

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 8 March 2018
12.30 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Councillors' Forum
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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Councillors' Forum
8 March 2018

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 8 March 2018**
Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

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

11.00am	Conservative	Westminster Room (8 th floor)
11.00am	Labour	Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Eaton-Cockell Room (7 th floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in the Victoria Room (8th Floor).

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 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

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Councillors' Forum – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (44)	
Lord Gary Porter 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	Essex County Council
Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Isle of Wight 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 Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City 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

Labour (39)	
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 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	Ipswich Borough 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 AM	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)
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
Councillor Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (11)	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough 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
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire 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
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

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 8 March 2018

12.30 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 7 June 2018, 12.30 pm, Westminster Room,
8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP

Purpose

For information.

Summary

This paper provides background to the LGA Councillors' Forum discussion with the Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP.

Recommendation

That the LGA Councillors' Forum notes this report as background.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP

Background

1. The June 2017 Queen's Speech announced that the Government would "work to improve social care" and "bring forward proposals for consultation". The Cabinet Office assumed the coordinating role for this work to ensure a cross-Government approach.
2. In November last year, the Government announced its intention to publish a green paper on care and support reform "by summer recess 2018". Following the January reshuffle, it was announced that the newly renamed Department of Health and Social Care would assume oversight of the green paper process.
3. Caroline Dinenage MP was appointed as Minister of State for Care at the Department of Health and Social Care on 9 January.
4. There has not been a great deal of publicly confirmed detail on the green paper. What we know from Government announcements, parliamentary debate and discussions with officials is that:
 - 4.1 The green paper will focus on reform of care and support for older people only.
 - 4.2 A separate 'parallel process' of work to consider the needs of working age disabled adults is also being taken forward jointly between the Department of Health and Social Care and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
 - 4.3 The previously planned Carers Strategy is now not going ahead; the issues it would have addressed will be wrapped up in the green paper.
5. Ahead of the green paper, the Government is engaging with various parts of the wider care and support sector. The LGA, along with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, will meet with the new Minister in the coming weeks to discuss local government's hopes for the green paper.
6. The Minister's attendance at the LGA Councillors' Forum is another important opportunity for Members to learn more about the Government's plans for the green paper, and to share local government's views.

Ministerial biography

7. Caroline Dinenage MP was appointed Minister of State for Care on 9 January. Caroline was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions from June 2017 to January 2018. She was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Early Years at the Department for Education from July 2016 to June 2017. She was elected Conservative MP for Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head in 2010. Between 1998 and 2003 Caroline served on Winchester City Council.
8. The Minister's responsibilities include:
 - 8.1 Overseeing all aspects of adult social care, including dementia, loneliness and disabilities.

8.2 Hospital care quality and patient safety.

8.3 Community health services.

8.4 Health and social care integration.

Financial implications

9. Work on this policy agenda will be done within existing policy budgets.

Implications for Wales

10. The scope of the forthcoming green paper is England only.

Appendix A

Caroline Dinenage MP

Minister of State for Care, Department for Health and Social Care



Caroline Dinenage MP was appointed as the Minister of State for Care on 9 January 2018.

Ms Dinenage was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions from June 2017 until January 2018, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Early Years at the Department for Education from July 2016 until June 2017. Prior to this, Ms Dinenage served on the City of Winchester local council, sat on the House of Commons' Business, Innovation and Skills Committee, and also served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt. Hon. Nicky Morgan MP.

Ms Dinenage was first elected as the Conservative MP for Gosport in 2010 and has over 20 years' experience as a small business owner, having established her own manufacturing company before university.

Ms Dinenage was born in 1971, and studied politics and English at Swansea University

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum: 26 January – 8 March 2018.

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

29 Jan	Essex County Council - Chairman/Mark meeting Cllr Finch/Gavin Jones
1 Feb	South East England Councils
1 Feb	Dexeu / LGA, COSLA, WLGA, NILGA (four associations) meeting
21 Feb	Sir Oliver Letwin MP - Review of Build Out
26 Feb	Rishi Sunak MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government, MHCLG)
28 Feb	Tacking modern slavery and people trafficking implementation taskforce (Cabinet Office)
6 Mar	Rt Hon Esther McVey MP (Secretary of State for Work and Pensions)

Meetings with organisations and individuals

7 Feb	Heather Jameson (Editor, The MJ)
27 Feb	Irwin Turbitt (A Good Crisis)
6 Mar	Professor Richard Hull (University of Central Lancashire)

Events and speaking engagements

30 Jan	Fire Safety Rescue APPG
6 Feb	Vote 100 programme reception
8 Feb	DCN National conference
21 Feb	LGRU and Municipal Journal Councillor Commission report launch
22 Feb	Capital Economics research launch on Setting Social Rent
27 Feb	LGA Labour Vice Presidents lunch
27 Feb	Social Justice Caucus meeting with the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP (Secretary of State, Department for Health and Social Care)
6 Mar	Improvement & Efficiency Awards 2018
8 Mar	UK in a Changing Europe conference - Brexit and Sub-National Government

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

Conferences, Meetings and Public Events

1. On 20 February I met with Nadhim Zahawi MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education. We discussed two major issues: the funding of children's services, and the prospect of additional funding for LGA sector-led improvement of children's services.
2. On 8 January, I met with Charlie Taylor, the new Chair of the Youth Justice Board. We discussed a range of issues related to youth justice, including how to make the case for sustained funding, the role of education and the evidence base for intervention programmes. I also raised councils' concerns around the safety of young people in secure custody, and was assured that the YJB is pursuing this with the Youth Custody Service.
3. I attended the APPG on Nursery Schools, Nursery and Reception Classes on 16 January to give evidence about nursery provision. In particular, I highlighted the underfunding of the 30 hours free childcare offer, and the difficulties faced by local authorities as budgets are cut and staffing levels are reduced. I also stressed to MPs the importance of early help in terms of supporting children and families and reducing costs later on.
4. On 18 January Deputy Board Chair Cllr Gillian Ford addressed a meeting of the Alliance for Children in Care and Care Leavers, a coalition of organisations that work to support children in care and care leavers. Cllr Ford outlined the LGA's work on children's social care, with a particular focus on our recent "Bright Futures" report, and discussed how the Alliance and the LGA can work together to fulfil our shared ambitions for children and young people.
5. The LGA hosted a conference on 24 January entitled "Improving children's lives: what works with families". This took a holistic view of supporting families and considered a range of topics including reducing family violence, reshaping financial support and early years. Presentations from the conference are available [here](#).
6. Also on 24 January, I joined Vice Board Chairman Cllr Roy Perry at a roundtable on alternative provision, particularly considering how councils can work with schools in their area to support children and young people who have, or are at risk of, falling out of the education system.
7. Deputy Board Chair Cllr Lucy Nethsinga attended the Adoption Leadership Board on 12 February. The Board discussed issues including extending its remit to include special guardianship orders (SGOs), engagement with the judiciary, adopter recruitment and a review of adoption and SGO support.

Publications

[Don't be left in the dark: children and young people's mental health](#)

8. On 2 February we launched a short guide to children and young people's mental health, part of the LGA's 'Don't be left in the dark' series. The guide provides an overview of the challenges facing mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people.
9. At least one in 10 children and young people are affected by mental health problems, and the unreported figures are likely to be even higher. Young people are increasingly struggling with problems like anxiety, depression and self-harm, with nearly 19,000 young people admitted to hospital after harming themselves in 2015, a 14 per cent rise over three years. We are also just beginning to understand how the increasing prevalence of social media in young people's lives is negatively impacting their emotional health.

[Meeting the health and wellbeing needs of young carers](#)

10. On 25 January we published a report into how councils can tackle inequalities in supporting the education, physical health and emotional wellbeing of young carers.
11. Councils are under a legal duty to identify young carers and carry out assessments that consider the impact on the child and whole family. Identifying and keeping young carers engaged and involved so that the impact of their caring responsibilities can be minimised is no easy task. Meeting these challenges requires concerted effort on many different levels.
12. We cannot ignore that children's services have been affected by budget cuts and increasing demand. But, as the case studies in this report show, even in difficult circumstances there is good work already being done that we can learn from.

Press Releases and Statements

13. I have recently made public statements on the [LGA's call for compulsory independent mental health counselling in secondary schools](#), and colleagues have made statements on [the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health report on the state of child health](#), and that [half of children who are assessed as in need of extra help by council child protection teams have experienced or witnessed domestic violence](#).

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

Industrial Strategy – Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

1. The Industrial Strategy White Paper stressed the key role of local leadership in driving economic growth, but noted that more needed to be done to strengthen this approach across the country. The subsequent LEP Review (led by Jake Berry MP and Andrew Griffiths MP) presents an opportunity to shape Government's thinking in this area and, with this in mind, a letter has now been sent to both Jake and Andrew (signed by Chairman of the People and Places Board, Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE, Chairman of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, Cllr Martin Tett, and myself), outlining the key issues which LGA Members would like to see addressed through the LEP Review.
2. In recognition of the vital contribution of both councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships to the success of the Industrial Strategy a roundtable event attended by Members of the City Regions, People and Places, and Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Boards and Chairs from three Local Enterprise Partnerships will be held on 15 March. This will seek to agree joint positions on how future local industrial strategies can match local ambitions for growth with proposals for skills devolution, devolved funding and a consistent national approach to transparency and governance.

Town and City Centre Management and Community Cohesion

3. The Board continues to engage with Core Cities on work to explore the availability and effectiveness of city centre management enforcement powers available to local bodies.
4. It has been decided that further work relating to rough sleeping and aggressive begging will be postponed until after the Homelessness Reduction Act comes into force in April. Similarly, work to examine the role of urban councils in fostering Community Cohesion is currently awaiting the publication of the Government's response to the Casey Review.

Fiscal Devolution

5. As previously reported, Members have agreed to commission two pieces of technical work in support of making an enhanced case for Fiscal Devolution.
6. As a result, officers have now appointed Public First to commission messaging analysis that will help inform how the LGA can best present the case for fiscal devolution to Government.
7. Officers have also commissioned WPI Economics, to support the LGA with econometric modelling. This will help the LGA spell out in more detail what a specific instance of fiscal devolution would look like in practice.
8. Members of the City Regions Board have also agreed to establish a small steering group so that both these pieces work might be monitored and informed by Members.

Skills and Employment – Work Local

9. Following on from the last forum, Cllr Mark Hawthorne and Cllr Peter John (in my place) met with the Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP (Minister of State for Skills and Apprenticeships) on 5

February 2018 to discuss the LGA's vision for a more localised skills system. It was a positive and open meeting, which we hope will seed the foundation for a systematic relationship between the DfE and the LGA. Key issues we hope to work on together include skills advisory panels, SME engagement, post-16 routes and apprenticeships. A follow up letter has been sent to outline suggested next steps, signed by both Cllr Hawthorne and myself.

10. Both the City Regions and People and Places Board have now agreed to establish a new 'skills taskforce', whose purpose will be to dedicate specific time to, and have oversight of our employment and skills work, and re-focus LGA work to provide place-based solutions to Brexit and the Industrial Strategy. Both Boards have agreed it should draw in expertise from within the sector and engage a range of stakeholders. We will look to establish this over the coming months.

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Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair)

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. On 12 January, Cllr Jackie Meldrum attended the first meeting of the DH Autism Strategy, Participation in Local Community Task and Finish Group.
2. I met with Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England, on 17 January to discuss developments across NHS Healthchecks and local action to tackle cardio-vascular disease.
3. On 17 January, I also met with representatives from Cancer Research UK to discuss challenges and opportunities across Stop Smoking Services.
4. On 17 January, Cllr Graham Gibbens attended the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020, Meaning Care Oversight Group at the Department of Health.
5. Cllr Graham Gibbens attended a reception for The Jo Cox Commission at 10 Downing Street on 18 January. At the reception, Tracey Crouch was announced as the new Minister for Loneliness.
6. On 19 January, Cllr Gillian Ford attended the launch of the Commission on Dementia and Music final report at the House of Lords.
7. On 22 January, I attended a roundtable on carers with the Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP, as part of the Government's pre-green paper publication engagement work.
8. On 23 January, Cllr Richard Kemp took part in an NHS England [webinar](#) for the clinical leads of STPs on the role and contribution of local government in STPs.
9. On 24 January, Mayor Kate Allsop attended the Think Local Act Personal Partnership (TLAP) Programme Board. It was her first TLAP Board meeting at the LGA representative.
10. On 29 January, Cllr Richard Kemp and Sarah Pickup (along with Margaret Wilcox, ADASS President), met with the Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP, as an introductory meeting with the new Minister.
11. Cllr Richard Kemp attended an informal gathering at the House of Lords supported by Public Health England on 31 January to discuss how national health and social care organisations better engage with people and communities at a local level.
12. On 1 February, Cllr Richard Kemp spoke on local government's role in preventing suicide at the Suicide Prevention Conference at the University of Salford.
13. On 7 February, I chaired a local government roundtable in Birmingham as part of the review of Community Contributions in Later Life that is being led by the Centre for Ageing Better in partnership with DCMS. The roundtable was also attended by Cllr Ian Stewart of the County Councils Network.



Councillors' Forum

25 January 2018

14. On 8 February, myself, Cllr Richard Kemp and Cllr Jonathan McShane had an introductory meeting with Steve Brine MP, Minister of State for Public Health and Primary Care.
15. I also met Professor Irene Higginson at the Cicely Saunders Institute, Kings College London, on 8 February to discuss palliative care in care homes.
16. On 8 February Cllr Jonathan McShane met Jackie Doyle-Price MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, along with the Association of Directors of Public Health, to discuss local authority suicide prevention plans and the development of a sector-led improvement approach to suicide prevention.

Publications, correspondence and other items

17. The LGA made a submission to the All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into the human rights of older people.
18. I signed a joint letter with ADASS and care providers to The Observer, highlighting the need for genuinely new funding to cover historic, current and future sleep-in payment pressures.
19. We [responded](#) to the Government's consultation on future funding for supported housing by arguing the proposed localised grant for short-term supported housing must keep pace with demand and be sufficient now and in the future.
20. In January, the Community Wellbeing Board agreed to sponsor an Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) Review on the Future of Health and Care, chaired by Lord Ara Darzi. The LGA has submitted written evidence on what we consider to be the top 10 innovations in health and social care over the past decade. Tom Kibasi, Director of IPPR, will be attending the next CWB meeting on 21 February to seek the Board's views.
21. We [responded](#) to the Government's consultation on changes to the teaching of Relationship Sex Education and PHSE. We called for PHSE to be made compulsory in all primary and secondary schools with the right for parents to withdraw their child and highlighted the need for the curriculum to address modern day risks associated with digital and social media, which can have a huge impact on children and young people.
22. The LGA submitted evidence to the Health Committee inquiry on STPs, which has now been [published](#).

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

1. My apologies I am not at Councillors Forum today as I have to Chair the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Hull (UK City of Culture). The date of this conference was booked before the LGA confirmed its meeting dates. It would be helpful in future years if clashes like this do not occur. I know several members of the LGA Executive cannot be here today because of this clash within the LGA calendar.

Sport

2. I met with Julian Wadsworth, Gary Stannett and Kevin McPherson of the Active Communities Network (ACN). We discussed the role that sport could play in providing meaningful activities and direction for young people, and how the effective work of ACN could be shared with councils.
3. Cllr Terry O'Neill was appointed as the LGA's representative on the London Marathon Charitable Trust and confirmed as a trustee at their AGM on 24 January. Cllr O'Neill will be supporting the Trust to extend their grant-making outside of London.
4. I spoke at the Leadership Essential Sport event in February 2018, where I outlined the landscape facing councils and the work that the LGA is undertaking to support councils. Ten portfolio holders attended this event and feedback from delegates was again very positive. We are aiming to do a briefing meeting for all councils in Tranche 1 (1 of 4) so that portfolio holders and council officers know what money is available and how to access this. If this works well we will then do the same for the other tranches of councils.
5. The Football Association in partnership with the Premier League and DCMS have committed to making a major investment in local football over the next 10 years. To inform and direct this investment, they will work with every council in England to develop a local football facility plan (LFFP). I met with the Chief Executive of Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd, John Eady to discuss how the LGA can work with the FA and the Premier League to ensure every council benefits to the fullest extent from this investment offer.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

6. I met with Iain Watson of the National Museum Directors' Council. We covered a broad number of topics including the role that museums can play in creating a sense of place, connecting people with their heritage, and supporting people with dementia and Alzheimer's. We also discussed the publication of the [Mendoza Review](#), and its recommendations relating to local authority run or supported museums.
7. I met with Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair and Victoria Thompson Head of Planning Advice and Reform at Historic England. We discussed the importance of heritage to local areas, including those that were engaged in active regeneration of the assets and reputation of their area, and identified ways in which our organisations could collaborate to support councils services, councillors, and officers.
8. Cllr Geraldine Carter assessed, as part of a panel, the nominations for the Hearts for the Arts awards, celebrating local authorities who continue to champion investment in the arts and culture. Winners will be presented with their prizes at our annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Hull on 8 March.

9. Cllr Peter Golds spoke at a Westminster Briefing event about the LGA's response to the Mendoza Museums Review, and the support available for local authority-run or –supported museums, including our forthcoming Councillor Handbook in partnership with Arts Council England.

Tourism

10. Cllr Geraldine Carter attending the Tourism Alliance's January Board meeting on behalf of the CTS Board. Cllr Carter followed up discussions at the December CTS Board meeting on the Tourism Sector's bid for a sector deal under the Industrial Strategy. She stressed the importance of involving councils in an early stage in the development of the concept of Tourism Zones.
11. Cllr Peter Golds Cllr Golds met with the Mayor of Ouistreham, Romain Bail, to discuss our support for a shared Franco-Anglo centre to be built on Sword Beach, celebrating the Normandy landings, but also exploring what our relationship might look like in the future. The Mayor also agreed to participate in our session at LGA Conference on Tourism and Brexit.

Parks

12. I met with John Packman, Chief Executive of Broads National Park and Sarah Fowler, Chief Executive of the Peaks National Park. We discussed the LGA membership offer to National Parks members, and shared objectives around promoting and growing the visitor economy in a sustainable way.

Media

13. I had [an article published](#) in First Magazine explaining the role that Local Government plays in leisure, sports, heritage and culture.
14. The Board has issued the following media releases since my last report:
 - 14.1. [Councils herald 100 years since certain women first won the right to vote](#). Here we highlighted the women who successfully campaigned for the right to vote who have been commemorated in a new list of more than 100 pioneers. We worked alongside The Women's Local Government Society (WLGS) to gather nominations and draw up the list, to celebrate the lives of the many suffragists and other campaigners who were active in the extension of the franchise.
 - 14.2. [Councils win backing to help protect live music venues](#). I commended the Government's announcement that it will look to strengthen planning rules to help protect live music venues. This is an issue the LGA has campaigned on, and I am pleased that Government has listened to our call and that of our partners.

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

Meetings and external events

1. I met with Jesse Norman MP, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Transport, on 23 January. There was constructive discussion on a range of issues including funding, tackling congestion and electric charging infrastructure. In a follow up letter I made an offer to the Minister to work together with councils and the LGA to co-design national schemes of support and investment for local areas as the LGA felt that such an approach would help the Government to be better able to deliver its priorities as well as serving local people more effectively. The letter identified three areas where such an approach should be made:
 - 1.1. Streamlining the nature of future central government funding for local roads and transport
 - 1.2. Tackling growing levels of congestion, in particular a way forward to implement London style powers for enforcement of moving traffic offences
 - 1.3. Support to incentivise local investment and efforts on electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
2. I also met with the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for the Environment Therese Coffey MP, on 23 January. This was a useful meeting where a number of issues were discussed. On food waste the Minister flagged up that the EU Trilogue has mandated separate bio waste collections (not necessarily kerbside collections). The Minister is interested to hear from local government how we avoid sending food waste to landfill.

Environment

3. The LGA [responded](#) the Government's consultation on the Clean Air Fund. Our response welcomed the creation of the Clean Air Fund and the changes to tax treatment for new diesel vehicles as a step in the right direction. However, we feel that the Government could go further using its fiscal levers to hasten the transition to low emission vehicles as well as giving councils more funding certainty and powers to manage traffic.

Interim National Infrastructure Assessment consultation

4. The EEHT Board led the LGA's response to the interim National Infrastructure Assessment, titled 'Congestion, Capacity, Carbon: Priorities for national infrastructure'. The report examines seven key areas, and sets out the vision and priorities for helping meet the country's needs up to 2050. Those seven areas are:
 - 4.1. Building a digital society
 - 4.2. Connected, liveable city-regions
 - 4.3. Infrastructure to support housing
 - 4.4. Eliminating carbon emissions from energy and waste

- 4.5. A revolution in road transport
 - 4.6. Reducing the risk of drought and flooding
 - 4.7. Financing and funding infrastructure in efficient ways
5. [In response](#) to the wide-ranging list of consultation questions the LGA highlighted issues relating to the future of EU funding, fragmentation of national funding for local infrastructure, the role of Government, the planning regime, streetworks, capture of land-value uplift, energy, waste infrastructure, electric charging infrastructure, autonomous vehicles, water supply and demand and flood risk management.

Strategic Roads Network (SRN) consultation response

6. The EEHT Board responded to DfT's consultation on the proposals for the SRN and its current and future needs. In order to set investment in the SRN, which is operated by Highways England, the government publishes a multi-year 'Road investment strategy' (RIS). The second RIS (RIS2) will cover the financial years 2020/21 to 2024/25. Our response acknowledged the benefits of long term funding certainty and sustained investment for the strategic network. However, the LGA also noted with concern the large disparity in funding by central Government between the local and strategic networks. We also stated that there is a need for this investment and long term approach to be replicated with long term funding certainty for local networks to ensure investments on both networks can complement each other and the schemes planned in RIS period 2 achieve the best possible value. Much of the language of the Strategic Route Network proposal shows Highways England has listened to the local government sector on areas of its work that could be improved.

Future transport

7. Following on from the 14 December Future Transport seminar to the EEHT Board, a [feature](#) was published in First magazine that highlighted the potential risks and benefits to the public services that councils provide, and for the residents they serve from driverless, electric and connected vehicles. A workshop at the LGA Annual Conference (3- 6 July) on the future transport agenda has also been secured.

Lane Rentals announcement

8. The EEHT Board has successfully led repeated calls by the LGA for the Government to roll out Lane Rental schemes to all areas of the country. The Government announced, on 16 February, that Lane Rental schemes, where utility companies are charged by the day for digging up the busiest roads at peak times, could now be adopted by councils nationwide after successful pilots in the Kent and London. The scheme incentivises firms to minimise the period of time occupying roads and instead focus their works outside of rush hour, or to collaborate with other companies to prevent roads being dug up multiple times. The announcement follows a DfT consultation which the LGA responded to. DfT have said they will produce guidance in the autumn to help councils develop lane rental schemes for Secretary of State approval and that the first schemes could start by the end of 2019. LGA officers will continue to liaise with DfT to ensure that

the guidance is as helpful and flexible as possible to help councils manage traffic and the process for seeking DfT approval is kept to a minimum.

Press Releases and Statements

9. I commented on research published by the LGA that there are [more than 423,000 homes with planning permission are waiting to be built](#). This helps prove that the planning system is not a barrier to house building.
10. I also [responded](#) to a report on Housing for Older People by the Communities and Local Government Committee. It was pleasing to see the Committee back the LGA's call for a national focus on providing more housing for older people. As we have previously warned, we face a chronic shortage of homes suitable to support our ageing population. Housing for elderly people currently accounts for just 6 per cent of our existing stock.
11. I called for a [crackdown on 'trojan' telephone boxes](#) amid 900 per cent rise in some areas. We called on Government to scrap the permitted development right which enables companies to install telephone boxes without planning permission. A change in the law would give councils greater controls over the excessive numbers appearing on high streets, which are in many cases, little more than advertising billboards.

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

Improvement

1. Corporate Peer Challenge continues to be an effective tool at the heart of the LGA's support for sector-led improvement. We have launched our [Annual Report](#), which is available on our website and shows that Corporate Peer Challenge continues to be highly regarded by councils who have received one, delivers a range of positive benefits and impacts, and provides value for money.

Leadership

2. Increasingly councils are having to make difficult decisions about which services they provide to their communities. These decisions can sometimes be divisive and stressful, especially when it comes to explaining these decisions to, and dealing with the impact of those choices on, their own communities. Our new councillor [workbook](#) aims to help councillors understand the signs of stress, develop strategies to deal with it and build up their own personal resilience in the role.
3. Councillors play a pivotal role in keeping close to their residents and understanding their needs, views and concerns. There are many tactics, approaches and strategies that councillors can adopt in resolving disputes between local people to ensure those issues do not escalate into disorder or even violence. Our new [workbook](#) is designed to provide councillors with insight and assistance with the key skills needed in relation to facilitation and conflict resolution to enable them to be effective in their role.
4. Our Be a Councillor campaign's Women's Network brings together female councillors and women considering standing for election to discuss the issues and barriers to women entering (and staying in) politics, provides support to women in achieving their political aspirations, and creates new resources. We will be running events as part of this year's centenary of the first women to get the vote. Email beacouncillor@local.gov.uk to join.

Efficiency and Productivity

5. We have been supporting councils at risk because of the failure of Carillion. Whilst overall numbers with Carillion contracts is relatively small their contingency plans have proved to be robust and there has been very little disruption to service delivery. However, we are aware that some councils had experienced difficulties getting information and data from the Official Receiver, to enable the transfer of contracts to other providers and we continue to push for clarity on additional charges for the continuation of services. We held an event with the sector to explore what we can learn from the Carillion collapse in the event of the future failure of a major supplier and are implementing these lessons into our business planning process.
6. We are also continuing to work with councils, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), Cabinet Office and DCLG to raise the importance of cyber security as well as signpost councils to where they can get advice, find guidance and good practice to support their own work on cyber resilience. The National Cyber Security Centre's free [Web Check](#), has been developed with councils and other public sector organisations to help identify out of date certificates or systems that need patching, reducing councils' risk of a cyber-attack.

7. We have launched a [film](#) to encourage councils to apply for support from one of the LGA's 'pool' of productivity experts.
8. On 16 February, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in partnership with the Local Government Association and Cabinet Office announced awards for the [Land Release Fund](#). As part of Government's drive to get Britain building homes again, a total of 79 projects from Newcastle to Plymouth will receive funding to support building up to 7,280 homes on council owned land.

Accountability, transparency and sharing good practice

9. We have launched our new My Local Metrics service, which lets LG Inform Plus subscribers add their local data to LG Inform, LG Inform Plus or the API (direct data feed). This can be data relevant to a range of geographies, such as local authority, ward and defined neighbourhood levels. Subscribers' data is held in a secure environment and, depending on the geography chosen, can be shared with selected users of those tools.
10. During January and February, we ran three regional briefing events on the importance and obligations of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We presented to around 400 delegates, with five talks and nine detailed workshops run by experts and senior practitioners in data protection matters. The London event was recorded as [podcasts](#) for later viewing by those unable to secure a place. We were particularly thankful to Cllr Abdul Jabbar (Oldham) who opened our Manchester event for us on 18 January.

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

Post Brexit England Commission

1. At the last Councillors' Forum, Members were notified of the formation of the Post Brexit England Commission, which aims to highlight the opportunities as well as the challenges facing non-metropolitan areas in the period following Britain's departure from the EU.
2. An event to launch the Commission was held on the 28 February 2018 in London. It was well-attended by a wide range of stakeholders, MP's, Peers and Board Members and officers are now in the process of collating the feedback received from delegates, which is due to be presented at the next Board on 22 March.
3. In addition to this, officers are also busy preparing for the first two regional roadshows, which will place on 9 May in Taunton, and 11 May in Nottingham. These will help inform the publication of an Interim Report, due to be launched at Annual Conference in July.

Industrial Strategy – Local enterprise Partnerships

4. The Industrial Strategy White Paper stressed the key role of local leadership in driving economic growth, but noted that more needed to be done to strengthen this approach across the country. The subsequent LEP Review (led by Jake Berry MP and Andrew Griffiths MP, attended by Lead Member Cllr Western as the LGA's representative) presents an opportunity to shape thinking in this area and, with this in mind, a letter has now been sent to both Jake and Andrew (signed by Chair of the City Regions Board, Sir Richard Leese, the Chairman of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, Cllr Martin Tett, and myself), outlining the key issues which LGA Members would like to see addressed through the LEP Review.
5. In recognition of the vital contribution of both councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships to the success of the Industrial Strategy a roundtable event attended by Members of the City Regions, People and Places, and Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Boards and Chairs from three Local Enterprise Partnerships will be held on 15 March. This will seek to agree joint positions on how future local industrial strategies can match local ambitions for growth with proposals for skills devolution, devolved funding and a consistent national approach to transparency and governance.

Rural Digital Connectivity Task and Finish Group

6. Following on from the last Councillors' Forum, the Rural Digital Connectivity Task and Finish Group has now been formed to ensure a focused and sustainable approach to the LGA's work on digital and mobile phone connectivity. Members may recall that the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) have agreed to administer the Group at officer level.
7. Terms of reference for the group and membership have now been agreed by the Board and the inaugural meeting is due to take place on 7 March.

Skills and Employment – Work Local

8. Following on from the last forum, Cllr Peter John (representing the City Region Board) and I met with the Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP (Minister of State for Skills and Apprenticeships) on 5 February 2018 to discuss the LGA's vision for a more localised skills system. It was a positive and open meeting, which we hope will seed the foundation for a systematic relationship between the DfE and the LGA. Key issues we hope to work on together include skills advisory panels, SME engagement, post-16 routes and apprenticeships. A follow up letter has been sent to outline suggested next steps, signed by both Cllr Sir Richard Leese and myself.
9. Both the People and Places and City Regions Board and have now agreed to establish a new 'skills taskforce', whose purpose will be to dedicate specific time to, and have oversight of our employment and skills work, and re-focus LGA work to provide place-based solutions to Brexit and the Industrial Strategy. Both Boards have agreed it should draw in expertise from within the sector and engage a range of stakeholders. We will look to establish this over the coming months.
10. Preparations are being made for the Minister to attend a future Councillors Forum.

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

2018/19 Local Government Finance settlement

1. The Secretary of State announced the 2018/19 final local government finance settlement on 6 February 2018. In addition to the announcements made in the provisional settlement around council tax flexibilities, the Government has allocated a £150 million one-off adult social care support grant and increased the value of the rural services delivery grant to £81 million in 2018/19. We circulated a media statement in response to the settlement, and LGA spokespeople appeared widely across the radio and TV to warn that extra council tax income this year will not be enough to plug the growing funding gaps facing councils.
2. In our Parliamentary briefing on the final settlement we pointed out that local services are facing a funding gap in excess of £5 billion in 2019/20, as well as a £1.3 billion pressure to stabilise the adult social care provider market. Whilst the additional council tax flexibility is welcome it is nowhere near enough to meet the funding gap. Further business rates retention income could be used to help fund pressures facing local government. The LGA was directly mentioned eight times in the Chamber during the debate on the settlement, in addition to a number of MPs referring to our analysis of the funding pressures facing local government.
3. The new £150 million adult social care support grant is recognition of our calls for the Government to try and help councils tackle some of the immediate social care pressures they face. However, this is a temporary measure and will be unlikely to have a significant positive impact on adult social care services. It is also a one-off grant which means that councils cannot use it to establish extra long-term capacity or to pay providers more.

Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention

4. Officers are in the process of delivering a series of regional Fair Funding Review consultation workshops, in partnership with colleagues from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. These are free to attend for all council officers and politicians and are focussed on the current [Government consultation on assessing relative needs](#). At the time of Councillors' Forum, five events will have taken place, with a final event planned for Manchester on 20 March.
5. The LGA is also in the process of finalising its response to the consultation. The draft response, to be discussed at LGA Executive on 8 March, continues to stress that the new needs assessment should aim to be simpler but without a disproportionate cost to fairness. The response also suggests further cost drivers and service-specific issues that should be considered in the assessment, and suggests sense-checking any new formula with panels of service directors and other experts.
6. In recognition of the importance of the Fair Funding Review and its priority within the work programme, with the member-led LGA Business Rates Task and Finish Group has reconvened and renamed itself the LGA Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group. The work of this Group, of which I am Chair, will continue to advise LGA Leadership Board and Executive on LGA policy in this area.
7. Finally, the LGA was invited to attend a Communities and Local Government Select Committee session on the impact of the Fair Funding Review and business rates retention on local authority financial planning beyond 2020. Cllr David Simmonds spoke on the LGA's behalf and

highlighted the uncertainty facing councils as a result of these reforms, stressing the importance of the Government providing exemplifications of the impact as early as possible. Other witnesses across the two panels included Cllr John Fuller (District Councils Network), Cllr Paul Carter (County Councils Network) and Cllr David Finch (Essex County Council).

Spring Budget – business rates reliefs

8. The Government continues to publish and update [a list of billing authorities](#) that have rebilled on the basis of all of the three business rates reliefs announced in the 2017 Spring Budget. As at 13 February 2018 it was reported that there are four councils which need to implement one relief and two councils which need to implement two reliefs. All other councils have implemented all three reliefs.

MiFID (Markets in Financial Instruments Directive) II

9. Following on from the Financial Conduct Authority's policy statement in July, the deadline for compliance with the directive in terms of opting up as professional investor was 3 January 2018. The LGPS Scheme Advisory Board (SAB), working with the LGA and Investment Managers produced a standard opt up process and Resources Board lead members agreed a more general guidance note for councils for their Treasury Management activities following consultation with a range of colleagues in the local government and financial sectors. I am able to confirm that all LGPS Pension funds have confirmed that they have successfully opted up to professional status as an investor under the MiFID II directive by the 3 January 2018 deadline. The SAB and LGA are continuing to work with the sector to produce guidance for LGPS funds and Investment Managers with regard to promotion and procurement in a post MiFID II world.

Prudential Framework of Capital Finance: Local Authorities Investment Guidance and Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance

10. Following consultation towards the end of 2017, there have been some minor improvements to the Government's updated statutory guidance on capital finance (on [local government investments](#) and on [minimum revenue provision](#)) which were published in February 2018. The Government also published its [response](#) to the consultation on the proposed changes to this guidance. Resources Board submitted a response to the consultation and Lead Members produced a short [briefing](#) to help councils understand the implications of the new guidance
11. Under the new investment guidance councils should not borrow to fund any investments (including property investments) that are made solely to make a financial return. Councils will need to "have regard" to the guidance and to the associated codes published by CIPFA. If a council chooses to disregard the CIPFA Prudential code and this guidance, its investment strategy should set out why this is the case and what the council's relevant policies are.
12. The new guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) will apply from 1 April 2019 instead of 2018 as consulted on – this is an important concession that we called for as the earlier implementation would have caused problems for councils. While the MRP guidance is more flexible than in the consultation, it is clear that some councils will have to increase the amount they put aside under the new rules, particularly where property investments have been funded by borrowing.

LGA Annual Local Government Finance Conference – Funding for the Future

13. I chaired the annual LGA Local Government Finance Conference on 9 January. The conference contained a lot of lively debate among delegates, with a wide range of speakers including the Secretary of State and Shadow Secretary of State, as well as senior government officials from MHCLG, VOA and Public Health England, and leading figures from local government finance. The event was at full capacity and was attended by over 100 delegates.

Local Government Mutual

14. The Resources Board was tasked by the LGA to oversee the setup phase of a new local government mutual, which is planned to offer a financially beneficial alternative to the existing insurance market to local authorities. In my capacity as Chair of the Resources Board, I have been asked to Chair meetings of the founding member authorities of the mutual. There are eighteen founding members, including the LGA, and so far, three meetings have been held. The next meeting will take place on 22 March. The Councillors' Forum is to receive a presentation on the mutual in June 2018.

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

Moped, Motorcycles and Scooter Related Crime Roundtable

1. In January, I attended a Home Office roundtable on crimes involving mopeds, motorcycles and scooters, a group chaired by Nick Hurd MP, the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, and Victoria Atkins MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability. This is an issue which has been raised by some member councils, especially crimes involving the use of scrambler bikes in more rural areas. The Home Office are working towards an action plan to help prevent crimes involving motorcycles, mopeds and scooters, and will update on their progress in April 2018.

Counter extremism

2. In February I met with the new independent Counter Extremism Commissioner, Sara Khan. The Commission for Counter Extremism has been established following a statement in the Queen's speech last year, with Sara's appointment announced in early February. Its work over the next three years is expected to include advising government on new policies to tackle extremism, including whether there is a need for new powers; supporting communities and the public sector to confront extremism; and promoting British values and community cohesion. The LGA has also been invited to attend an initial Commission stakeholder roundtable at the end of March.

Licensing

Zoo licensing

3. In January I gave evidence at an internal Labour inquiry into zoo licensing. The inquiry was set up by John Woodcock MP following high profile events at South Lakes zoo to look into practise and laws on zoo licensing and to examine whether improvements could be made. I gave evidence alongside John Woodcock MP, the RSPCA and Born Free, setting out the LGA's position on zoo licensing, that the current structure of the zoo licensing framework, with licensing authorities drawing on specialist expertise to exercise their responsibility to license local premises, is fundamentally sound but that we would support a review of existing zoo licensing legislation. The inquiry is set to convene another inquiry session later this year and I think there is some more work to be done to gauge what, if any, changes could be helpful to councils.

Gambling licensing

4. In January, Cllr Anita Lower attended an event hosted by the APPG on FOBTs to discuss the Government's consultation on gaming machines and social responsibility. The event was an opportunity for Parliamentarians, councils, think tanks and the gambling industry to hear about new research from the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) suggesting the costs of reducing FOBT stakes would be much lower than claimed by betting shops.

Best Bar None awards

5. On 5 February, Cllr Kate Haigh attended the Best Bar None Awards at the House of Lords, hosted by Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE. The awards were in recognition of the work industry, police and councils have achieved as part of the Best Bar None scheme to promote responsible drinking and higher professional standards. New Minister, Victoria Atkins MP, gave the opening address outlining the Government's commitment to reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder and her support for partnership working as a way to achieve this objective. Plymouth picked up the title for 'Best Overall Scheme'.

Annual licensing conference

6. In February, Cllr Clive Woodbridge chaired the LGA's Annual Licensing Conference, which was attended by more than 90 members and officers. The conference covered a range of different areas of licensing and speakers included the Gambling Commission, Department for Transport, Defra and Daniel Zeichner MP. Cllr Kate High and myself spoke at the conference with delegates also hearing from a number of councils who identified best practice and shared their own experiences.

Domestic violence

APPG on Domestic Violence

7. I gave evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence as part of their inquiry into the role of the new Domestic Violence Commissioner. This was an opportunity to outline the LGA's priorities for the upcoming Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill and particularly highlight the importance of investing in prevention and early intervention approaches to tackle domestic violence and abuse before it escalates. Following the evidence session, the APPG plans to put forward recommendations to the Government as part of the consultation on the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill.

Half of children in need referred to councils experience domestic violence

8. In a recent [LGA press release](#), I called for the Government to close the funding gap in children's services and provide an urgent injection of funding to protect services that families rely on to tackle problems or recover from domestic violence and abuse. The release highlighted that almost half of children in council care with extra needs have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, which is why there needs to be adequate funding of children's services and a switch towards intervening early to prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place. The press release received coverage in the Guardian, the Independent Online, the Mirror, the Mail Online, Sky News Radio, Talk Radio, LB and BBC Radio 2 News Bulletins.

National Oversight Group on Domestic Violence

9. Cllr Anita Lower attended the National Oversight Group on Domestic Violence, a group convened by the Home Office to oversee improvements to police responses to domestic violence and abuse, as well as discuss broader issues such as 'honour-based' violence and stalking. The group involves a wide range of partners, reflecting the need for multi-agency approaches to tackling domestic violence and abuse. During the meeting, Cllr Lower outlined the LGA's response to the Joint Targeted Action Inspection report and agreed with its findings that domestic abuse is a widespread public health issue that needs a long-term strategy to reduce its prevalence.

10. Cllr Lower highlighted that councils recognise the importance of prevention, but funding cuts and rising demand mean that councils are increasingly having to prioritise reactive child protection above proactive early intervention.

College of Policing

11. In February, I met with the College of Policing to discuss their plans to update their guidelines on modernising neighbourhood policing. I relayed feedback from the SSC Board on the guidelines, stressing the importance of maintaining a strong neighbourhood policing presence and ensuring residents feel safe and able to report crimes in their local areas. We discussed ways in which local communities could be involved in shaping police and crime plans and policing priorities, in order to strengthen better community engagement.

Crime, safeguarding and vulnerability

12. I met Victoria Atkins MP, the Minister with responsibility for crime, safeguarding and vulnerability, at the beginning of February for an introductory meeting. We had a wide ranging discussion across a number of areas in the Minister's portfolio including child sexual exploitation and the role of Barnardo's Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse and our views on the balance between the provision of services to victims and interventions to reduce offending.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 25 January 2018
Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Rishi Sunak MP - Minister of State for Local Government

The Chairman welcomed Rishi Sunak MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government), to the meeting.

The Minister thanked members and the Chairman for inviting him to what was his first public speech since being appointed to his new role. The Minister also offered his thanks to councillors who give their time to build communities in which people are proud to live. He discussed his ambition to ensure that the voice of local government was heard across Whitehall and he acknowledged how difficult the last few years had been for local government. The Minister touched on the latest finance settlement and noted the £2 billion funding made available for adult social care, the introduction of the social care precept and the rural service delivery grant. He also emphasised the need to harness councillors' local knowledge in making sure the new funding formula was fair and he said he was keen to work with local government to work towards a higher level of business rates retention.

The Minister invited comments from members. In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- With another round of business rate pilots due, the Minister was asked whether feedback would be available to councils that were not chosen for the earlier round. The Minister said he would look into that and follow it up with colleagues.
- On fair funding, the Minister was asked whether there was any flexibility in using adult social care precepts for children's social care, and an objection to negative revenue support grants (RSGs) was raised. The Minister responded to say that on negative RSG, he recognised the pressure local authorities were under and that the Ministry was looking at fair, affordable options. He also said

he would be looking into the question of flexibility on adult social care precepts and children's social care with the Department for Education.

- A point was raised about councils remaining the most cost effective way of providing local services, despite having seen funding reduced dramatically. Members wanted to see a move from 75 per cent to 100 per cent of business rates being retained by councils. The Minister said he shared the aspiration to move in that direction and that the pilots were an attempt to do that. He emphasised his view that local government ought to be self-sufficient.
- The Minister was asked what his view was on the changes taking place in relation to local government pensions. The Minister said that this process was ongoing and that he would engage with those going through the process to best determine how money could be saved through fees. He was keen to see pension funds invested in infrastructure projects which would ultimately benefit pension holders.
- Councils want to build more council houses but are unable to do so because of the cap. The budget suggests this may be lifted in a few years. Members asked the Minister if this could be brought forward. The Minister said he would be speaking to his colleague, Dominic Raab MP, the new Minister for Housing, and he noted that the £1 billion increase to the Housing Revenue Account was about to come into force. The Minister said he appreciated the sentiment of wanting the Government to deliver more homes and that he wanted to do more to support councils in that ambition.

The Chairman 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

*Please note that you must sign the attendance sheet at meetings in order for your attendance to be registered. If you have any queries about this, please contact the Member Services team: ms@local.gov.uk.

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Senior Vice-Chair	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Members	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 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 Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Donna Jones JP	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	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 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 Keith Aspden	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
	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 Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Apologies	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
	Mayor Tim Bowles	West of England Combined Authority
	Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Ms Fiona Twycross AM	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)
	Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council
	Cllr Carolyn Rule	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Lisa Duffy	Huntingdonshire District Council
In Attendance	Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
	Cllr Chris Saint	Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council
	Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Katrina Wood	Wycombe District Council
	Cllr Isobel Darby	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
	Cllr Stephen Parker	Hart District Council
	Cllr Colin Riley	Castle Point Borough Council
	Cllr John Clarke	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Joanne Beavis	Essex County Council

Cllr Nick Rushton
Cllr Samantha Dixon
Cllr Paul Smith
Cllr Shabir Pandor

Leicestershire County Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Colchester Borough Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Council

LGA location map

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 18 Smith Square
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 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@local.gov.uk
 Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

