

## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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**Title:** Councillors' Forum  
**Date:** Thursday 7 June 2018  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

### Item Decisions and actions

#### 1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

The LGA Senior Vice-Chair, in the Chair for the meeting, welcomed Members and noted the apologies set out at **Appendix A**.

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 2 Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

The Senior Vice-Chair welcomed The RT Hon Anne Milton MP, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, to the meeting.

The Minister thanked Members and the Senior Vice-Chair for the invitation to speak to them about apprenticeships and post-16 education. She commented that Councils were excellent agents for positive change in many ways, and had excellent knowledge and means to push forward Further Education options in their areas.

She explained the key reforms which had arisen as part of Lord Sainsbury's review of post-16 technical education, and the new T Levels, the most significant reform in technical education in the previous decade which would include work experience and rival the traditional academic options. The first T Levels would be construction, digital, education, and childcare.

The Minister also set out the work which the Government was undertaking to refresh apprenticeship programmes across the country. They would enable employers to design the standards and end points of apprenticeships, and make them much more attractive for individuals as they would get paid, in some cases gain a degree, have no student debt, and undertake work experience. The new arrangements had been delivered in partnership with the Institute of Apprenticeships.

Members also noted that the Government had developed a National Retraining Scheme, which was a collaboration between the Government, the CBI and the TUC. 49% of the adult population had numeracy skills below what was expected. 25% had literacy skills of an 11 year old or less. Many people did not have basic digital skills. Persuading people to retrain was difficult, and a number of options were being piloted.

In the discussion which followed the following points were raised by Members:

- Regarding work experience, the Minister set out that children should have 7 meaningful experiences of work before they left school. Work experience should be about skills which would be beneficial across multiple sectors.
- In response to a question on barriers to young people entering apprenticeships, the Minister stated that the Government were considering this issue, and that local authorities should look at apprenticeships fairs for children and older people looking to retrain to encourage them to join a scheme. The apprenticeship minimum wage was appealing to many young people.
- Regarding quality assessment of apprenticeships, the Minister set out that the Institute of Apprenticeships would monitor quality, and would look at the rate of uptake and retention of learners. It was important that the frameworks were right, and people received a real qualification.
- In response to a question on local accountability of FE colleges, the Minister advised that local authorities should be on the Boards of FE colleges to ensure that local priorities were joined up.
- It was noted that the first T Levels which had been developed were not the areas the Government considered to be top priorities, but simply the first three which had been finalised. It was anticipated that there would shortly be a T Level in Social Care.

The Minister agreed to follow up on some Members' specific issues which had arisen following the meeting. The Senior Vice-Chair thanked the Minister for attending.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the Minister's presentation.

### **3 Chairman's Update**

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

### **4 LGA Boards Chair's Reports**

Members **noted** the LGA Board Chair's reports.

### **5 Digest of the last meeting**

Members **agreed** the minutes as an accurate summary of the discussion at the previous meeting on 8 March 2018.

## Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Senior Vice-Chair (in the Chair)	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle City Council
Members	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London 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 John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Brown OBE	Arun District Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr John Hart	Devon 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 Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Colin Riley	Castle Point Borough Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City 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 Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
	Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council
	Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
	Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
	Cllr Nicholas Rushton	Leicestershire County Council
	Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
	Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council

Apologies

Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	South Holland District Council
Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough 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 John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset 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 Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Mayor Tim Bowles	West of England Combined Authority
Mayor James Palmer	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
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 Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr Sabia Hussain	Slough Borough Council
Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich Borough Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Ms Fiona Twycross AM	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council

Cllr Claire Hudson  
Cllr Abigail Bell  
Cllr Keith Aspden  
Cllr Chris White  
Cllr Wayne Davies  
Cllr Carolyn Rule

Mendip District Council  
Hull City Council  
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council  
Cornwall Council