils can support it by making the best use of their regulatory and business support offers at a Westminster Briefing Session on Tourism and Culture: Policy and Practice in 2017.
12. Cllr Faye Abbott attended the British Board of Film Classification's meeting on the 14 June as the LGA's representative. The board discussed the Digital Economy Act.
13. I was pleased to chair a workshop session on 'Cultural capital – place-making and identity' at the LGA Annual Conference on the 4 July. The session explored how councils can use sporting and heritage assets to create a shared identity to help their communities adapt, move forward and become even stronger. The session focused on how three councils are implementing these approaches to engage communities, promote cohesion, instil civic pride, and encourage democratic participation.

Historic Anniversaries

14. 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. A paper on the project was discussed by the LGA Executive on the 15 June, and Cllr Lesley Clarke wrote an article on the project for the July edition of the LGA's First Magazine. The society also hosted an exhibition stand at the LGA Annual Conference from the 4-6 July.

CTS political leadership offer 2016-17

15. On the 22 June, I was pleased to speak at the latest LGA Leadership Essentials Sport Programme. 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. I had a very positive second meeting with Therese Coffey MP in February. She was keen to discuss recycling rates in England, particularly the issues urban councils are facing. Prior to the meeting we ran a consultation exercise with both the EEHT and Cities Board which generated a lot of feedback for the DEFRA team. I raised the key points with Therese and then followed the rest up with a letter to her. This led to one of her officers arranging to speak to LGA officers to look at how urban councils can be supported to improve recycling rates. Therese also highlighted that she had recently visited Birmingham and Manchester City Council where she had met with the Environment portfolio holders. She acknowledged that there were issues around managing agents of private blocks. I flagged up concerns councils had raised about this issue and also the need for planning regulations to ensure recycling facilities/space are part of any design plan.
2. In March Lord Porter opened the Building our homes, communities and future national housing conference, which included sessions chaired by Councillor Keith House, and Cllr Ed Turner. The fully booked event included addresses from Rt. Hon. Marcus Jones and a range of partners, including developers, charities and policy-makers. A number of good practice workshops gave delegates an opportunity to learn about how councils had resolved issues locally to, for instance, provide temporary accommodation, house an ageing population, and make use of the One Public Estate programme.
3. On Thursday 30 March, Cllr Keith House (Deputy Chair) spoke at InsideGov's Future of Housing Supply 2017 forum, as a keynote speaker on establishing Local Authority solutions to the UK's housing crisis.
4. I chaired a buses conference for officers and members in February. The conference explored ways in which councils could help increase bus patronage as well as a discussion of the new powers available through the Act. The Act received Royal Assent on 27th April 2017. It gives automatic powers to mayoral combined authorities to introduce London style franchising for buses. The Act also grants similar powers for other local authorities but they will require the approval of the Secretary of State. All areas now have access to enhanced partnership arrangements which will give authorities the ability to enter into extensive partnerships with bus operators more easily. The LGA has called for more flexibility for local authorities to intervene in local bus markets to deliver better results for passengers. We therefore supported the Bill in its passage through Parliament and are glad that the Government has provided a framework for making it a reality. We hope that the Government will now bring forward secondary legislation and guidance to fully implement the act as soon as possible.

British Property Federation

5. Following joint study visits to Southampton and Milton Keynes councils, the LGA and British Property Federation launched a report on [local development, growth and regeneration through](#)

[successful public/private collaboration](#) at an event attended by leaders from local government, the development and investment industries and central government.

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles

6. In May I contributed to a fascinating discussion led by DfT and KPMG on connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) and implications for wider transport policy. Senior DfT officials and industry experts also took part in the debate which covered issues such as the likely impact be on existing plans for major infrastructure and who might be the losers from a switch to connected and automated vehicles.

Air Quality

7. In June, lead members of the EEHT Board signed off the LGA's [response](#) to Defra's Air Quality Plan (Tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities). Whilst the LGA welcomes efforts to improve air quality we believe the Government could improve its strategy as a result of consultation and engagement with local authorities. LGA's response stated that air quality is a national responsibility; therefore national government should ensure resources are in place to help ensure compliance. This should mean that local authorities are resourced to deliver and DEFRA are adequately resourced to properly liaise with all affected areas.

Industrial Strategy

8. The Board has led on developing the [LGA's response](#) to the Government's green paper on the Industrial Strategy. The response highlighted the importance of local leaders across the country being able to access appropriate levers of growth, such as on skills and employment, infrastructure and housing in order to raise productivity, achieve inclusive growth and match the economic performance of their global competitors.

Publication of litter strategy

9. DEFRA published its litter strategy in April. The strategy sets out, in detail, how the government will work with different local groups, local authorities, Highways England and businesses to reduce litter between now and 2020. It also discusses how litter levels will be monitored. The aim of the document is to clean up the country, to change attitudes towards littering, and strengthen enforcement powers. This is the first Litter Strategy for England. The LGA has been part of the working group which helped to develop the strategy.

Establishment on LGA Waste and Recycling Sounding Board

10. To help us with policy development around waste and recycling we have established an officer sounding board. Senior Environmental officers from every council represented at EEHT Board have been invited to join the sounding board. The sounding board met for the first time in June to discuss the impact of leaving the EU. This was a well-attended session. The output has been used to help support the work of the EEHT Board.

Transport Investment Strategy

11. The Government has acknowledged the LGA's call that local roads have been underfunded especially compared to the Strategic Roads Network. For example, the LGA have drawn

attention to the fact that the Government had planned to spend 40 times more per mile on maintaining Highways England roads compared to local roads. As part of the Transport Investment Strategy, the Secretary of State for Transport has announced that a proportion of the National Roads Fund, which is sourced from Vehicle Excise Duty, will be spent on a Major Roads Network of economically important local government managed roads. The LGA welcomes the focus on rebalancing the economy as well as the new investment. We will be working with the DfT to ensure that councils have maximum flexibility over this resource for the benefit of local people, businesses and tax-payers.

12. On 5 July we published a report [Housing Our Homeless Households](#) responding to rising concern amongst local authorities about the increasing homelessness pressures being faced across the country.

LGA Annual Conference

13. Industrial Strategy – the Local Response, was the title of a lively session I chaired at this year's LGA conference. The panellists consisted of speakers from a broad range of interests and experiences: Tim Bowles, the new metro mayor of West of England spoke about the regional response to economic growth and the importance of partnership with central Government; Sir Richard Leese launched 'Work Local' – LGA's proposed solution to fixing our fragmented skills and employment provision; Melanie Leech, from the British Property Federation spoke about the importance of public/private collaboration for growth and Cllr Claire Coghill, Leader of Waltham Forest provide both a local and personal perspective on local growth.
14. Road conditions and a new Major Roads Network were two key areas of local transport that the new transport minister, Jesse Norman MP, spoke about at his keynote address at the LGA Conference which I chaired. The Minister offered a positive dialogue with local authorities to help improve local roads and transport. He explored the Government's thinking behind the proposal to direct a share of the National Roads Fund for economically significant local authority roads – a significant win for the LGA – and also an offer to work together on finding better ways to deliver well maintained roads. I am following up on both of these important offers.
15. Cllr Judith Blake (Vice-Chair) chaired a plenary session looking at how councils can help build homes, communities and lives. Delegates heard from Terrie Alafat, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, on the housing challenges facing the country and lower-income households in particular. They also heard from Nick Walkley, Chief Executive of Homes England, about the opportunities for councils to engage with Homes England in delivering more homes and better places, and from Angus Michie, Chairman of Berkley Homes, on how councils can work with developers to enable delivery.

Submissions

16. In March we submitted a response to the Environmental Audit Select Committee inquiry into disposable packaging (coffee cups and plastic bottles). Our response focussed on plastic bottles and called on the government to seek greater producer responsibility for dealing with the

increase in littered plastic bottles. We also called for more support for the infrastructure needed to reprocess plastics.

17. In June we responded to the DEFRA consultation on fixed penalties for environmental offences and introduction of civil penalties for littering from vehicles. We supported the extension of enforcement powers which already existed in London to the rest of the country. However, we called for local flexibility around the cost of the fines and flagged up that enforcement was not the only solution to littering problems.

Press Releases and Statements

18. I have recently made public statements on the [DfT local road funding announcement](#), the [decline of public bus passenger journeys](#) and [the draft tenancies bill](#).
19. Cllr Judith Blake has also made public statements on the [shortage of affordable housing](#), a response [to pavement parking concerns](#), [chewing gum clear-up costs](#) and [calling on government to close a legal loophole which allows landlords to convert properties into multiple tiny "units"](#).

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Improvement & 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. The review concluded that peer challenge remains an effective tool at the heart of the Sector-Led Improvement programme. It has a positive impact for participating councils, including providing reassurance, improving external reputation, prompting behaviour change, informing organisational change and supporting transformation and financial sustainability. The full report by the Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff University is on the [website](#). The report also makes a series of recommendations to further improve the programme which the Board considered at its last meeting. All authorities are eligible to receive a Corporate Peer Challenge, at no cost, every four/five years – please contact your Principal Adviser for further details.
2. Councillor William Nunn Chairman of the Improvement & Innovation Board introduces our new film “Being a Peer” with contributions from a number of member and officer peers explaining how they offer their time as ‘peers’, or “critical friends” helping councils and councillors with their learning and improvement. [Watch our new film](#) to find out how you and your council can also benefit.
3. Following the local elections we are in discussion with a number of councils about our change of control support which is available to all councils that change political control, including up to five days free support per council from experienced member peers and free support for members in opposition likely to form administrations. We have also launched our [Councillors' guide 2017/18](#) with a forward authored by Cllr Gary Porter. This online resource is a quick reference guide to provide new councillors with the essential information they need to know as they begin their roles.

Leadership

4. Councillors Judi Billing MBE, Deputy Chair of the Improvement and Innovation Board, and Linda Robinson participated in our new film “Leading the way: the LGA's political leadership offer” showing how our political leadership development programmes and resources help individual councillors gain skills to become more confident and effective. Please [take a look](#): we have a range of programmes and you might just find the right development opportunity for you.
5. Councillor Tudor Evans of the Innovation & Improvement Board was the key host for our Leadership Academy / Leaders Graduation 2017. The event which took place on 23 and 24 June at Warwick Conference Centre was attended by over 50 leading councillors who had completed our leadership development programmes. For information about the LGA's councillor development offer please see the LGA website [here](#).

Productivity

6. Councillor Ron Woodley, Deputy Chair of the LGA Improvement & Innovation Board, has authored the forward for the newly launched [Dynamic Purchasing Systems \(DPS\) Guidance](#). The Local Government Associations (LGA) has been working with councils through its National Advisory Group for Local Government Procurement to try and understand the reasons for limited uptake of DPSs and this document sets out the findings of that work, providing a number of case study examples and a checklist of where a DPS might be best used.
7. Councillor Peter Fleming, Leader of Sevenoaks District Council, chaired 'Enterprising Councils – the challenges of making commercialisation happen' at the LGA Annual Conference on Tuesday 4 July. In response to an increasingly difficult financial context, commercially-minded councils are using their assets, trading services with others across the public and private sectors, and selling commodities to generate income. Delegates heard from those enterprising councils who are successfully embracing their commercialisation potential.

Innovation

8. Councillor William Nunn, Chairman of the Improvement & Innovation Board, formally launched the Innovation Zone at the LGA Annual Conference, and Councillor Peter Fleming compered several sessions as the Board's Innovation lead. Councillors Linda Robinson, Judi Billing, Howard Sykes and Mayor Hodgson as members of the Improvement and Innovation Board also compered sessions throughout the programme to generate interest and footfall. More than 60 contributors showcased their organisations' innovations over the three days through presentations and informal discussions. The atmosphere was lively, engaging, and delegates packed the Zone to hear and discuss success stories and learning for communities and local government.
9. As part of our work on [transformation](#), Councillor Judi Billing MBE, Deputy Chair of our Improvement & Innovation Board, launched #NewConversations:LGA [guide](#) to engagement for councillors and officers work to build a stronger dialogue between councils and residents. The LGA commissioned The Campaign Company to develop the guide, which includes different work by Greater Manchester, Hackney, Staffordshire and Harlow to increase their skills and capacity in engaging with their local communities in the context of significant change and challenge.

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

Trade and Investment

1. Within the context of greater devolution, the Government's Industrial Strategy and the uncertainty surrounding Britain's departure from the European Union, the People and Places and City Regions Boards jointly commissioned research in support of a stronger sub-national approach to trade and investment. The independent report 'Strengthening Sub-National Trade and Investment' was presented to members at the June board meeting. Following members' comments an engagement strategy to bring the work to the attention of senior ministers is now being developed.
2. On the 29 June, Lead Members of the Board met with Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the LGA Brexit Task and Finish Group, to hear an update on the work of group and to consider how the Board might assist with work to shape Britain in a post-Brexit landscape.

Skills and Employment

This year, with the City Regions Board, the Board commissioned work from the Learning and Work Institute (LWI) to develop a local government vision for an integrated and devolved employment and skills service which will bring agencies together so they work for everyone that needs support to progress. The draft final report on this work was presented at the June board meeting, and I was pleased to launch the final report – Work Local – at the LGA Annual Conference in Birmingham on Wednesday 5 July during the Parallel Plenary Session 'Industrial Strategy- the local response'. We now have a dedicated [Work Local webpage](#), and the proposal is open for consultation until 5 September. The LGA is grateful to the twelve local areas who contributed to the report and the Learning and Work Institute who helped shape the vision. The launch was covered in the Independent newspaper.

Devolution

3. Following the election of the new combined authority mayors on the 4 May, the LGA hosted a seminar for Mayors on the 14 and 15 June in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. The event brought the new mayors together for the first time and acted as a taster event for the type of support that the LGA can offer mayors, including presentations on the LGA's recent work on skills and employment and trade and inwards investment.
4. On the 29 June, I was pleased to facilitate a workshop on 'Devolution and the changing role of local government' at the Electoral Reform Society Event – 'Power and People in the UK Constitution'. The workshop focused on citizen involvement in 'constitution making' and was an opportunity to articulate the case for devolution in favour of local government, particularly in the context of Britain's departure from the EU.

Leading Places project

5. Capitalising on the success of Phase 1 and in recognition of the growing currency of work to strengthen collaboration between universities and councils, a second phase of

the Leading Places Project is now progressing in 15 areas. Furthermore, in recognition of the strong appetite for the programme the LGA is also working with HEFCE and the LGA's network of principal advisers to consider what support might be provided for areas which were unsuccessful in the bid to participate, but wish to develop their work in this area.

Superfast Broadband and Mobile Connectivity

6. The Board continues its strong focus on improving the digital connectivity of residents, supporting councils' efforts to roll out superfast broadband across the country and will dedicate more resources on lobbying efforts to push for the expansion of fast and reliable mobile connectivity across non-metropolitan areas going forward.
7. Last year, the Board used a series of press releases to challenge current broadband advertising practice which allowed providers to use a maximum speed claim as long as it was achievable by at least 10 per cent of customers. In May 2017, the Advertising Standards Authority launched a public consultation on new advertising guidance and the Board via its lead members has submitted a formal response.

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

Spring Budget 2017

1. The Chancellor delivered his spring Budget on 8 March. The LGA was successful in securing a £2 billion funding package for adult social care, as well as discretionary business rate relief funding worth £300 million over four years. Resources Board members cleared the LGA's response to the consultation on the £300 million discretionary business rates relief fund earlier this year.

Business rate retention

2. The LGA responded to the Government's consultation on business rates retention reform based on advice provided by the Resources Board and other member groups, such as the Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group. The consultation focussed on various matters related to the design of the system.
3. Officers also delivered a set of regional business rate retention consultation events in partnership with officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The six regional sessions were attended by approximately 250 councillor and officer delegates who had the chance to put forward their views on all aspects of the reforms, as well as the Fair Funding Review, directly to the LGA and Government.
4. While the newly elected Government has opted not to reintroduce the Local Government Finance Bill as part of the Queen's Speech, the LGA continues to press for greater business rates retention as elements of it can be introduced without new primary legislation.

Council tax collection

5. Resources Board members approved a new version of the joint Citizens Advice and LGA protocol on good practice on council tax collection. The new version, along with guidance for councillors and case studies, can be found on the Citizens Advice website.
6. The protocol offers practical steps aimed at preventing people from getting into arrears in the first place and advises on procedures for ensuring that enforcement agents act within the law and guidelines.
7. Based on extensive consultation with advice agencies, local government representatives and enforcement agencies, the revised Council Tax Protocol builds upon the previous protocol, which the Department of Communities and Local Government recommended local authorities adopt in their 2013 guidance.

Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II

8. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) published the final rules for the implementation of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II) in early July. In our response to the announcement, the Board welcomed the improvements to the rules, which have been improved in response to concerns highlighted by the LGA and councils, and now recognise the unique decision-making processes in local authority treasury and pension fund investment management activities. If Local Authorities wish to opt up to professional status (as an investor) under the new rules, they will have to do so by January 2018.

9. We will continue to work with the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Advisory Board, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and financial service representative bodies in order to develop standardised opt up processes for both pensions and treasury management, and information templates to help ensure that all authorities can be assessed prior to the January change of status.

LGA conference

10. As Chair of the Resources Board and Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention I participated in a panel discussion on restarting the Fair Funding Review at the LGA's annual conference this year. This session provided an opportunity for delegates to hear from a panel of local government politicians about, and discuss, the principles and factors that need to be taken into account in a fresh assessment of relative funding needs and resources of individual local authorities.
11. The lively discussion focussed on the need to continue with both business rate retention reform and the fair funding review, the need to simplify the needs assessment, timescales of delivery and the extent to which the LGA should be involved. Delegates were clear that the new system will only work if it comes alongside an injection of additional funding. Officers will ensure that the results of the discussion are fed into any further LGA and Government work in this area.

Review of Local Government Pay Spine

12. The regional consultation meetings with councils on the review of the local government pay spine to address the challenge of the National Living Wage are taking place during July and August. Various members of the NJC Employers' Side are attending each meeting.

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

Modern Slavery

1. Baroness Young held a meeting at the start of March which I attended to discuss the transfer of the Modern Slavery Act (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill she had introduced in the Lords to the House of Commons. The Bill would require councils to publish a statement setting out what they were doing to tackle modern slavery in their supply chains. I highlighted the work councils are already doing to tackle modern slavery and the impact the Bill would have on councils and the smaller and medium sized businesses they procure goods and services from.

Fire risks from tumble dryers

2. Having highlighted the risks of some types of tumble dryers, I responded to the new safety advice from Whirlpool about faulty tumble dryers awaiting repair, by calling on them to mount a mass publicity campaign to raise awareness of the risks.

Drink drive limit

3. With the latest figures showing that alcohol has contributed to a rise in the number of road accidents and those injured, I called on the government to lower the drink drive limit in England and Wales to bring it into line with Scotland, where there has been a decline in drink related road accident fatalities and casualties.

Regulatory services

4. In May, Cllr Nick Worth spoke about the future of regulatory services in local government at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's East of England conference. Cllr Worth emphasised the importance of local regulatory services and how they can support a range of different council objectives.

Taxi/PHV licensing

5. In June, Cllr Clive Woodbridge chaired an LGA event on CCTV in taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs). The session was aimed at councils who are considering introducing CCTV systems in taxis/PHVs with more than 30 members and officers attending. Delegates heard from licensing officers from three different authorities who explored some of the key issues for consideration for councils thinking about introducing mandatory CCTV and shared practical examples of the benefits of these schemes drawn from their own experiences.

Counter-terrorism and counter-extremism

6. We have worked with the Home Office to establish a Prevent Champions Network (PCN) to assist councillors in their work on Prevent and counter-terrorism. As Network members, Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Cllr Anita Lower, Cllr Janet Daby, Cllr Jo Beavis, Cllr Joy Allen and I will be available to other elected members to offer advice and support.
7. The Queen's Speech set out plans for a government review of the national counter-terrorism strategy and the formation of a Counter-Extremism Commission. I responded to the

announcements by calling for councils to be involved in both the Contest strategy review, and in the development and ongoing work of the Commission.

Domestic violence and abuse

8. The Queen's Speech outlined plans for a Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill, and the creation of a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner. I supported the creation of a Commissioner and welcomed the Bill's objectives of ensuring victims feel they are able to report abuse and are confident that organisations will do everything possible to support them, and to pursue their abusers. As a high priority for councils, I set out that councils will expect to work collaboratively with the new Commissioner to support the Bill and embed good practice.

Community safety partnerships

9. In March, Cllr Jo Beavis spoke at an event on Safer Communities through Stronger Partnerships, organised by the LGA, East of England LGA, East of England Officers of the Police and Crime Commissioners, and Public Health England. Cllr Beavis spoke about the future of council community safety services and community safety partnerships, outlining the importance of making links across different services and partners around issues concerning the safety of local communities, and looking at options for different delivery models going forward.

Fire Health Summit

10. In March, Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Cllr David Acton and Cllr Rebecca Knox attended the Fire Health Summit to represent the Fire Services Management Committee. The summit had attendance from NHS England, Public Health England, AGE UK, the National Fire Chiefs Council and the Home Office, as well as the LGA, and members discussed next steps in improving collaboration between the health service and fire and rescue services. The summit also received updates on progress in evaluating the contribution that fire and rescue services can make to the health agenda, engagement with Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (previously Plans) and workforce training.

LGA and CFOA Fire Peer Challenge working group

11. Following the announcements of the Home Office's fire reform programme, including to introduce an inspectorate for fire and rescue services, Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Cllr Kay Hammond and Cllr David Acton have represented the fire and rescue authorities on the LGA and NFCC's working group looking at the fire peer challenge offer to the sector. The group has looked at a range of issues and models for the future of peer challenge. The future of peer challenge and sector support will be impacted by the appointment of the inspectorate, and further discussions will take place after the inspectorate is announced.

Strategic Resilience Board

12. Cllr Les Byrom from the Fire Services Management Committee attended the Home Office's Strategic Resilience Board in March to represent fire and rescue authorities. The items for discussion included Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attacks, updates on JESIP, and the National Resilience Board.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 2 March 2017
Venue: 5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,. London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

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

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2 The Health and Social Care Agenda for Local Government

The Chairman welcomed the Minister to the meeting.

Advising members that he would focus on Adult Social Care, the Minister discussed demographics and the implications of this on care, emphasising that local and central government would increasingly need to work together on this issue. Whilst 81% of councils believed that the implementation of the Care Act had been positive, 38% of councils were not confident they had enough money to implement the act over the next year. This would increase to 73% the following year. Though the money for social care had been reduced during the last Parliament, he advised members that an increase was now being discussed.

The Minister acknowledged that there was a challenge to government to ensure that the organisations responsible for providing care were performing well. Government could improve integration amongst organisations and increase the sharing of best practise. He emphasised the importance of recognising care as a high status career with more training and apprenticeships available, and clearer legislation in place to enable individuals to obtain leave for care purposes. The Carers' Strategy would be published soon to assist informal carers, whilst the Care Act would ensure there was a continuing assessment of carers' needs.

On STPs, he advised members that the 44 operating would be reviewed shortly.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- Members asked if extra resources would be linked to the inspection process as this would increase costs for local authorities.

- Members asked what the government's contingency plans were if a major national care provider went out of business. They were informed that the Care Quality Commission monitored the largest care providers and would work with local authorities to ensure that there were appropriate safety nets in place.
- Members raised concerns on social care provision within rural communities and the cost of delivering this.
- There were concerns that the status of carer was affected by the role being paid only the national minimum wage. It would be difficult to increase the status of the role unless the salary increased.
- Concerns were raised around delivering STPs with a lack of capital and in finding a way to grow capacity to provide care to people in their own homes.
- There was a brief discussion on finding carers if workers in the profession left following Brexit.
- There were concerns that some local authorities were negotiating with more than one STPs, due to the demographics in their area.
- There was a discussion around the increasing number of health issues in older people (particularly those with long term conditions). It would become more usual for older people to live with multiple conditions, since 80% of the population were now living over the age of 85 years.
- Members raised the issue of funding of social care. They were informed that the Chancellor was likely to address this in the forthcoming spring budget.

The Chairman thanked the Minister and the discussion was drawn to a close.

3 Chairman's Update

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the report.

4 LGA Boards Chair's Reports

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the reports.

5 Digest of the last meeting held on 19 January 2017

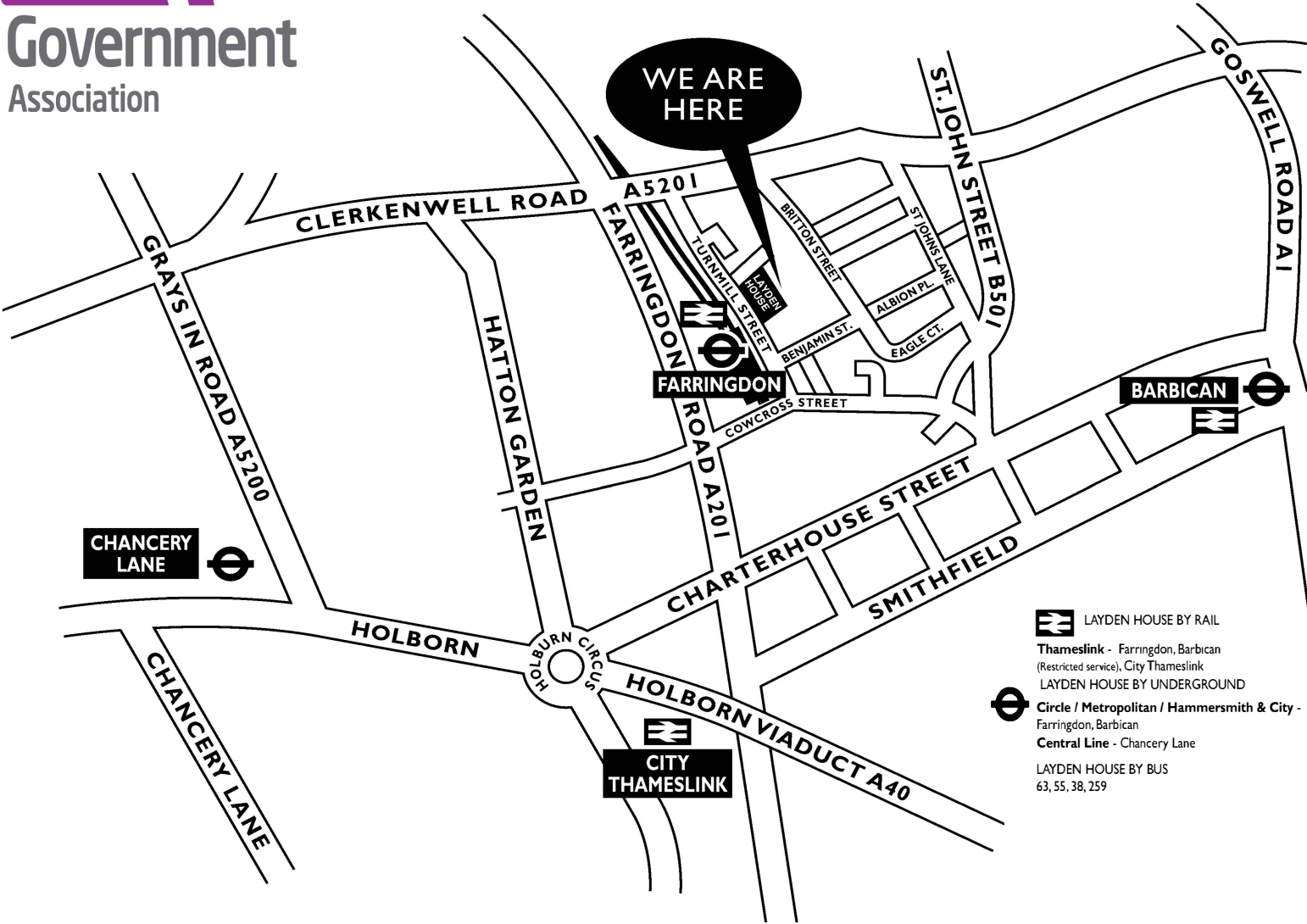
Decision:

1. The notes of the last meeting were **agreed** 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 Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr David Hodge CBE	Surrey County Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
	Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Warren Morgan	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council

	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
	Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Council
Apologies	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	OBE	
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council



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

Car Parks

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