

Resources Board

Agenda

Monday, 16 January 2017 2.00 pm

Room D&E, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

www.local.gov.uk



Guidance notes for members and visitors Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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

Welcome!

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

Security

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

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

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

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email <u>member services</u> 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 <u>www.local.gov.uk</u>

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.



Resources Board 16 January 2017

There will be a meeting of the Resources Board at **2.00 pm on Monday, 16 January 2017** Room D&E, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.45pm.

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:

Frances Marshall 0207 664 31220 / frances.marshall@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

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



Resources Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	
Councillor	Authority
Conconvotivo (7)	
Conservative (7)	South Norfall, District Council
Cllr John Fuller (Vice Chairman)	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Mary Malin	Kettering Borough Council
Cllr Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Harrow Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Lynne Duffy	Wychavon District Council
Clir Andrew Leadbetter	Exeter City Council
Cllr Judith Oliver	North Norfolk District Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Claire Kober OBE (Chair)	Haringey Council
Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Sian Timoney	Luton Borough Council
Cllr Tom Beattie	Corby Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Clir Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Norman Keats	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Clir Abdul Jabbar	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Christopher Massey	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Clarence Barrett (Deputy	Havering London Borough Council
Chair)	
Cllr Linda Van den Hende	Havering London Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Clir Claire Hudson (Deputy Chair)	Mendip District Council
Clir Simon Shaw	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr David Brown	Borough of Poole



Resources Board – Attendance 2016/2017

Councillors	23/09/16	5/12/16
Conservative Group		
John Fuller	Yes	Yes
Nigel Ashton	Yes	Yes
James Jamieson	Yes	Yes
Mary Malin	Yes	Yes
Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Yes	Yes
Roger Phillips	Yes	Yes
David Renard	Yes	Yes
Labour Group		
Claire Kober OBE	Yes	Yes
Rishi Shori	Yes	Yes
Aaron Shotton	No	Yes
Sian Timoney	No	Yes
Tom Beattie	Yes	No
Sarah Hayward	Yes	Yes
Peter Marland	No	Yes
Independent		
Clarence Barrett	Yes	Yes
Linda van den Hende	Yes	Yes
Lib Dem Group		
Claire Hudson	Yes	Yes
Simon Shaw	Yes	Yes
Substitutes		
Norman Keats	Yes	Yes
Christopher Massey	Yes	Yes
Abdul Jabbor	Yes	



Agenda

Resources Board

Monday 16 January 2017

2.00 pm

Room D&E, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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		Presentation by Tony Wilson from the Learning and Work Institute (LWI) and Deven Ghelani from Policy in Practice.	
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Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 3 April 2017, 11.00 am, Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG



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Interim findings from Learning and Work Institute (LWI) research on the local impacts of welfare reform

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

Tony Wilson from the Learning and Work Institute (LWI) and Deven Ghelani from Policy in Practice will present interim findings from LWI's LGA-commissioned research on the local impacts of welfare reform. This research updates that provided to the LGA by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI, who are now part of LWI) in 2013.

We would welcome Members' views on how the research should inform LGA lobbying and support to councils, and advice on the design and presentation of the final report.

Recommendations

That the LGA Resources Board provide a steer on:

- i. how the research should inform LGA lobbying and support to councils; and
- ii. advice on the design and presentation of the final report.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officer:	Rose Doran
Position:	Senior Adviser
Phone no:	07747 636843
Email:	rose.doran@local.gov.uk



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Interim findings from Learning and Work Institute (LWI) research on the local impacts of welfare reform

Background

- 1. The previous Government began a substantial programme of welfare reform in 2012, with an overarching intention to significantly reduce expenditure on working age benefits. In 2013, the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI) produced a report for the LGA setting out the local impacts of these reforms, which informed the LGA's support and lobbying on implementation and local responses. Councils were able to draw on CESI's report and findings to inform local spending and support for claimants. We have commissioned the Learning and Work Institute (LWI) to update the 2013 research to assess the present impact of the existing reforms and the projected impact of the new reforms.
- 2. The Coalition Government achieved £16 billion of savings against projected spend on working age benefits, although welfare spending overall remained static over the course of the parliament at £220 billion. The present Government has committed to continuing the programme of reform and implementing further changes. They are hoping to realise projected savings of a further £12 billion.
- 3. The LGA is keen to ensure that councils can support claimants to respond positively to the reforms. The principle ways in which people can do this are by increasing their income from employment, or reducing their outgoings through housing choice. The 2013 research identified that in many cases claimants' scope to mitigate the impacts through employment, housing or other lifestyle changes were constrained. This dovetailed with the LGA's key messages on employment and housing, where we have long argued for greater local freedoms and flexibilities to support the most disadvantaged jobseekers and increase the supply of genuinely affordable housing.
- 4. The research also supported strong lines on the need for a local safety net and support for claimants with additional needs. This complemented our work on the implementation of Universal Credit and funding for local, discretionary support.
- 5. Councils continue to express concerns that some households are struggling to manage the changes and absorb reductions in income. They are also concerned that rising housing costs, diminishing supplies of social housing, low wages and insecure employment are further constraining people's ability to cope, and placing pressure on a wide range of council services including homelessness, public health, social care and services for families.

Next steps

 The findings from this research should provide a more robust foundation for discussion of whether the Government is achieving the overarching intentions of its welfare reforms – to reduce overall spending and increase employment, stability and self-reliance.

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- 7. We welcome Members' views on how the findings should be presented, publicised and used.
- 8. We would also welcome views on whether we should be challenging Government on the unintended consequences of the reforms, including barriers to social mobility and local growth, and cost shunts to local government.
- 9. The final report will be published in March 2017.

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Workforce Update

Purpose

For information and discussion

Summary

This report sets out the key workforce policy developments that have taken place since the last Board meeting on 5 December 2016.

Recommendations

That the LGA Resources Board note the update and provide a steer on the development of the LGA's workforce work programme.

Action

As directed by Members.

Contact officer:	Sarah Messenger
Position:	Head of Workforce
Phone no:	0207 187 7342
Email:	Sarah.Messenger@local.gov.uk



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Workforce Update

Background

- 1. The LGA's workforce team works with councils and their partners to help create a workforce able to respond to major changes within the public sector.
- 2. At the first meeting of the Resources Board this political meeting year, Members' agreed a work programme that would focus on: Workforce Strategy; Pay and negotiation; and Pensions.
- 3. This report sets out key developments in these three areas.

Strategy

4. The LGA co-commissioned the New Local Government Network to develop <u>Outside</u> <u>the Box</u>, a thought-provoking report on the future of the employment 'deal' in local government, including the results of a survey and case studies, highlighting the need for new approaches to recruitment and staff engagement. The report was launched in December.

Pensions

- 5. The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II) response was submitted as per the discussion at the last meeting of the Resources Board. Discussions are ongoing with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to minimise the impact on range of investment vehicles and asset classes available to local authorities.
- 6. Exit payment reform discussions have continued with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and unions regarding the new maxima proposed by the Treasury. New arrangements for severance and pension strain costs will need to be in place by June 2017. Regulations for exit payment recovery and cap are expected early in 2017.

Pay and negotiations

Review of the National Joint Council (NJC) pay spine

7. The NJC Joint Working Group is now up and running to consider options for a new pay spine to meet the challenge of the likely level of the National Living Wage when it reaches its target level in 2020. On the Employers' side, this is supported by a sounding board of HR and payroll practitioners from councils and a couple of regional employer representatives. There has been some initial discussions with the unions about principles to underpin the review. Detailed and updated pay data from councils is in the process of being verified to enable the costs of any options to be estimated as accurately as possible.



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Sleeping-in payments

- 8. This has been a significant unresolved issue for some time and we have been to meetings with the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills BIS (as was) both as the LGA and jointly with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG). It is a bigger issue for the costs of procuring social care than for the directly employed workforce. In summary, the Regulations surrounding the National Minimum Wage (NMW) have always said that sleeping in hours do not count for calculating the NMW, but some recent case law has come to a different conclusion and updated government guidance has moved in that direction, as well as the approach taken by some HMRC inspectors.
- 9. Members will recall that last autumn the LGA supported a statement to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that was also backed by a wide range of adult social care providers. The statement asks that as a matter of urgency that BIES looks into this issue with a view to confirming that the position is as stated in the Regulations. LGA officers will continue to work with ADASS and VODG to share intelligence on this issue.
- 10. Although the focus of the debate has largely been about adult social care, there are likely to be other service areas for which this issue has implications (e.g. residential schools and children's homes). Lead Members considered this matter further at their meeting on 16 December and decided that the LGA's position at this stage should be to remain silent on this issue and await further developments. It was acknowledged that workers would not receive less pay than they currently do; the issue is whether they should receive more and the cost implications of this for the sector are such that it was agreed that a 'watching brief' was the most appropriate course of action at present.

Implications for Wales

11. The pay negotiations and pension policy sections above cover Welsh councils, whereas the strategic elements of the LGA's work do not directly apply to Welsh councils.

Financial Implications

12. The outlined activities are within the work programme and therefore have been budgeted for.

Next steps

13. Members are asked to comment on and provide a steer on the activities outlined.



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Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18

Purpose of report

For information and direction.

Summary

This paper reports on LGA activity on the provisional 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement, announced on 15 December 2016, including the briefing sent to member councils on the day of the announcement and the LGA's response to the consultation.

Recommendation

That the LGA Resources Board discuss the contents of this report and provide a steer on future direction.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officers:	Mike Heiser
Position:	Senior Adviser (Finance)
Phone no:	020 7664 3265
E-mail:	Mike.heiser@local.gov.uk

Sally Burlington Head of Programme (People) 0207 664 3099 Sally.burlington@local.gov.uk



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Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18

Introduction

- 1. The 2017/18 provisional local government finance settlement was announced in the House of Commons by Communities Secretary Sajid Javid on 15 December 2017.
- 2. The settlement was announced just over three weeks after the Autumn Statement. It followed intense lobbying activity from the LGA over social care funding in particular.
- 3. At the Autumn Statement, the Government did not reopen the Spending Review including the Spending Review totals affecting Local Government.
- 4. The 2016/17 settlement included a multi-year offer which promised greater certainty of funding. This covered Revenue Support Grant and certain other funding streams. The 2017/18 provisional settlement is in line with this, although there has been reallocation within totals of funding streams not included in the four year offer, notably a reduction of £241 million in the New Homes Bonus and the use of this resource to pay a one year only Adult Social Care Support Grant.
- 5. The government also announced an increase in the social care precept from 2 per cent to 3 per cent in 2017/18 and 2018/19. However, the total increase in the social care precept in the period to the end of 2019/20 must not exceed 6 per cent.
- 6. The consultation on the provisional settlement closes on 12 January 2017. The final local government finance settlement is expected to be published in late January or early February 2017 and to be approved by Parliament in February 2017.

Key LGA lobbying

- 7. The LGA engaged in intense lobbying activity, including media work, leading up to the Autumn Statement and the local government finance settlement, on the pressing need for more resources for social care.
- 8. At the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference in November, the LGA launched its 'state of the nation' report on adult social care funding. The report set out the LGA's position on the crisis facing adult social care and included a series of 14 essays from senior figures across the care and health sector representing, amongst others, elected Members, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the King's Fund, Carers UK, the Care Quality Commission, providers, the Care and Support Alliance, and the NHS Confederation. There have been nearly 1,300 unique downloads of the report making it the most downloaded report since its publication on 2 November.
- 9. A press release accompanying the launch of the report received considerable national media coverage. It included new LGA polling which showed that nearly two thirds of people believe adult social care should receive a greater proportion of total health and care funding.

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- 10. In the run up to, and following, both the Autumn Statement and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Chair of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, was interviewed for and quoted extensively in national media stories relating to adult social care funding.
- 11. Ahead of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, the LGA worked behind the scenes with senior partners from across the care and health sector to lobby Ministers on adult social care funding.
- 12. Since the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the LGA has provided briefings on adult social care funding to Parliamentarians for relevant parliamentary debates.

On the day activity

- 13. The LGA issued a <u>press release</u> shortly after the settlement was announced focussed on the urgent need for further social care funding. The Chairman and lead members were extensively quoted in media outlets.
- 14. The LGA's <u>On the Day briefing</u> was prepared on the day of the announcement and was circulated to Council Leaders, Finance Portfolio Holders, Chief Executives, senior local government officials and parliamentarians.

Key points in the settlement

- 15. As summarised above; the settlement is broadly in line with the indicative figures for 2017/18 announced in the four year settlement last year with the following changes:
 - 15.1. A cut of £241 million in the amount for New Homes Bonus broadly in line with the consultation on reform of the Bonus with the money being put into a new Adult Social Care Support Grant, distributed in line with the Relative Needs Formula for social care. This will be paid in 2017/18 only.
 - 15.2. An increase in the social care precept flexibility from 2 per cent to 3 per cent in 2017/18 and 2018/19 with up to 2 per cent in 2019/20, on condition that the total increase to 2019/20 does not exceed 6 per cent.
 - 15.3. Changes to the new homes bonus reducing the number of years that local authorities will receive payments on a property from 6 years to 5 years in 2017/18 and four years in 2018/19. This applies to existing as well as new properties. In addition the Government has introduced a threshold of 0.4 per cent which means that growth below this level will not generate New Homes Bonus funding.
 - 15.4. Five local authority areas are piloting further business rates retention. In addition the Greater London Authority will receive Transport for London capital funding through business rates rather than grant. This will have no financial effect on other

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authorities. Full details are expected to be included in the final Local Government Finance Settlement.

- 15.5. Top-ups and tariffs for all councils have changed due to the 2017 business rates revaluation which comes into force in April 2017. This adjustment has been introduced to try to cancel out the effect of the revaluation on local authorities so that no authority should be any worse or better off as a result of the revaluation.
- 16. Overall, there is no additional money for local government and there are no changes to the proposed distribution of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in 2017/18. The Government will continue to pay a Transition Grant to those authorities which were affected by the change in methodology for distributing RSG implemented in 2016/17.

Key points in the On the Day briefing and the response to the Settlement

- 17. The key points in the LGA's On the Day briefing are the following. Subject to member approval, these also form the core of the LGA's response to the Settlement. The final response to the Settlement, cleared by Lead Members of Resources Board, will be circulated to members of the Resources Board.
 - 17.1. No new money from central government has been included in the settlement. The Government has created more flexibility in the social care precept. However, as the total allowable precept increase over the remaining years of the Spending Review remains the same, this flexibility does not address the £2.6 billion funding gap facing social care by the end of the decade.
 - 17.2. By bringing forward council tax raising powers, the Government has recognised the LGA's call for the urgent need to help councils tackle some of the immediate social care pressures they face. However, this shifts the burden of tackling a national crisis onto councils and their residents.
 - 17.3. The measures announced in today's settlement will help in part but fall well short of what is needed to fully protect the care services for elderly and vulnerable people today and in the future. In addition, increasing the precept raises different amounts of money for social care in different parts of the country unrelated to need and will add an extra financial burden on already struggling households.
 - 17.4. There is need for an urgent injection of genuinely new additional Government funding to protect care services for elderly and disabled people. Given this unified call for action, it is hugely disappointing the settlement has failed to find any new money to tackle the growing crisis in social care.
 - 17.5. There needs to be an urgent and fundamental review of social care and health before next year's spring Budget. This is imperative to get a long-term, sustainable solution to the social care crisis that the most vulnerable people in our society deserve.

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- 17.6. Savings of £241 million from the reform of the New Homes Bonus have been allocated to social care authorities through a new Adult Social Care Support Grant. This is not new money but a redistribution of funding already promised to councils. This is not a solution, given the scale of the funding crisis. This, as well as the introduction of a 0.4 per cent threshold, will be a source of concern to many authorities, particularly shire districts and those with lower housing growth.
- 17.7. Councils still face challenging funding pressures of £5.8 billion by 2019/20. Further government funding cuts will result in local authorities up and down the country having to make significant reductions to the local services communities rely on.
- 17.8. We are concerned that confirmation of the decision to cut the public health budget by £84 million could undermine the objectives we share to prevent illness, improve the public's health and to keep the pressure off adult social care and the NHS.
- 17.9. Almost all councils signed up to the offer on the four year settlement. This provides more stability of funding and we welcome this. However, authorities have expressed concern about the 'negative Revenue Support Grant adjustment' in 2019/20. Some councils will also be concerned that core spending power figures for 2017/18 are lower than the figures included in the 2016/17 local government finance settlement due to changes in the New Homes Bonus. The late announcement of the settlement has not helped councils deal with this change.
- 17.10. Business rates pilots in five areas will enable aspects of the further business rates retention system to be tested. At the same time discussions will continue between Government officials, the LGA and councils including reforming the way appeals are dealt with. We will continue to engage as the enabling legislation, the Local Growth and Jobs Bill, progresses through Parliament in 2017.
- 17.11. We will continue to work with Government to help shape the details of today's announcements ensuring that the views of councils are heard and understood, and will continue to respond to all related consultations.

Next Steps

18. The final 2017/18 local government finance settlement is due to be published at the end of January / early February 2017. This will be followed by a debate on the settlement in the House of Commons where the settlement has to be approved. In advance of that debate the LGA will take every option for briefing parliamentarians on the key issues for local government on the settlement.

Financial Implications

19. This is core work for the LGA and is budgeted for within the 2016-17 LGA budget.

Implications for Wales

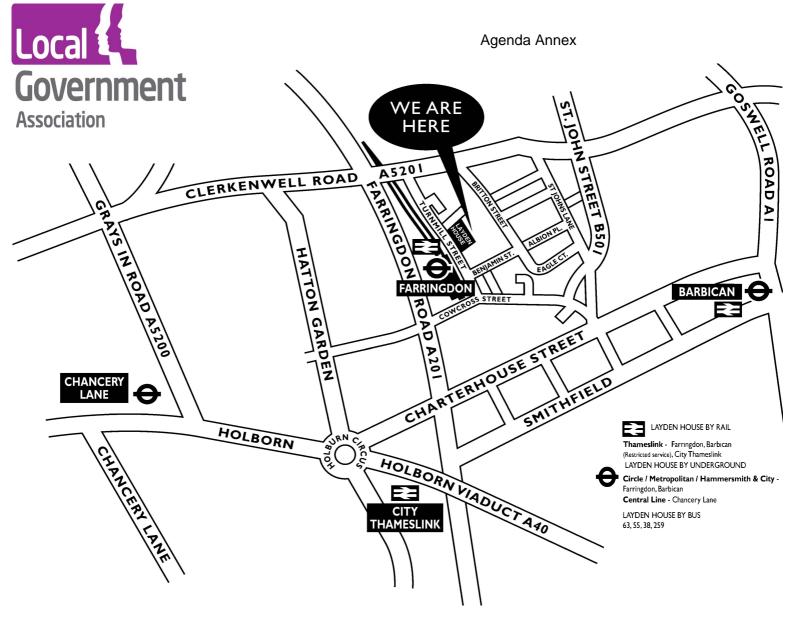
20. This report concerns England only. Local Government Finance is a devolved matter and

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Wales has its own separate Local Government Settlement.

Agenda Item 6a



Layden House

76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG

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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 Facilties

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