

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 19 October 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

www.local.gov.uk

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

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

Welcome!

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

Security

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

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

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

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email [member services](#) with your name and a recent photo and a pass will be made for you. You can pick this up from the Layden House reception desk on your next visit.

Fire instructions

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately via the nearest fire exit onto Turnmill Street and take the next turning on your left – Benjamin Street to St John's Gardens.
DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.
DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

Soft Seating Area

There is a small soft seating area on Floor 2 which will also operate as an 'Open Council' area for visiting members and officers from member councils. Please note however that unlike Open Council, this area does not have tea and coffee facilities, nor access to computers.

Toilets

There are accessible toilets on the Ground Floor, 2nd and 4th floors.

Accessibility

If you have special access needs, please let the meeting contact know in advance and we will do our best to make suitable arrangements to meet your requirements.

Parking is available at the rear of the building for Blue Badge holders, accessed via the Turks Head Yard, North underpass. Disabled WCs are situated on the ground and 4th floors. An induction loop system is available in the 5th floor conference venue. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

Guest WiFi in Layden House

WiFi is available in Layden House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling “Wireless Network Connection” on your computer and connecting to LGA-Free-WiFi. You will then need to register, either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

Further help

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

Why have the LGA’s Headquarters moved?

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

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

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

Councillors' Forum
19 October 2017

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

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

11.00am	Conservative	5 th Floor (South side)
11.00am	Labour	Rooms A & B (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Rooms D & E (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	5 th Floor (North side)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm on the 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:

Felicity Harris
020 7664 3231 / felicity.harris@local.gov.uk

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 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (44)	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Deborah Croney	Dorset County Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Donna Jones JP	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset County Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Cllr Colin Riley	Castle Point Borough Council
Mayor Tim Bowles	West of England Combined Authority
Mayor James Palmer	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Isle of Wight Council

Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
Labour (38)	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Jon Clempner	Harlow District Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Sabia Hussain	Slough Borough 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 Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Ms Fiona Twycross	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEP)
Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Independent (8)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Wayne Davies	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Carolyn Rule	Cornwall Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council

Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council
Liberal Democrat (9)	
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Cllr Keith Aspden	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE	Bedford Borough Council
Cllr Paul Smith	Colchester Borough Council

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 25 January 2018, 12.30 pm, Westminster
Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Local government, migration and immigration

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

The Rt. Hon. **Brandon Lewis**, Minister of State for Immigration, will join Councillors' Forum for this item. This session provides an opportunity for councillors to raise questions to the Minister.

This report covers a range of issues including non-UK EU migrants contribution to the labour market, LGA proposals for skills reform, and issues related to asylum, migration and resettlement.

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

Contact officers: Emma Jenkins/Jon Sutcliffe/Jasbir Jhas

Position: Senior Advisers

Phone no: 020 7664 3046

Email: Emma.jenkins@local.gov.uk

Jon.Sutcliffe@local.gov.uk

Jasbir.Jhas@local.gov.uk

Local government, migration and immigration

Overview

1. This report covers a range of issues including non-UK EU migrants in employment, LGA proposals for skills reform, and issues related to asylum, migration and resettlement.

EU migrants in employment

2. In July 2017, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK's exit from the European Union. The MAC has since launched a [call for evidence](#) on the contribution of European Economic Area (EEA) workers in the UK labour market. It is open until 27 October.
3. Councils, working with local businesses and partners, want to build strong, resilient economies where residents contribute to and benefit from growth. Fundamental to achieving this is a steady supply of skills and jobs. Both as major employers for a local area and leaders of place they are critical to understanding the skills supply of their local area and the skills demand of local employers, both now and in the future.
4. There are 2.37 million non-UK EU nationals working in the UK¹ which according to 2016 ONS data, equates to around 7 per cent of EU nationals contributing to the UK workforce. Around 740,000 from the European Economic Area (EEA) work in highly skilled jobs. By contrast, 454,000 work in low skilled jobs while 337,000 have low or no qualifications^[1].
5. EU nationals are understood to make up 7 per cent across both the construction and social care sectors. Importantly there are variations according to place. Taking the social care sector as an example, this ranges from 12 per cent of the workforce in London to 2 per cent of the workforce in the north east, emphasising the differential impact of Brexit on places, which is confirmed by our discussions with councils.
6. As employers in their own right, councils employ EU nationals at all levels from low-skilled to professional roles. While it is difficult to obtain exact numbers because most councils only maintain a voluntary register of nationality as part of their personnel records, it is clear there are considerable local variations in numbers across places.
7. Many councils are undertaking analysis to understand the current skills profile for their local areas. We need assurance from Government that this expertise and knowledge will be used to shape any future policy to ensure business continuity for places across the private and public sectors. To this end, the LGA will submit a response to the inquiry to register key issues.

Skills reform

8. Notwithstanding Brexit, local areas already face a range of skills challenges which we believe are a symptom of a centralised controlled skills system. For instance nine million

¹ ONS, 2017. UK and non-UK people in the labour market: August 2017. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/ukandnonukpeopleinthelabourmarket/august2017?utm_source=LGIU+Subscribers&utm_campaign=17a526d51e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_09_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4e47157211-17a526d51e-199193829

^[1] Source: L&W analysis of the Labour Force Survey

people lack literacy and numeracy skills, 13 million people lack basic digital skills; there will be a shortfall of 4.2 million high skilled people by 2024, and national skills policy has failed to train enough people to fill construction related jobs while skills shortages across the sector persist. This has led to geographical imbalances leading to reduced local growth, poor productivity and low pay.

9. One thing is clear; our skills system has underperformed. Councils want to be able to match skills supply with skills demand, but the levers to achieve this are held centrally rather than locally, with little or no influence over the £10.5 billion national employment and skills funding. We need a high performing and well-coordinated employment and skills system which is responsive to the needs of employers and local areas if we are to address skills gaps and shortage by investing adequately in, and targeting retraining and upskilling support of the current workforce and ensuring young people are trained for current and future jobs.
10. Work Local is the LGA's positive proposal for change. This involves central and local government jointly agree the conditions for devolution and developing one set of employment and skill readiness criteria – a transition from the earned autonomy to full devolution for all areas. Led by combined authorities and groups of councils, in partnership with local stakeholders, Work Local areas will plan, commission and have oversight of a joined-up service bringing together advice and guidance, employment, skills, apprenticeship and business support around place for individuals and employers.

Local Government and migration

11. Local authorities work with their local Home Office Immigration Compliance and Enforcement teams to address impacts on vulnerable individuals, communities and local public services affected by high levels of migration. Examples include tackling rogue landlords, sham marriages and employing illegal workers. The Home Office will be undertaking £40 million worth of enforcement activity over the next four years as part of the [Controlling Migration Fund](#) (CMF), working in collaboration with local authorities.

Local Government and asylum, migration and resettlement

12. The member led LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group is made up of regional member and Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) representation covering all of the English regions, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. The Task Group has been involved in long term discussions with government on how to work together to find sustainable solutions that minimise the pressures on local authorities, local communities and vulnerable individuals. The Task Group is meeting with the Minister on 26 October as a follow up to Councillors' Forum.
13. Current key issues in asylum, migration and resettlement that the Task Group is focusing on include:
 - 13.1. **Alignment of programmes:** councils and their partners work hard to support the many programmes for refugees and asylum seekers currently in operation. It is vital that clear links are made across all the programmes to make sure there is enough funding and support available. Councils will wish to ensure that any ongoing needs of any new arrivals under any system can be met without creating unsustainable pressure on local services.

- 13.2. **Engagement:** there is no clear mechanism for the Home Office to engage with local government to discuss shared priorities. Reflecting this, it is imperative that better and more transparent real time information is made available, particularly around support for children, so local government can ensure there is sufficient capacity for new arrivals, plan effectively in the long-term, and collectively assure itself that there isn't unsustainable pressure on local services being created in specific localities.
- 13.3. **Consultation on next steps for asylum dispersal:** at the end of June 2017, nearly 40,000 asylum seekers were dispersed throughout the UK². The Home Office is designing, developing and procuring the future model for asylum accommodation and support, replacing the existing COMPASS arrangements, with procurement for five year contracts likely to begin in November. Local government leaders will be expecting to see a commitment to effective engagement from the Minister in advance of procurement. Given the potential impact on their communities and, particularly given the issues with the current contracts, councils are seeking a chance to place the relationship between local authorities, future providers and the Home Office on a more strategic footing.
- 13.4. **Costs of support for unaccompanied children:** whilst the LGA welcomed the recognition of the significant costs incurred by local authorities which led to the increase in funding rates at the introduction of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), the current rate of funding remains inadequate. It has been estimated that the current Home Office grant covers 50 per cent of the costs, compounding an anticipated funding gap in children's services of at least £2 billion by 2020³. A current government review of funding must result in additional funding to ensure both unaccompanied children and those arriving to be placed with family members can be supported well after their arrival. As part of this, the LGA would also welcome a discussion on how the NTS is currently working and whether the best interests of children are being secured effectively.
- 13.5. **Children arriving from Europe:** as with the Syrian resettlement scheme, councils working with central government, national partners and regional bodies showed great leadership in building additional capacity for children from the Calais camp at fast pace. Under current European Union law, an unaccompanied child can apply to be reunited with their close family members in any state that is a signatory of the Dublin Convention, also known as the Dublin III Regulation. It is currently unclear how the 'Dubs Amendment' will continue to be implemented and what impact leaving the European Union will have on this and may remain so until a deal is negotiated.
- 13.6. **Failed asylum seekers:** councils support large numbers of children in destitute families, former care leavers and adults with care needs whose asylum applications have been refused by the Home Office. There is no government funding provided for this. Councils are also expressing concerns around regulations which introduce charging for this group for primary and secondary healthcare, with resulting impacts on families and public health as a whole.

² [Immigration statistics April – June 2017](#), ONS, August 2017

³ [ADCS Safeguarding Pressures Phase 5 Special Thematic Report Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children](#), November 2016

- 13.7. **Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme:** more than 8,500 Syrian refugees have been resettled in the UK under the scheme by more than 200 local authorities across the United Kingdom. Over a third of the 20,000 refugees the UK Government pledged to resettle by 2020 are already in the UK. Lessons can be learnt from the success of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in the development of any support for new arrivals, including early involvement from local authorities, regional delivery and long-term funding arrangements.
14. The LGA will continue to work with the Government and councils to both clarify migration and immigration policy and practice and ensure that councils and local leaders will continue to play a central role in exploring the impacts of migration on vulnerable individuals and their communities, and on local growth and productivity.

Appendix A

The Rt. Hon. Brandon Lewis MP

Minister of State for Immigration



The Rt. Hon. Brandon Lewis was appointed Minister of State for Immigration on 11 June 2017. Prior to this, he held a number of ministerial positions: he was appointed as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government from September 2012 until July 2014. He also served as Minister of State for Housing and Planning at the Department for Communities and Local Government from July 2014 until July 2016.

Mr Lewis was first elected as the Conservative MP for Great Yarmouth in 2010. Before becoming an MP, he was an active member of a number of all-party parliamentary groups, including those for enterprise zones and local growth, as well as local government. He was co-chair of a group on coastal erosion and continues to work with colleagues who represent other coastal towns to highlight common issues in their constituencies. Mr Lewis also served on Brentwood Borough Council for more than ten years and was Leader of the Council for five of those years.

Mr Lewis was born in Havering in 1971, and attended the Forest School in Walthamstow. He went on to study for a BSc Economics and LLB Hons (Law) at the University of Buckingham. He also holds an LLM in commercial law from King's College London and is a qualified barrister and company director.

Chairman's Update

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

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

25 Jul	Grenfell Tower fire Ministerial Recovery Group (Department for Communities and Local Government)
6 Sep	Alok Sharma MP (Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Department for Communities and Local Government)
11 Sep	The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (Chief Secretary to the Treasury, HM Treasury)
12 Sep	Steve Barker MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union)
13 Sep	Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair, Community Wellbeing board)
13 Sep	LGA, COSLA, WLGA, NILGA meeting with Steve Barker MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union)
14 Sep	Cllr Simon Blackburn (Chair, Safer and Stronger Communities board)
18 Sep	Cllr Hill (Leader), Tony McArdle (Chief Executive), Lincolnshire County Council
19 Sep	Ministerial Building Safety Group (Department for Communities and Local Government)
20 Sep	Meg Hillier MP (Chair, Public Accounts Committee)
20 Sep	Cllr Richard Watts (Chair, Children and Young People board)
27 Sep	The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP (Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government)
4 Oct	The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP (Secretary of State, Department of Health)
2 Oct	Cllr Elizabeth Campbell (Leade, LB of Kensington and Chelsea Council)
2 Oct	Mayor Ben Houchen (Tees Valley Combined Authority)
3 Oct	Mayor James Palmer (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority)
3 Oct	Mayor Tim Bowles (West of England Combined Authority)

Meetings with organisations and individuals

11 Sep	Colin Mellors (Chair), Jolyon Jackson (Chief Executive), Local Government Boundary Commission for England
11 Sep	Lord Bird (Big Issue, Crossbench peer)
2 Oct	Ofo bike sharing
3 Oct	Riverside housing association
16 Oct	Dr Jonathan Evans (CEO and Chairman, Ash and Lacy Group)

Events and speaking engagements

5 Sep	LGA Temporary Accommodation conference
7 Sep	APSE annual seminar
1-4 Oct	Conservative Party Conference
2 Oct	TFA roundtable event at Conservative Party Conference

Councillors' Forum

19 October 2017



- 3 Oct WElink fringe event at Conservative Party Conference
- 11 Oct National Children and Adult Services Conference 2017
- 16 Oct The Smith Institute - local housing companies report launch

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

Conferences, Meetings and Public Events

1. We are working closely with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and Solace to develop a council-led support offer that seeks to drive sustainable improvement in children's services focussing on preventative support and utilising council's existing experience and expertise. Once agreed, the offer will be used to influence Department for Education thinking on children's services improvement.
2. We hosted a roundtable with representatives of the youth services sector on 16 August to discuss a range of issues around youth services, including aims, funding, workforce, and challenges and opportunities. This meeting was the starting point for the development of an LGA vision on the council role in youth services, which will be launched at a Youth Services Conference in December.
3. At the last meeting of the Children and Young People Board received a presentation from the Children's Society on County Lines at its meeting on 20 September. This issue will now be taken forward as a priority for the CYP Board in conjunction with the Community Wellbeing Board, and guidance will be developed for councillors through a Modern Slavery Guide and a Youth Justice Resource Pack which will be made available in the coming months.
4. The LGA, working with the European Federation of Education Employers and the London Borough of Hackney, delivered a seminar on promoting social inclusion and achieving high quality education. Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Member of the Children and Young People Board and Deputy Mayor of Hackney, attended and hosted the seminar at Hackney Town Hall. The seminar was attended by delegates from across Europe and provided an opportunity to discuss topics including how to foster education of disadvantaged children and young people, the creation of inclusive school environments and; how to engage with the wider community to promote social inclusion.
5. I attended this year's [National Children and Adult Services Conference](#) on 11-13 October in Bournemouth. The conference provided many opportunities to discuss issues across the spectrum of children's and adults' services and how to respond locally. Members were encouraged to share their experiences and examples throughout the event.
6. Officers attended the schools mental health advisory group meeting hosted by the Mental Health Foundation. The group is providing strategic support to the Mental Health Foundation to roll out peer education training programme to young people in schools. Cllr Gillian Ford will attend these meetings in future.

Board business

7. Recently I have written to Charlie Taylor, Chair of the Youth Justice Board, to express concern over the safety of those in youth custody. This was followed by our press release calling for an action plan from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service to

address the problem swiftly. Officers have also met with the Youth Justice Board to raise this issue.

8. We have commissioned new research from Newton Europe, aiming to better understand apparent variations in local spending on children's services. Working with a sample of local authorities, we intend to develop a deeper, more complete picture of council spend on children's services while identifying areas of good practice and the underlying levers driving cost and performance. The output of this work will have a range of valuable practical applications, including informing a future children's services finance diagnostic offer to the sector.

Publications

9. Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE and I jointly launched a report showcasing different approaches to supporting the health of young people. Whilst the approach and focus of the work in local areas varies, each case study provides an opportunity to reflect on what made the initiative a success and how we might use this learning in our own areas. This report can be found linked [here](#).
10. In early October I launched a resource pack on [Corporate Parenting](#). This is aimed at everyone looking out for our most vulnerable children and young people, including every Councillor. This resource pack is aimed at helping them fulfil that role as effectively as possible.
11. I also launched a resource pack providing guidance to Councils on [support for care leavers](#).

Press Releases and Statements

12. I have recently made public statements on the [call for urgent action to improve safety in youth offending institutions](#), [the Barnardo's care leavers study](#), [responding to the national funding formula for schools announcement](#), [responding to the Action for children's poll on foster care](#), [responding to Family and Childcare Trust's School readiness survey](#), [the secondary school places crisis](#), [responding to the Children's Society Good Childhood Report](#), [responding to action for Children's 'Revolving Door' report](#) and [warning that children's social care is at breaking point](#).

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 People and Places and City Regions Boards jointly commissioned research from the consultants *Value Adage* in late January 2017 to undertake a review of the national trade and investment policy landscape with a view to understanding the potential for a strengthened sub-national approach.
2. Following a combination of desk-based literature review, telephone interviews with local and national stakeholders and a policy workshop, the independent report 'Strengthening Sub-National Trade and Investment' was presented to members at the June 2017 board meetings. In line with the recommendations of the report and feedback from members of both boards officers are now looking to explore three elements of further work: engagement with the business community; aligning our thinking with the emerging industrial strategy; and, informed by both, better understanding what works on the ground.

Skills and Employment

3. Last year, with the People and Places Board, the Board commissioned 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 and provision together so they work for everyone that needs support to progress. The final report – Work Local – which details the proposed model, and recommendations to achieve it - was launched at the LGA Annual Conference in July during the 'Industrial Strategy- the local response' Plenary Session, alongside a public consultation on the proposals.
4. The final report features on a dedicated [Work Local webpage](#). Officers have met to discuss Work Local with a range of stakeholders, and we expect analysis from a consultation will follow shortly. More recently we held fringe sessions at each of the party conferences this autumn focusing on our Work Local proposals. In the coming months the Boards will engage with decision makers including Ministers and opinion formers.

Devolution

5. It is now two years since the then Government invited devolution submissions from areas across the UK. The Board has been at the forefront of the debate on devolution, working with councils, combined authorities, special interest groups and independent organisations such as the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) to make the case for devolving powers and funding to local areas. The Board has sought to influence Government policy at key points, such as the introduction of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill and announcements such as the Budget and Autumn Statement.
6. The LGA continues to provide bespoke improvement support to combined authorities, combined authority mayors and all metropolitan areas looking to secure and advance local devolution.

Higher education

7. Following on from the success of Leading Places 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 continues to progress in 15 areas with LGA funding and support. The Leading Places project is delivered in partnership with Universities UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).
8. The LGA is also working with HEFCE to support delivery of the Local Growth Academy, a leadership programme which aims to bring together councils, universities and the NHS to strengthen their individual and collective contributions to local and inclusive growth. Initial sessions of the Academy have been positively received by attendees from councils.

Contact officer: Alex Thomson
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 0207 664 3312
Email: alex.thomson@local.gov.uk

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

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. On 12 July I met Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to discuss the forthcoming consultation on the future of adult social care and raised our serious concerns about the short and long-term financial challenges facing our sector. We also discussed the Better Care Fund and the future of health and social care integration.
2. Cllr Richard Kemp represented the LGA at a round table discussion hosted by Department of Health on 26 July. The discussion was an opportunity to seek feedback from attendees to develop the two key themes in the paper further; preventing mental illness and seeking right treatment in the right place at the right time. The green paper is due to be launched mid-Autumn.
3. In August, I wrote to Steve Brine MP, Public Health and Primary Care Minister to raise our concerns about the pressures caused by the increased demand for local authority funded sexual health services.
4. In August, Mayor Kate Allsop represented the LGA at an event marking the start of celebrations for Health Visitor Week. Mayor Allsop delivered a presentation to delegates highlighting how councils are working across health visiting, early years and children's services to provide an integrated offer of local support to improve the health and wellbeing of children 0-5 years old.
5. On 17 August, I met Sir David Behan, Chief Executive of the Care Quality Commission, to discuss the local system reviews that the Chancellor requested CQC undertake to look at the effectiveness of health and care systems in ensuring that they support older people to pass seamlessly through health and care services, and get the support they need. He was very responsive to LGA concerns regarding the timescale for the reviews, the need to assess the effectiveness of the local health and care system as a whole and the opportunities for the sector to learn from the reviews.
6. On 11 September I met the Care Minister, Jackie Doyle-Price MP to discuss adult social care funding, mental health and the forthcoming consultation on adult social care. She addressed the CWB Away Day meeting on 28 September to outline the Government's health and care priorities.
7. I also met Alex Fox, Chief Executive of Shared Lives Plus, the UK network for family-based and small-scale ways of supporting adults to discuss how we can continue to work together to promote personalisation for people with social care support needs.
8. Cllr Richard Kemp represented the Board at a number of national conferences including the NHS England Health and Care Expo in Manchester, the Commissioning in Health stage at the UK Health Show, and in October at the Kings Fund conference on learning from new models of care.
9. In September Cllr Jonathan McShane and I attended and chaired sessions at the Annual Public Health England Conference held 12-13 September at Warwick University.

10. On 18 September I attended the MH:2K inaugural National Advisory Panel meeting. MH:2K is a youth-led project on mental health, which aims to link decision-makers with young people in their area particularly young people at risk and provide them with young people's perspectives on how to improve local mental health prevention, support and services. After a highly successful pilot in Oldham in 2016/17, the project is planning to expand to four more local areas from September 2017. Panel members provide strategic input on what learning from the project would be nationally useful and the shape of the projects' next phase as it seeks to roll out more widely across England, and potentially also Scotland and Wales.
11. I know that many of you continue to raise concerns about the threat to withhold the money allocated to councils through the Better Care Fund (BCF). Recently our Chairman, Lord Porter, and I, met with the Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt where this was on the agenda. In our discussions on your behalf we continue to emphasise that the disproportionate focus on delayed transfers of care (DToC) is counter-productive and does not help support our collective endeavours to prepare for winter. We are also working to support councils who have not agreed the national DToC targets. I have invited Cabinet members for Health and Social Care and Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards to a summit at the National Children and Adult Services Conference to discuss how the LGA can support councils with concerns about BCF.
12. I attended this year's [National Children and Adult Services Conference](#) on 11-13 October in Bournemouth. The conference provided many opportunities to discuss issues across the spectrum of children's and adults' services and how to respond locally. Members were encouraged to share their experiences and examples throughout the event.

Lead Members visit to Greater Manchester

13. On 31 July I visited The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership with Lead Members of the Community Wellbeing Board. Members heard from senior figures including Jon Rouse, Chief Officer of the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, and Lord Peter Smith, Wigan Council leader, as well as Greater Manchester leads for finance, primary care, social care and public health.
14. Themes from the day included the importance and benefit of place-based leadership and accountability in forging a relationship of equals with local health partners. Key points of learning included the significance of a mature political dialogue, of a dispersed leadership model to encourage widespread ownership, and of honing the partnership's priorities to bring a shared focus to developments. Greater Manchester colleagues stressed the value of transparency and communications with the public as well as stakeholders.
15. Lead members and I heard about the partnership's transformation fund, which is encouraging place-based behaviours and is enabling the development of a financial model from the bottom-up based on local partners' agreements and plans. They heard also about the challenges inherent in transforming adult social care and primary care within constrained finances and increasing demand, as well as of the challenges and success in the partnership's strategies around mental health and population health.

Publications

16. Cllr Martin Tett and I jointly launched a [report and supporting resources](#) supporting councils to plan and deliver homes meeting the needs of our ageing population, and to integrate housing into health and social care provision. We worked with 10 councils to understand their different strategies and gained significant press attention. Over 90 delegates attended the launch event.
17. I launched a new [prospectus](#) on delivering sector-led improvement activity in 2017/18 for public health, prevention, and early intervention through the care and health improvement programme funded by the Department of Health with our partners at Public Health England and the Association for Directors of Public Health.
18. Cllr Martin Tett and I jointly launched a [briefing](#) to support local authorities in protecting and improving their population's health and wellbeing, and reducing health inequalities, by tackling homelessness and its causes.
19. Cllr Richard Watts and I jointly launched a [report](#) showcasing different approaches to supporting the health of young people. Whilst the approach and focus of the work in local areas varies, each case study provides an opportunity to reflect on what made the initiative a success and how we might use this learning in our own areas.
20. I launched the publication of a report on preventing drug related deaths. Public health budgets are being increasingly stretched. But there are plenty of examples of councils which are succeeding – and you can read about some of them in this publication. This report can be found linked [here](#).

Contact officer:	Mark Norris
Position:	Principle Policy Adviser
Phone no:	020 7664 3241
E-mail:	mark.norris@local.gov.uk

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Chair)

Introduction

1. I have recently taken over as chairman of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board from Cllr Ian Stephens. At our first meeting, the Board identified its priorities for this political cycle. Firstly, culture-led regeneration, secondly enabling councils to meet the challenges and opportunities of growing the visitor economy with particular regards to Brexit and relatedly third how to make the visitor economy 12 months through. I have arranged meetings with a number of key outside bodies to take these objectives forward and develop the working relationship the LGA has with them.
2. I am very grateful for the support of the vice-chair Cllr Simon Henig and the two deputy chairs Cllr Peter Golds and Cllr Geoff Knight.
3. On 12 September I met with John Glen MP, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, where we discussed the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board's new priorities and how we can continue our excellent working relationship with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. We have invited the Minister to deliver a keynote address at our annual Culture, Tourism and Sports Conference 2018 on Thursday 8 March 2018 in Hull.

Sport and Physical Activity

4. Lead Member Cllr Simon Henig will be hosting our Leadership Essential Sports event on 16 and 17 November in Loughborough. We have also confirmed Tracey Crouch MP, Minister for Sport, as the keynote speaker at our Sports and Physical Activity conference on 5 December.

Tourism and culture

5. On the 11 October, I met with Sir Nicholas Serota the chairman of Arts Council England. We discussed the ties between our organisations at a time when local government, which is the biggest public sector investor in culture is under increasing financial pressures. We will focus our joint efforts on supporting the cultural offer in rural areas, in addition to our regular leadership offer.
6. On the 12 October, I met with Kurt Janson of the Tourism Alliance. We discussed key issues affecting the tourism sector; such as the impact of Brexit and the effect this will have on the sectors access to workers with the skills it requires to thrive.
7. Also, on the 12 October I met with Ufi Ibrahim, the Chief Executive of the British Hospitality Association. We discussed how we can champion the UK hospitality and tourism industry as the best in the world, including ways to reinvest money raised from tourism businesses in tackling tourism-related pressures in local areas.
8. The following appointments were made at the Culture, Tourism and Sport's last Board meeting on 8 September 2017:
 - 8.1. Cllr Geraldine Carter [CON, Calderdale] was appointed as the board's representative for the Tourism Alliance.

8.2. Cllr Geoff Knight [IND, Lancaster] was retained as the board's representative for British Destinations.

8.3. Cllr Mike Bell [Lib Dem, North Somerset] was retained as the board's representative for the Libraries Taskforce.

8.4. Cllr Sonja Crisp [LAB, York] was retained as the board's representative for the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

Contact officer: Alex Thomson
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 0207 664 3312
Email: alex.thomson@local.gov.uk

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

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. I represented the LGA at a number of interesting housing and growth related events at this year's Conservative Party Conference. I took part in panel discussions with MPs and private sector bosses about delivering better planning and housing as well as discussion about financing Britain's infrastructure. On the same theme I also gave a talk on the skills needed in the delivery of major infrastructure projects and the importance of community engagement.
2. On our temporary accommodation project the Board launched a final report focusing on council innovation in meeting the demand for increased temporary accommodation. It includes detailed examples and further information on supporting councils wanting to try innovations in their areas. Cllr Ed Turner from the LGA Housing Board chaired the event.

Board Business

3. The Government are [consulting](#) on whether to keep existing roadwork lane rental schemes and allow other authorities to adopt their own schemes, and introducing 'super permits' as an alternative option. We have been calling for the availability of lane rental powers for all councils for a number of years. The Government is favourable to our calls and acknowledged the success of pilot schemes in London and Kent.
4. We worked with the National Audit Office on the development of the inquiry whose final report reflected many of the findings and concerns of councils.
5. We gave an on the day response to consultation on local housing need formula, the LGA will be engaging with councils and partners in developing a response ahead of the November deadline, which was discussed at the Board on 6 October.

Publications

6. Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE and I jointly launched a [report and supporting resources](#) supporting councils to plan and deliver homes meeting the needs of our ageing population, and to integrate housing into health and social care provision. We worked with 10 councils to understand their different strategies and gained significant press attention. Over 90 delegates attended the launch event, Chaired by Lead Member Cllr Adele Morris.
7. I launched a report titled '[a country in a jam: tackling congestion in our towns and cities](#)' identifying congestion as a serious problem for economic development, quality of life and public health. It also identifies the steps that innovative councils have taken to reduce congestion and its impacts.
8. I launched an [analysis](#) looking at the increase in house prices compared to incomes around different parts of the country. We called for a redefinition of affordable housing to match what households can afford, and will take this forward with the Government.

Housing Advisers Programme

9. We have also launched the [Housing Advisers Programme](#) designed to help councils meet the housing need of their local area. Flexible and locally-led, the new programme funds an independent expert for up to 20 days, providing bespoke support to a local authority project to deliver homes, reduce homelessness, or generate savings or revenues.

Press Releases and Statements

10. In August I made a public statement regarding the positive news on [DEFRA's announcement of a new litter innovation fund](#).
11. I have recently made public statements on [private renters concerns regarding getting on the property ladder](#), [Councils response to the LGO report on waste collection complaints](#), [concerns regarding taxpayers having to subsidise planning application costs by £1bn over the next five years](#), [responding to Government announcement of utility companies](#), [the need for a 'residential revolution' for England's ageing population](#), [our response to the recent Government announcement on housing need](#) and [our concern regarding the average house price now being eight times average wage](#).
12. Cllr Judith Blake has also made public statements on the [crisis analysis of rough sleeping](#), [falling confidence in new builds](#) and concerns [that the average driver spends nearly £1000 and wastes almost five days stuck in traffic a year](#).

Contact officer:	Eamon Lally
Position:	Principal Policy Adviser
Phone number:	0207 664 3132
E-mail:	eamon.lally@local.gov.uk

Improvement & Innovation Board – report from Cllr Paul Bettison OBE (Chairman)

Improvement

1. This year, with input from the board, the LGA is due to deliver 110 peer challenges and put in place peer based support in over 150 councils. Peer challenges have 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 LGA has developed a tiered approach to the peer based mode, recognising that whilst most support offers will be universal some councils will sometimes face more significant challenges and will require more bespoke support. All authorities are eligible to receive a Corporate Peer Challenge, at no cost, every four/five years – if your council has not had one recently please contact your Principal Adviser for further details.
2. The LGA hosted an annual conference for Member Peers at Manchester Town Hall in September. I was pleased to welcome approximately 100 member peers who attended the event. The conference was a key occasion to thank peers for the contribution they make to the success of sector led improvement, and provided an important opportunity to engage peers on the key issues facing the sector, helping to inform the LGA's improvement work going forward. Feedback from peers has been very positive.
3. The LGA has worked hard along with Public Sector Audit Appointments, which the LGA established, to put in place a successful national auditor procurement scheme. Almost all councils decided to 'opt in' to this scheme and all these councils will see their audit costs fall by at least 18 per cent, with the quality of audits being maintained, when the current contracts come to an end in March 2018. Across the country we are likely to see significant savings, on top of the 55 per cent reduction since 2011/12 following the decision by DCLG to close the Audit Commission. For example, annually, a typical:
 - 3.1. County could save around £20,000 – with fees around £150,000 lower than in 2011/12.
 - 3.2. District could save around £9,000 – with fees around £70,000 lower than in 2011/12.
 - 3.3. London borough could save around £30,000 – with fees around £230,000 lower than in 2011/12.
 - 3.4. Metropolitan council could save around £25,000 – with fees around £190,000 lower than in 2011/12.
 - 3.5. Unitary authority could save around £22,000 – with fees around £170,000 lower than in 2011/12.

Leadership

4. Our political leadership programmes provide direct support to improve the skills of councillors and senior managers across local government. Our offer includes our Leadership Academy and Leadership Essential programmes that provide development opportunities for over 700 councillors. It also includes our Next Generation, Be a

Councillor, and national graduate development programmes. The full programme of events can be found [here](#). Member feedback on the programmes has been very positive:

"I have learnt about new and different ways of working that have helped me in difficult circumstances as well as given me a new depth of experience that has improved the way I lead." (Leader, Unitary Authority on the Leaders Programme)

"Very practical throughout and inspiring - lots of tips to take back and put in place." (Cabinet Member, London Borough on Leadership Essentials)

5. On Thursday 12 October, as part of the "Be a Councillor" Programme, the LGA and the Parliamentary Outreach Team will be jointly hosting an event for women who want to find out more about politics with the view to standing as a councillor. Women are underrepresented in politics at all levels in the UK. This workshop, during European Local Democracy Week, gives delegates the chance to hear from women who are active in politics and passionate about influencing change and making a difference in their local communities.
6. The impact of our political leadership development programmes is demonstrated through our [evaluation](#), whereby 96 per cent of respondents said they felt more confident in their role as a councillor having taken part in our programmes.

Efficiency and productivity

7. Our efficiency and productivity programme provides a range of support to help councils in these areas ranging from the creation of procurement frameworks through to the use of productivity experts which provide support such as renegotiating contracts with suppliers. This year, we have strengthened our offers around commercialism including access to a newly developed course jointly provided with the Institute of Directors. We have also recruited a number of expert financial advisers that councils can make use of, free of charge, to support them on a range of financial issues, including technical support to the medium term financial planning process.

Accountability, transparency and sharing good practice

8. LG Inform provides easy access to up-to-date published data about your local area and the performance of your council and fire and rescue service. Over the summer, we built in various [new practical features](#) and reached the landmark 1,000,000 page views. Our new [fly-tipping report](#) exemplifies what LG Inform can offer, and has been viewed almost 2,000 views since its launch.
9. The latest, September results of our [triannual polling of resident satisfaction](#) show once again a strong level of satisfaction with one's local area as a place to live (81 per cent of respondents agreed). Again, similar to the last three years, 66 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the way their local council runs things, and 60 per cent said they trusted their council 'a great deal' or 'fair amount' (the polling average is 61 per cent). We've also launched [Understanding the views of residents: an introduction to surveys and consultation](#), particularly for communications officers.

Innovation

10. We have launched our [behavioural insights webpage](#) to provide councils with information on what behavioural insights is and how it can be used practically in councils' work. We are also encouraging councils to apply for the next phase of our behavioural insights [funding programme](#), applications for which close on 10 November 2017.

Contact officer: Dennis Skinner
Position: Head of Improvement
Phone no: 020 7664 3017
E-mail: dennis.skinner@local.gov.uk

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 from the consultants *Value Adage* in late January 2017 to undertake a review of the national trade and investment policy landscape with a view to understanding the potential for a strengthened sub-national approach.
2. Following a combination of desk-based literature review, telephone interviews with local and national stakeholders and a policy workshop, the independent report 'Strengthening Sub-National Trade and Investment' was presented to members at the June 2017 board meetings. In line with the recommendations of the report and feedback from members of both boards officers are now looking to explore three elements of further work: engagement with the business community; aligning our thinking with the emerging industrial strategy; and, informed by both, better understanding what works on the ground.

Skills and Employment

3. Last year, with the City Regions Board, the Board commissioned 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 and provision together so they work for everyone that needs support to progress. The final report – Work Local – which details the proposed model, and recommendations to achieve it - was launched at the LGA Annual Conference in July during the 'Industrial Strategy- the local response' Plenary Session, alongside a public consultation on the proposals.
4. The final report features on a dedicated [Work Local webpage](#). Officers have met to discuss Work Local with a range of stakeholders, and we expect analysis from a consultation will follow shortly. More recently we held fringe sessions at each of the party conferences this autumn focusing on our Work Local proposals.. In the coming months the Boards will engage with decision makers including Ministers and opinion formers.

Devolution

5. It is now two years since the then Government invited devolution submissions from areas across the UK. The Board has been at the forefront of the debate on devolution since that time, and as a number of areas continue to negotiate with Government with the intention of securing a devolution deal and setting up a combined authority, the LGA continues to provide improvement support to all non-metropolitan areas interested in devolution.

Leading Places project

6. Following on from the success of Leading Places 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 continues to progress in 15 areas with LGA funding and support. The Leading Places project is delivered in partnership with Universities UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

7. The LGA is also working with HEFCE to support delivery of the Local Growth Academy, a leadership programme which aims to bring together councils, universities and the NHS to strengthen their individual and collective contributions to local and inclusive growth. Initial sessions of the Academy have been positively received by attendees from councils.

Superfast Broadband and Mobile Connectivity

8. The Board will continue its strong focus on improving the digital connectivity of residents. Over the next year, the Board will maintain its interest in broadband but prioritise new thinking and stakeholder engagement activities to build capacity in relation to the provision of mobile infrastructure, where the role of local government is currently less influential and the opportunities to have a significant impact are more pronounced. The Board will also continue to strengthen key relationships with national government and the communications regulator Ofcom.
9. I was pleased to meet the Rt. Hon Matt Hancock MP, Minister of State for Digital, on 11 September to discuss the broadband Universal Service Offer, the rollout of full-fibre infrastructure and mobile connectivity. The discussion was very positive with several areas of agreement identified and the Minister expressed an interest in meeting with the People and Places Board in future.

Contact officer: Alex Thomson
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 0207 664 3312
Email: alex.thomson@local.gov.uk

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

2017 Autumn Budget

1. The LGA submitted its representation to the Chancellor's 2017 [Autumn Budget process](#). The submission follows the LGA's publication launched at the annual conference in July 2017, *Growing Places*. Based on advice provided by lead members of Resources Board and other member groups, the submission focusses on the financial challenges that local services face over the remaining decade, highlighting the £5.8 billion funding gap that forms by 2019/20. LGA officers will be providing an on-the-day briefing on the Chancellor's Autumn Budget on 22 November.

Business rate retention and Fair Funding Review

2. While the newly elected Government opted not to reintroduce the Local Government Finance Bill as part of the Queen's Speech, the LGA continued to press for greater business rates retention as elements of it can be introduced without new primary legislation.
3. We have been successful in restarting the work of the jointly chaired DCLG/LGA Steering Group on further Business Rates Retention. The initial point of focus for the group is to consider what aspects of the reforms can be delivered within the spirit of the 2013 legislation that introduced 50 per cent retention. The LGA also wrote to the Secretary of State expressing its wish to work with the Government on implementation but with a clear view that additional funding delivered through business rates should be used to plug funding gaps in existing services, and not to transfer any additional responsibilities.
4. The Government's work on the Fair Funding Review has restarted following the General Election. LGA officers continue to jointly chair the technical working group together with DCLG colleagues. The Government's draft work plan for the review now aims for implementation by April 2020, a year later than the original timescale.
5. The LGA's view is that the Fair Funding Review can only be successful if additional resources are introduced to help smooth transition from the current distribution of funding to the new one.
6. LGA officers are developing proposals for further work on the Fair Funding review to help inform member authorities about the impact of potential future propositions on their council. These proposals are being considered by LGA Leadership Board and LGA Executive on 18 and 19 October, respectively.
7. The Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group, which I chair and helps to develop policy on business rates retention and the fair funding review, will be reconvened shortly.

Spring Budget – business rates reliefs

8. Following increased Government pressure for billing authorities to quickly implement the business rates reliefs schemes announced in the 2017 Spring Budget (including the £300 million funding package for local discretionary schemes), officers collected evidence about local implementation and potential reasons for delays. Using the information the LGA was able to show that in many cases the delays are out of billing authority control, especially in relation to late and changing guidance and software issues.

9. The Government has stated it will start publishing a list of billing authorities that have started rebilling on the basis of all of the three reliefs. We were successful in convincing the Government to do this instead of 'naming and shaming' councils that were not in that position.

Cipfa Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and Cipfa Treasury Management Code of Practice

10. The Resources Board approved a response to the Cipfa consultations on the Cipfa Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and Cipfa Treasury Management Code of Practice. These are important codes setting the framework for council's capital financing and investments. Overall, although the changes proposed in the consultation mean that both codes undergo an extensive re-write, we believe that the changes will only improve what is already a good governance framework and will strengthen good decision making by local authorities. We are therefore supportive of the updated codes.

ONS consultation on Sub National Public Sector Finances

11. Resources Board lead members approved a response on behalf of the LGA to a Government consultation on a scoping study by the Office of National Statistics. This explored data sources such as HMRC tax data and DWP benefit payments as well as local authority income and expenditure for measuring public sector finances below country and regional level. Our response emphasised that robust and comprehensive public sector financial statistics for all public sector bodies at the local level, including below local authority level if possible, would lead to a better understanding of the totality of public expenditure.

Disability Employment Gap

12. The recent focus on the Disability employment gap by Ministers and the DWP means that councils need to focus more on supporting disabled people to move into or maintain work. On 20 September the LGA and Timewise held a well-received event to highlight the latest thinking around creating work opportunities for people with disabilities from innovative employers and DWP, how to use job carving / job splitting effectively and what councils could do to be more Disability Confident and be part of an Action Learning Set. The event was attended by 55 councils.

Contact Officers: Nicola Morton
Position: Head of Local Government Finance
Phone no: 020 7664 3197
E-mail: Nicola.Morton@local.gov.uk

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

Domestic Abuse

1. In July I attended a meeting of the Home Office's National Oversight Group on domestic abuse, a group chaired by the Home Secretary to oversee improvements to police responses to domestic abuse. Following the meeting, members of the Group were invited to submit some early written comments about the Government's outline proposals for a Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill, and new Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner. Our response set out support for the overall aims of the legislation, but outlined some broad concerns about the potential implications for councils.

Safer communities

2. Cllr Kate Haigh spoke at a Labour Party Conference fringe session on 'Safer Cities: a new urban agenda'. Safer Cities is a programme run by Plan International UK about girls being at the heart of their community, having an equal voice in local matters and fulfilling their right to feel safe in their community. Cllr Haigh's speech covered a range of issues including collaboration between councils, fire and rescue services and other agencies; our work around tackling violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse and female genital mutilation; councils' role in licensing and the night-time economy; and female representation in local government.

Counter-extremism

3. I co-chaired the second LGA leadership essentials course on countering extremism in Leeds in September. The course was attended by eight elected members from a range of authorities and the feedback was very positive. A further course is scheduled for late November and is already fully booked.

Knife crime

4. Following council trading standards teams' findings about the underage sale of knives, in July I called for the retail industry to fund underage test purchasing activities and liaise with councils to help improve safety standards and compliance with the law on knife sales. I also called for tougher sentences, including larger fines, to reflect the seriousness of selling knives to children.

Moped and scooter crime

5. In September I attended a Home Office ministerial roundtable on moped and scooter related crime, convened in response to increasing concerns about a rise in thefts of these vehicles and regarding their use to facilitate other offences. I reported on issues raised with us by member councils about the nature of these issues and difficulties in identifying and tracking down bikes.

HMICFRS External Reference Group

6. Cllr Rebecca Knox and Cllr David Acton attended the fourth meeting of the HMICFRS External Reference Group on the introduction of inspection for the fire and rescue service.

The meeting discussed the Inspection methodology, communications with the sector and the progress of HMICFRS to date.

Inclusion and Diversity Masterclass

7. Cllr Ian Stephens, the Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, introduced the Inclusion and diversity masterclass for the fire and rescue service. There were sessions on inclusive leadership and unconscious bias, attendees also heard from two fire and rescue authorities on their work and from HMICFRS on inspection.

Sprinklers

8. The LGA approach to the retro-fitting of sprinkler systems or other fire suppression methods was discussed at a joint meeting of the lead members of Fire Services Management Committee, the Safer and Stronger Communities Board and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board at the start of August. At the end of the meeting it was noted that across the three boards:
 - 8.1. There were strong views in support of sprinklers being installed in new buildings, and that there should be risk assessed retro-fitting of sprinklers or other fire suppression systems in existing buildings;
 - 8.2. The height of the building was less important as a risk factor than the residents' vulnerability and the characteristics of the building; and
 - 8.3. Residents in some areas had expressed concerns about the retro-fitting of sprinklers and there were also issues associated with costs, skills and timescales to do the work. It should be a matter for local decision as to what buildings were retro-fitted.
9. During the discussion, it had also been noted that the effectiveness of retro-fitting sprinklers was dependent on them being installed in a large proportion of the flats in a block, and the presence of a large number of leaseholders due to right-to-buy sales could impact on any retro-fitting programme as leaseholders could not be compelled to have sprinklers fitted in their properties.

Trading standards

10. In August, I highlighted the work of council trading standards teams in tackling scams and fraudsters, and urged people to ensure scams are reported to help raise awareness of the latest swindles.

Food safety regulations

11. In September, I urged that Government to ensure that existing food regulations are maintained after the UK leaves the EU, but also to take the opportunity to strengthen the framework by introducing mandatory display of food hygiene rating scheme scores.

Gambling

12. Ahead of an expected announcement in the Government's review of gaming machines and social responsibility measures, the four lead members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board wrote to the Sports Minister, Tracey Crouch MP, to urge the



Councillors' Forum

20 July 2017

Government to introduce a substantial reduction in maximum FOBT stakes and introduce measures limiting the exposure of children and young people to gambling advertising.

Contact officer:	Mark Norris
Position:	Principal Policy Advisor
Phone no:	020 7664 3241
Email:	mark.norris@local.gov.uk

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date:	Thursday 20 July 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 Chair welcomed members to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Modern Industrial Strategy - the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Chair welcomed the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to the meeting.

The Minister thanked Councillors for their input into the industrial strategy, advising them that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy would continue to engage with local authorities on this. He discussed recommendations set out in a series of pillars, highlighting that the strategy would build on successes in universities and the manufacturing industries. He touched on opportunities for improving productivity across the country, including providing better training and encouraging new business ideas. He highlighted the importance of place and local leadership in driving forward the economy, emphasising that the government's approach would need to recognise diversity and specialisms in the localities, and be more empowering of local differences.

The department would make its response to the strategy consultation within the next few weeks. He invited councils to build the industrial strategy with the department going forward, suggesting that local government should be given a formal 'constitutional' role in proceedings.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- Local authorities were pivotal in their oversight of the planning process, but needed further powers to help development opportunities to advance. The Minister agreed with the point, citing growth in Cambridge as an example where City Deal funding had been used to invest in transport and housing. He emphasised that the industrial strategy would help to expand similar

opportunities to other parts of the country.

- The attitude of some MPs towards local authorities' role in the industrial strategy was discussed. It was emphasised that the vision for councils to be part of the strategy going forward needed to be shared with both MPs and other government departments.
- The negative effect of messages of Brexit on overseas students considering study at UK universities was raised. The Minister emphasised the importance of attracting foreign students to the UK, adding that neither side in the campaign had been in favour of protectionism, and had supported the UK being open to the world.
- Members discussed skills and asked whether skills funding could be devolved from departments to local authorities. The Minister highlighted that local and central government would need to work together in this area.
- Members argued that local authorities needed the opportunity to establish trade and investment arms within localities. The Minister assured members that the department would work with local and national trade arms as the industrial strategy was rolled out.
- There was a discussion on the need to understand what constituted a successful local economy. Members emphasised the importance of building communities with the facilities and services to support economic prosperity. The Minister agreed that economic success was inseparable from environmental and cultural success. The cultural flourishing of towns was important to improve the quality of life and attract overseas investors.
- Members asked whether funding would sit with combined authorities where they existed, or whether this would be devolved to local authorities.
- Members asked what the government's goal to increase productivity was, and whether it was measurable.

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

3 Chairman's Update

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

4 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

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

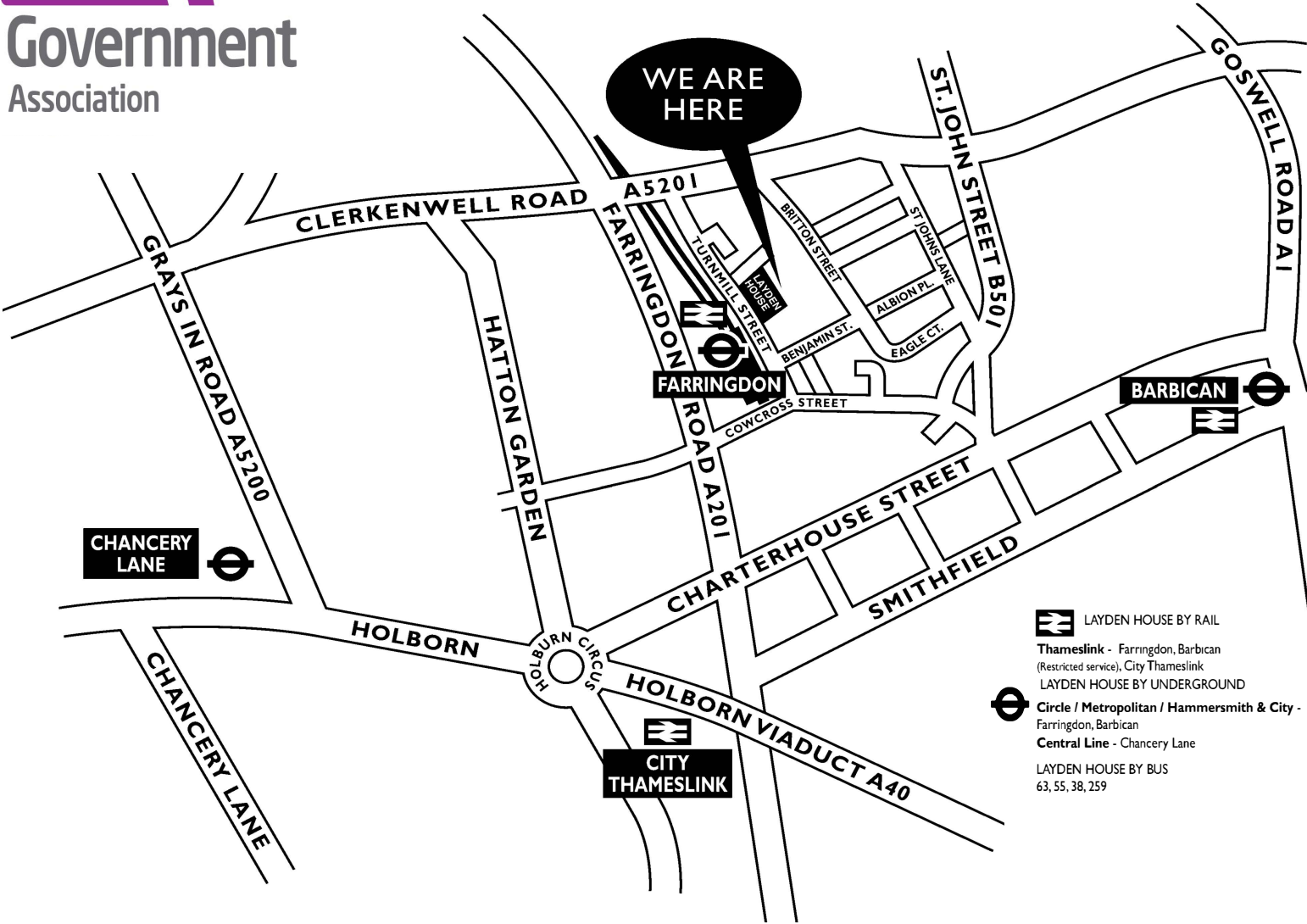
5 Digest of the last meeting


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

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Members	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County 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 Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford 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 Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Apologies	Cllr Sean Anstee Cllr Nicolas Heslop Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE Cllr Roy Perry Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE Mayor Sir Steve Bullock Cllr Alice Perry Cllr Kate Haigh Cllr Aaron Shotton Cllr Graham Chapman Cllr Andy Moorhead Cllr Claire Hudson	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council East Riding of Yorkshire Council Hampshire County Council Stevenage Borough Council Lewisham London Borough Council Islington Council Gloucester City Council Flintshire County Council Nottingham City Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Mendip District Council



-  LAYDEN HOUSE BY RAIL
- Thameslink** - Farringdon, Barbican (Restricted service), City Thameslink
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY UNDERGROUND**
-  **Circle / Metropolitan / Hammersmith & City** - Farringdon, Barbican
- Central Line** - Chancery Lane
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY BUS**
63, 55, 38, 259

Layden House

76-86 Turnmill Street,
 London
 EC1M 5LG

Tel: 020 7664 3000 Fax: 020 7664 3030

**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