

City Regions Board

Agenda

Monday, 19 June 2017
2.00 pm

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

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.

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DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
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Further help

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

Why have the LGA’s Headquarters moved?

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

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

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

City Regions Board
19 June 2017

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **2.00 pm on Monday, 19 June 2017** Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

Attendance Sheet:

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

Apologies:

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

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

LGA Contact:

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.

City Regions Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (5)	
Robert Light (Vice Chairman)	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
Donna Jones	Portsmouth City Council
Substitutes	
Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Labour (14)	
Richard Leese (Chair)	Manchester City Council
Julie Dore (Vice-Chair)	Sheffield City Council
Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Jean Stretton	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Joe Anderson	Liverpool City Council
Jon Collins	Nottingham City Council
Peter John	Southwark Council
Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Simon Letts	Southampton City Council
Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Warren Morgan	Brighton & Hove City Council
Sue Jeffrey	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Substitutes	
Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Independent (1)	
Liz Hazell (Deputy Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Graham Whitham	Sutton London Borough Council
Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
David Wootton	City of London Corporation
Adrian Naylor	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Abigail Bell (Deputy Chair)	Hull City Council
Iain Roberts	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Tim Bick	Cambridge City Council

City Regions Board - Attendance 2016-2017

Councillors	2/9/16	11/11/16	30/1/17	07/03/17
Labour Group				
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Julie Dore	No	Yes	No	Yes
Samantha Dixon	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Martin Gannon	No	Yes	No	Yes
Helen Holland	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Jean Stretton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayor Joe Anderson OBE	No	Yes	No	No
Jon Collins	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter John OBE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Timothy Swift	No	Yes	No	Yes
Simon Letts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Susan Hinchcliffe	No	No	Yes	No
Warren Morgan	No	No	No	No
Sue Jeffrey	Yes	No	Yes	No
Conservative Group				
Robert Light	No	Yes	Yes	No
Robert Alden	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sean Anstee	Yes	No	No	No
John Beesley	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Donna Jones JP	No	No	Yes	No
Lib Dem Group				
Abigail Bell	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iain Roberts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Independent				
Liz Hazell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substitutes/Observers				
Tim Bick	Yes			
James Lewis	Yes			
Michael Mordey		Yes		
Tim Warren		Yes		
Sir Steve Bullock			Yes	

City Regions Board

Monday 19 June 2017

2.00 pm

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Date of Next Meeting: Friday, 6 October 2017, 2.00 pm, Location tbc.

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IPPR Research: Devolution, Local Government and Gender Representation

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper provides an update to members on activity to support IPPR's research into gender representation in local government as the devolution agenda progresses. The paper outlines the detail of the emerging findings and recommendations as well as plans for a roundtable discussion to be held ahead of the launch of the final independent report.

Recommendation

That the City Regions Board note the update and invitation to the roundtable.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

Contact Officer: Claire Hogan
Position: Senior Adviser
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Email: claire.hogan@local.gov.uk

IPPR research: Devolution, Local Government and Gender Representation

Background

1. At the Board meeting on 20 January 2017, members were presented with an outline for the LGA supported research being conducted independently by IPPR examining gender representation in local government as devolution progresses.
2. Primarily the research has looked to learn the lessons of other devolved political systems internationally to understand what works in promoting better gender representation. The research has also focused on suggestions/recommendations to overcome these barriers; including practices to recruit and retain female politicians.
3. Members asked that the research reflect:
 - 3.1 Practical recommendations –members recognised that there is already a significant amount of research on this topic would like to see the emphasis of this research placed on practical solutions and detail of ‘what works’.
 - 3.2 The importance of positive role models and the role for schools and colleges in promoting female involvement in politics.
 - 3.3 The different selection process within political parties (including the use of all women shortlists).
 - 3.4 Practice within Scottish and Welsh devolved administrations.

Research Report

4. It was intended that the independent research report would be produced ahead of the Mayoral elections in May 2017. However the researchers decided to postpone the publication so that analysis of the mayoral CA boards and any new appointments made by Mayors could be factored into the research findings.
5. The final research report will now be published in July 2017. As well as exploring gender diversity within combined authorities the report will also compare countries that have devolved political systems, how they perform on gender diversity measures and their strategies and activities to improve representation.
6. The report 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. It will also identify what could be learnt from initiatives in these countries to potentially inform the design of a UK scheme to increase gender representation in local government and will include detail on practical measures such as; childcare, allowances and maternity leave.
7. In advance of the publication of the final report IPPR have prepared a summary document with emerging key findings and recommendations for discussion and comment by Board members (**Appendix A**).

Roundtable event

8. IPPR will be holding a round table discussion on Devolution, Local Government and Gender Representation on **18 July in Manchester from 1.00 to 3.00 pm** which will be chaired by Sir Richard Leese in his capacity as Chair of the Board. The event will include a 'preview' of the report and discussion about the emerging findings and recommendations.
9. As the key sponsor for the independent research, members of City Regions Board are invited to attend the discussion and will receive an invitation outlining the event details.

Next steps

10. **Members are asked to note the content of the summary document (Appendix A) and are requested to feed back any comments to be raised with IPPR to Claire Hogan.** In doing so members may wish to consider the following questions:
 - 10.1 Do the emerging findings sufficiently explore the lessons of other devolved political systems internationally and give an understanding of 'what works' in promoting better gender representation.
 - 10.2 Are there further issues that should be reflected?
 - 10.3 Will the emerging recommendations help to address the issues raised? Are there further suggestions for consideration?
 - 10.4 How might the LGA promote the findings/recommendations from this work?
11. A draft of the full report will be circulated to Lead Members for further comment in the week commencing 10 July.

Financial Implications

12. The research is funded from the Board's allocated budget.

Implications for Wales

13. We are working with the WLGA to support its work with councils through sharing the learning from English councils and new Combined Authorities. As such the findings from this research will be shared with WLGA. In addition current practice in Wales will be featured in the 'lessons from international research' section of the final report.

Appendix A: IPPR Gender and Devolution Report

Summary: June 2017

About the research and purpose

1. The devolution of power to local and regional levels has the potential to radically reshape England's democracy and improve the way decisions are made for local areas. But current governance models present challenges for representative democracy; specifically, the huge under representation of women on combined authority boards and in the leadership of councils with agreed devolution deals.
2. This research shows that in the six mayoral elections that took place in combined authorities in May 2017, no women were elected. Of the six combined authorities who elected mayors, 95% of CA members (e.g. the leaders of constituent councils) are men.
3. There are two ways to approach improving gender representation in combined authorities; looking at the structure of combined authorities, and looking at pipelines into them. A focus on combined authorities necessitates looking at local government, as CA boards are predominantly made up of representatives from constituent local authorities.
4. This research complements the work of others, including the Fawcett Society's Local Government Commission, by looking at national and international approaches to improving representation in local and regional government and by examining the role of political parties as well as local government in this.
5. We assess the performance of England with international comparators and devolved nations, and profile policies and initiatives we have studied to inform our recommendations. Our research methods are: literature review, desk based research, and interviews with political stakeholders from all parties as well as international interviewees.

Key findings at the time of writing

6. *Combined authority boards are almost entirely composed of men.*
 - 6.1 In the West Midlands for example, there are no women councillors in the mayor's cabinet (covering both the 7 constituent council members, with voting rights, and its 5 non-constituent council members, without voting rights), while the same is true for the West of England and Liverpool City Region. In total, across the new cabinets, there is a 94 per cent male representation rate.
7. *Women councillors are less likely to have responsibility for key devolution deal policy areas, such as business, finance and regeneration.*
 - 7.1 We have looked at the cabinet positions held by the 128 women who are currently cabinet members in councils that have agreed devolution deals as part of combined

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authorities or otherwise.¹ We have analysed the frequency with which particular words feature in women's portfolios. Notably, business, procurement, jobs, regeneration and finance are unlikely to feature in the portfolio of a women council cabinet members. In contrast, the words health, children, community, social care and wellbeing feature much more heavily. (This is a particular issue given current devolution deals are focused on the former.)

8. *Progress on gender representation in local government has stalled in the last twenty years and varies widely by local authority and party.*

8.1 While local councils in England have historically delivered greater representation for women than national politics, this has recently plateaued –at around a third (32 per cent), having already been as high as 27.8 per cent in 1997.

9. *Women are less likely to be local government leaders.*

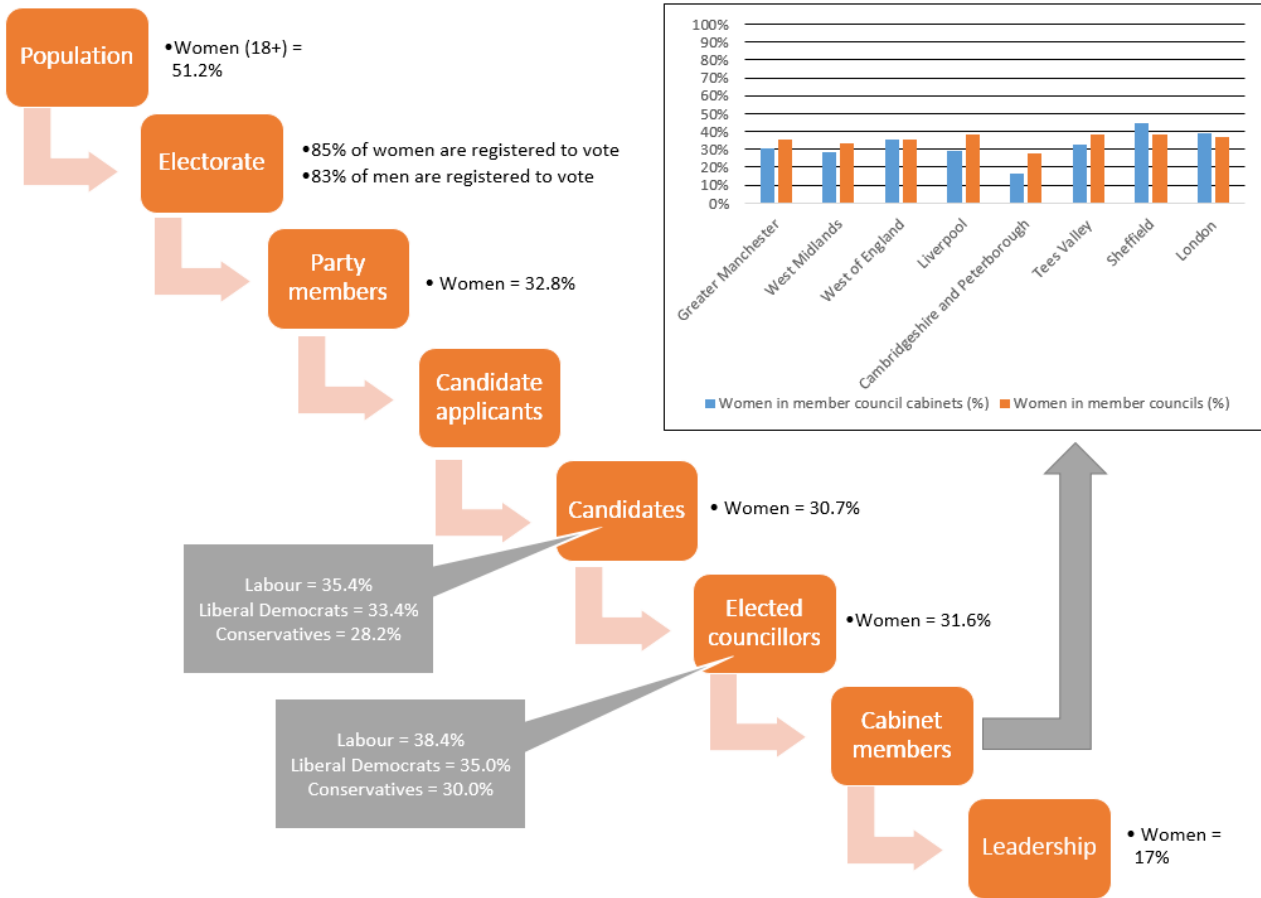
9.1 Ahead of local elections in May 2017, only 17 per cent of council leaders were women, amounting to just 56 women leaders, an increase of only two points on 2014/15.

10. *Women are less likely to stay in post over time, and less likely to progress into other levels of government.*

10.1 Women are more likely to serve a maximum of just two terms (65 per cent versus 57 per cent of men) and where councillors are in office for long periods of time, of at least twenty years, for every woman in this position there will be three equivalent men.

¹ Our analysis includes constituent cabinets of the six combined authorities which elected mayors in May 2017, the 16 women cabinet members across Sheffield City Region's constituent council cabinets and the newly appointed cabinet for Cornwall Council.

At what stages are there barriers to women reaching combined authority boards?



11. We identify two main points at which women become much less likely to progress through the journey to combined authority positions than men:

- 11.1 Party membership (which could also reflect fewer women wanting to join in order to become local politicians).
- 11.2 Reaching leadership positions.

12. Barriers are multiple:

- 12.1 Women are less likely to be party members. Evidence suggests this is because of sociological factors such as work status, education and cultural norms around participation of women in public life (which varies with religion and geography), because of time constraints, parties not appealing to women and the issues that are important to them, lower internal political efficacy among women and potentially women finding entry into elected politics less appealing than men.²

² Electoral Commission (2004) *Gender and Political Participation*

- 12.2 The job of a councillor may be less appealing to women, in particular because of workload and timings of meetings, council cultures including sexism, and a lack of self-belief (Fawcett Society's Local Government Commission, IPPR interviews, Rao 2005).³
- 12.3 Party processes are key in determining who is selected to be a candidate, where they are selected, and which councillors progress to leadership positions. Outdated models of 'leadership', informal selection procedures and informal network building, and lack of advocacy for women politicians are all potential barriers that women face.

Initiatives and policies to address the lack of representation of women in local politics and combined authorities

13. We researched initiatives in England as well as other countries, finding them to vary on two axes:

- 13.1 The extent to which the initiative focusses on the woman as opposed to organisations and systems.
- 13.2 The point in the lifecycle of entering and progressing through politics.

	Empowerment model	Institutional and party interventions	Systemic interventions
Candidate emergence	e.g. confidence building	e.g. changing party culture	
Candidate selection and election	e.g. political skills training	e.g. voluntary party all-women shortlists	e.g. mandatory quotas, electoral systems
Candidate retention		e.g. changing working hours	
Candidate progression into leadership roles	e.g. mentoring for existing councillors		e.g. requiring deputy leaders to be members of combined authorities

14. In England, our research will profile the following interventions, and mention others:

15. *Empowerment programmes*

- 15.1 Girl Guiding's civic action and political campaigning activities
- 15.2 The Parliament Project
- 15.3 Political party mentoring programmes

³ Rao N (2005) 'The representation of women in local politics' *Policy & Politics*, 33(2), pp323-339.

15.4 DivaManc

15.5 Identification of positive role models and programmes within schools and colleges.

16. *Institutional and party interventions*

16.1 All women shortlists and party quotas

16.2 Fabiana

17. *Systemic interventions*

17.1 London Assembly, which has achieved very good gender balance.

17.2 Changes to the membership and representation in Combined Authorities, such as appointed deputy portfolio holders and councillors deputising for leaders with voting powers.

Lessons from international research

18. *Scotland*

18.1 Young women value role models and mentors.

18.2 The Scottish Parliament is more gender balanced in part because of quota policies designed for the electoral system – e.g. ‘twinning’ in single member constituencies, which involves one selection panel selecting one man and one women for two nearby seats; and ‘zipping’ in multi-member districts and additional members systems, in which alternate candidates must be women.

18.3 Involving women in campaigns and addressing their concerns directly encourages political involvement (e.g. independence referendum).

19. *Wales – will be featured, analysis is ongoing*

20. *Germany*

20.1 Quotas are highly effective in triggering a step change in representation.

20.2 A multifaceted approach is needed if women are to achieve meaningful equality – including programmes to help them progress through politics once elected and interventions that seek to break down prejudiced structures and cultures.

20.3 Parties are the gatekeepers of power: initially and later in political careers.

20.4 Better data collection and ranking can incentivise local action.

21. *Sweden*

- 21.1 There is a reciprocal relationship between position of women in society and women's representation. Swedish evidence shows for example that an increased number of elected women increases spending on childcare at the sub-national level. Conversely, strong representation of women is associated with women having a high degree of independence and employment.
- 21.2 Gender equality institutions such as the Ministry for Gender Equality maintain focus on gender representation and can improve reporting of discrimination

22. *Other initiatives from around the world:*

- 22.1 We will profile a number of other initiatives, including a programme to encourage girls to become involved in politics in Northern Ireland, the Canadian Liberal Party's campaigns to nominate potential councillors and national politicians, and evidence from the business world on how to change structures so that bias cannot affect representation outcomes.

The case for reform

23. Evidence from initiatives and policies in other countries suggests some key lessons:

- 23.1 It is much easier to create gender equal systems from scratch, than it is to try to change them once established.
- 23.2 Parties are gatekeepers of power and instrumental in changing access to politics as well as progression within it.
- 23.3 Institutions with responsibility for gender equality can sustain and monitor progress.
- 23.4 A single approach, for example only using empowerment programmes, is unlikely to achieve change quickly or comprehensively. Instead a multi-faceted approach is required. Rapid change will require concerted action.

Recommendations

24. Only focusing on the pipeline of local government candidates will take a long time to feed through into gender equal representation on combined authorities, because combined authority boards consist primarily of the leaders of constituent local authorities, and usually deputy mayors as substitutes. Progression at senior levels within local authorities, and looking at the structure of combined authorities, will be necessary to achieve change in the early years of new devolved institutions.

25. Our recommendations will therefore lay out a vision for how combined authorities can achieve better gender representation through two routes:

- 25.1 Ensuring women are represented in local government, including at senior levels, which determines the make-up of combined authorities.
 - 25.1.1 Our emerging recommendations will focus on:

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- 25.1.1.1 A potential programme for young girls and women to encourage participation in political parties and local politics.
 - 25.1.1.2 Political mentoring and training programmes that would help women progress into leadership positions, particularly in male-dominated policy domains, in local politics.
 - 25.1.1.3 Voluntary and non-voluntary quota options to achieve a step-change in numerical representation.
- 25.2 Look at combined authorities themselves and see how they could be changed and set up to support equal representation, including:
- 25.2.1 The structure of membership e.g. number of representatives from each LA and role of Deputy Mayors.
 - 25.2.2 Who is selected to represent constituent local authorities e.g. could this be cabinet members other than the leader or deputy leader?
 - 25.2.3 Further devolution to combined authorities, including responsibility for social infrastructure such as health, childcare and social care, which disproportionately affect women, as well as economic infrastructure.
26. Our recommendations will be addressed to women's campaign groups, to political parties, and to local authorities (particularly those which are constituent members of combined authorities). We will reference but not prioritise what can be done to improve councils as a workplace for women (e.g. time of meetings, childcare), as adequate recommendations have already been made by others including the Fawcett Society. Our recommendations will be presented in three categories, mirroring the types of intervention we found in our international research:
- 26.1 Empowerment models
 - 26.2 Party and institutional change
 - 26.3 Systemic reform

End of Year Board Report

Purpose of report

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report provides an overview of the issues and work the **City Regions Board** has overseen during last year. It sets out key achievements in relation to the priorities for the board in 2016/2017 and looks forward to next year's priorities.

Recommendations

That the City Regions Board:

1. **Note** the achievements against the board's priorities in 2016/2017, and;
2. **Note** the board's proposed priority areas for 2017/18.

Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

Contact officer: Eleanor Reader-Moore
Position: Member Services Officer
Phone no: 020 7664 3383
E-mail: eleanor.reader-moore@local.gov.uk

End of Year Board Report

Background and Context

1. The City Regions Board was created to provide a clear voice and resource for city regions within the LGA and to advocate on behalf of English cities.
2. Members are asked to consider the achievements of the board over the last year against the use of allocated resources and to reflect on whether the board is continuing to meet its purpose in response to the emerging priorities of metropolitan areas.

Priorities and Achievements

Devolution

3. Board members have continued to influence the devolution agenda - steering the LGA's support offer, informing work to prepare new combined authorities for the mayoral elections and advancing the case for greater local freedom to drive economic growth and public service reform.
4. Bespoke support packages have been provided to a range of areas. This has included the development and implementation of deals, policy support, leadership development, governance, communications and civic engagement.
5. A network of combined authority chief executives has been created to share policy and practice between established and emerging combined authorities. The LGA has worked with political group offices to support the establishment of combined authority mayors.
6. The board has contributed to the LGA's response to Britain's departure from the European Union, leading on work to secure the future position of English local government and overseeing proposals for the devolution of powers repatriated from the EU.
7. Finally, with a steer from the City Regions Board, the LGA commissioned research into the development of a strengthened sub-national trade and investment policy. The research makes the case for an integrated approach to trade and investment and will be used to influence the new government and support local good practice.

Devolving Skills and Employment

8. Securing further devolution of skills and employment support has again been a key focus of the board this year. In partnership with the People and Places and Community and Wellbeing Boards, the board commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion to develop a devolved employment model for the most disadvantaged jobseekers to influence the design and commissioning of the Work and Health Programme (WHP).
9. In September, the Chairs met Penny Mordaunt MP, the previous Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, to discuss the concerns regarding the WHP design, and propose a way to allow the launch of the WHP with the backing of local government. Given the range of concerns, the LGA was unable to endorse the national offer.

10. In December, the People and Places and City Regions Boards commissioned the Learning and Work Institute to develop a vision for an integrated and locally accountable employment and skills service. The final report will launch at LGA Annual Conference.
11. In February, together with the Community Wellbeing and People and Places Boards, the Board responded to the previous Government's ['Improving Lives: the work, health and disability Green Paper'](#) and recommended the need to address the complexity and inadequacies of the current national system through public service reform and devolution.

Leading Places Project

12. In partnership with Universities UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the LGA has overseen a project to develop collaborative leadership across the higher education and local government sectors.
13. [Launched in May 2016](#), six pilot areas have developed local partnership and project arrangements to meet a variety of local challenges.
14. Following a competitive application process 15 new and continuing partnerships have now been selected to participate in Phase 2. These areas will begin work over the summer to take forward action against each of their locally identified themes.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

15. Board members sponsored the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission which sought to understand and identify practical ways to make local economies across the UK more economically inclusive and prosperous. The Commission, chaired by Stephanie Flanders was launched in April 2016 and delivered its final report in March 2017.

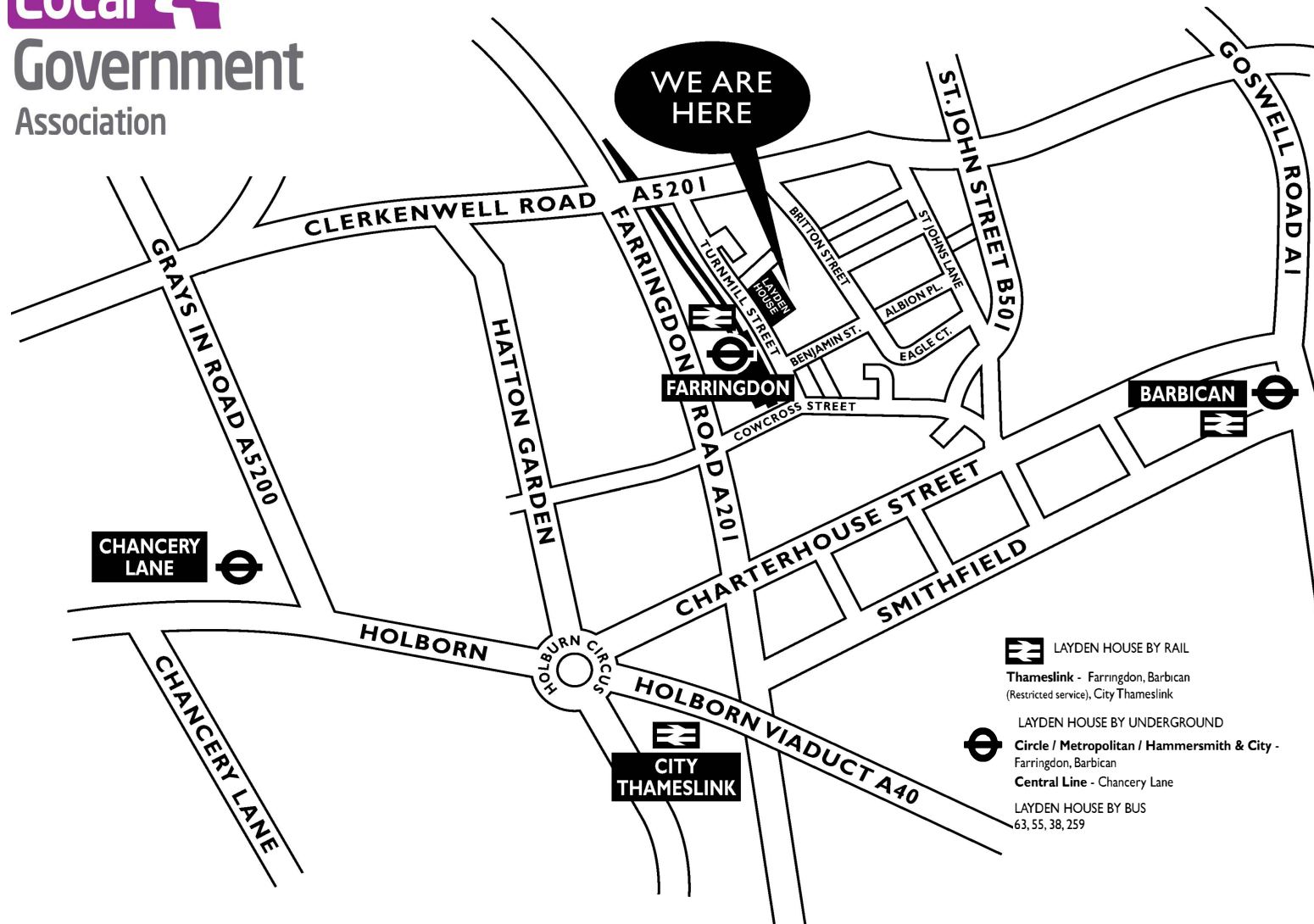
IPPR Research

16. The board supported a research project to examine gender representation in local government as devolution progresses, conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research. A final report will be launched in July 2017.

Programme of work and priorities 2017/18

17. The board will continue to develop and expand the policy case for local devolution and support metropolitan areas to progress with devolution in England within the context of a newly elected government.
18. Officers will undertake a programme of work to take forward the integrated devolved employment skills service model presented at the LGA annual conference.
19. The board will monitor the work of the Leading Places project and explore how emerging good practice in collaborative leadership might be shared more widely.

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 63, 55, 38, 259

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