

# Councillors' Forum

## Agenda

Thursday, 7 June 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

## **Guidance notes for members and visitors** **18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

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

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### **Open Council**

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There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 7 June 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 (7 <sup>th</sup> floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in The Victoria Room (7<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3264	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: <a href="mailto:Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk">Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

A map showing the location of 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Thomas French  
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## Councillors' Forum – Membership 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 44)</b>	
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	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	
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

<b>Substitutes</b>	
<b>Labour ( 37)</b>	
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 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
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
<b>Independent ( 7)</b>	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County 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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 11)</b>	
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
Vacancy	Liberal Democrats
<b>Substitutes</b>	
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

## Agenda

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### Councillors' Forum

Thursday 7 June 2018

12.30 pm

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

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 19 July 2018, 12.30 pm, Westminster Suite,  
8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ





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

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This paper provides background to the LGA Councillors' Forum discussion with the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, The Rt Hon Anne Milton 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 Apprenticeships and Skills, The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP**

### **Background**

1. The LGA met with the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP in February 2018 to discuss how councils and combined authorities can help coordinate the post 16 skills system locally. This is a key recommendation of the LGA's Work Local proposals<sup>1</sup>, launched at our annual conference last year.
2. It was made clear that while post 16 skills reforms are welcome, without a sufficient join up or focus on 'place', they risk being stand-alone. Much more could be achieved through a strategic partnership on the design, commissioning and oversight of skills policy and funding which can ultimately help areas to coordinate the skills offer locally.
3. The Minister was supportive of closer working between the Department for Education (DfE), the LGA and its member authorities. She also personally committed to engaging more with LGA forums to get a better understanding of what is happening on the ground. The Minister's commitment is both very welcome and positive especially as DfE has not traditionally engaged with councils on post 16 skills, so the LGA is keen to engage her. Officers are now developing the foundations for a strategic and operational partnership.
4. Her attendance at Councillors Forum is an important opportunity for Members to learn more about the Government's skills reforms and plans to work with local areas, share LGA and member authority views, and highlight the positive role councils and combined authorities can plan in skills. **See appendix A for biography.**
5. Cllrs Sir Richard Leese and Mark Hawthorne from the City Regions and People and Places Boards, which lead LGA's work in this area, will meet the Minister directly afterwards.

### **The post 16 skills and employment system**

6. Notwithstanding the potential reduced reliance on EU workers, we face multiple skills challenges. For instance, nine million lack basic skills, and the proportion of residents with low qualifications ranges from 1/3 in parts of the West Midlands to 1/17 in parts of London. Research for the LGA reveals that the system is not prepared for future employer need either. By 2024, a growing skills gap will result in 4 million too few high skilled people to fill demand and 8 million too many intermediate and low skilled than there are jobs<sup>2</sup>. This is holding back the local and national economy.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/employment-and-skills/work-local>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/work-local-our-vision-integrated-and-devolved-employment-and-skills-services-full-report>

7. This is despite £10.5 billion of employment and skills funding (2016/2017) nationally commissioned by eight different Whitehall departments or agencies across 20 different national schemes. This results in a confusing picture for learners and fragmented and often competing provision on the ground. It is important that this the system is better coordinated, particularly in the context of Brexit and the Industrial Strategy.
8. To DfE's credit, it recognises the system needs to work more effectively, and has announced a suite of new national initiatives. These include reforms to:
  - 8.1. achieve parity between technical and academic routes (T levels and apprenticeships);
  - 8.2. renewed focus on adult re-skilling (national retraining scheme) and
  - 8.3. Government acknowledging skills policy must be more local (skills advisory panels). Devolving the adult education budget to mayoral combined authorities has already seen more collaborative work between MCAs and the DfE.
  - 8.4. digital skills partnerships (developed by DCMS);
9. While these are positive and important policies, without a focus on 'place', they risk being standalone. There are clear benefits nationally and locally to defining how these could be designed, planned and coordinated locally to target training of the current and future workforce.

### **Work Local – the LGA long term vision**

10. Councils and combined authorities want to be able to coordinate efforts of local and national partners and agencies around agreed objectives to improve social mobility by improving skills and increasing employment so that young people and adults can achieve their potential. This coordination is crucial to ensuring the skills system can successfully adapt to changing economic conditions across the country.
11. Work Local is our long term goal and vision. It provides a framework for how this vital join up can be achieved. Coordinated by CAs and groups of councils, partnerships can plan, commission and have oversight of careers advice, employment, skills, apprenticeship provision in places, providing a coherent offer for the unemployed and low skilled, and forging links between training employers and providers. Across a medium sized combined authority, this could each year result in 8500 people off out of work benefits, 6000 people attaining better skills, additional fiscal benefits of £280 million and a benefit to the economy of £420 million.

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**Recent developments – building a strategic partnership with DfE**

12. Given local coordination and influence over post 16 skills is a priority for the sector and is a key recommendation of Work Local, the LGA is keen to develop a relationship with DfE politicians and their officials. It is for this reason that the LGA sought a meeting with the Apprenticeship and Skills Minister, the Rt. Hon Anne Milton MP. They met in February and agreed to closer partnership between the Department and the sector. Since then, officials from both sides are developing a process through which this can be achieved. We aim to focus this on a set of key issues for the sector and DfE. These are currently being developed.

**Topical issues for discussion**

13. The Minister will be interested to hear about the positive work being done locally around this agenda.

14. It would be particularly useful to highlight any work councils and combined authorities are doing to help raise awareness and take up of the apprenticeship levy among employers within your local areas.

**Financial implications**

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

**Implications for Wales**

16. Skills policy is a devolved matter, but the LGA liaises works with WLGA colleagues.

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**APPENDIX A**



**Ministerial biography**

1. Anne Milton was appointed Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills at the Department for Education on 12 June 2017. She served as Minister for Women from 2017 to 2018, and from 2010 and 2012 as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Public Health). In between this time, she was appointed to the government as a whip with responsibility for HM Treasury and HM Household.
2. She has served as MP for Guildford since 2005. Between 1999 and 2004, she was a councillor for the Borough of Reigate and Banstead, Conservative Group leader from 2000 to 2003 and a member of the South East England Regional Assembly.
3. Anne was born in 1955 and was educated at Haywards Heath Grammar School. She trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London and obtained a diploma in district nursing from the London South Bank University. She worked for the NHS for 25 years, as a district nurse and for people requiring palliative care.
4. The Minister's responsibilities include:
  - 4.1. apprenticeships including the apprenticeship levy, traineeships and institutes of technology
  - 4.2. technical education and skills, including T-levels
  - 4.3. careers education, information and guidance
  - 4.4. post-16 funding (including support for young people and adult learners)
  - 4.5. further education colleges, sixth-form colleges and local patterns of provision (including area reviews and city deals)
  - 4.6. adult education, including the National Retraining Scheme and links to the review of post-18 education and funding
  - 4.7. reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training
  - 4.8. the Department for Education non-executive board





**Chairman's Update**

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum: 8 March – 7 June 2018.

**LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business**

- 12 March Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- 15 March Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP (Chair, Treasury Committee)
- 20 March Northamptonshire District Council Leaders meeting with Rishi Sunak MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- 20 March APPG for the Private Rented Sector
- 28 March Brandon Lewis MP (Minister without Portfolio) and Suella Braverman MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) - Department for Exiting the European Union
- 16 April 4 associations (COSLA, WLGA, NILGA, LGA) meeting with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - EU (Withdrawal) Bill
- 23 April Jake Berry MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- 30 April All-Party Parliamentary Group on Housing & Care for Older People
- 1 May Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP (Secretary of State) - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- 2 May All-Party Parliamentary Fire Safety & Rescue Group
- 9 May Lincolnshire Leaders meeting with Jake Berry MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- 6 June Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

**Meetings with organisations and individuals**

- 10 May Tony Pidgley (Chairman) - Berkeley Group)

- 14 May Minette Batters (President), Terry Jones (Director General) – National Farmers Union
- 23 May Ambassador Mark Regev - Embassy of Israel

**Events and speaking engagements**

- 13 March Local Authority Building Control annual policy conference
- 21 March LGC Awards 2018
- 17 April Luton DART - breaking ground ceremony
- 24 April Westminster Social Policy Forum Seminar – Social housing policy in England  
24 April Millicent Fawcett statue unveiling
- 24 April 110th anniversary of the Builders Merchants Federation Parliamentary reception
- 1 May CSJ Housing roundtable
- 2 May UK Housing Awards 2018 reception
- 9 May Federation of Master Builders Report Launch
- 9 May Planning Futures Summer Parliamentary Reception
- 17 May DCN Spring assembly
- 21 May Bright Futures exhibition
- 4 June Chamberlain Lecture with The Rt Hon the Lord Heseltine

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

### **Conferences, meetings and external events**

1. On 17 May I attended a roundtable organised by the Children's Minister, Nadim Zahawi, to discuss Special Educational Needs and Disability. Discussions focussed on the progress of councils to date in implementing reforms set out in the Children and Families Act, tackling rising demand and the need for additional funding.
2. I spoke alongside sector leaders at Kings College's annual Children in Need conference on 21 May, highlighting the LGA's work on *Bright Futures* and continuing to make the case for enhanced funding to meet rising demand for children's services.
3. The LGA Chairman, Lord Porter, spoke alongside the Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi at the launch of our Parliamentary exhibition on *Bright Futures* on Monday 21 May. Several elected members, including members of the Children and Young People Board, joined LGA staff on the stand throughout the work, helping to highlight the excellent work of councils across the country on early intervention with children and families in need.
4. Cllr Gillian Ford and Ian Dean spoke at Coram BAAF's annual staff away day on 17 April, outlining the LGA's recent work on children's services, talking attendees through our *Bright Futures* campaign and answering questions on the current challenges facing local government.
5. Ian Dean represented the LGA at a Youth Justice Roundtable chaired by the Children's Commissioner at 10 Downing Street on 27 March, joining a range of organisations and the Prime Minister's Special Adviser to discuss improving outcomes for children and teenagers in custody.

### **Publications**

6. I chaired a conference at Smith Square on the early findings from the LGA's research into the factors that drive variation in council spend on children's services on 13 March, attended by over 50 members and officers from councils across the country. The final report of the research, commissioned from Newton Europe, will be published in the summer.

### **Press Releases and Statements**

7. I have recently made public statements on the [special educational needs funding announcement](#), [the need to tackle academy finances](#), [Responding to a report by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman on special guardianship orders](#), [the NSPCC report on school referrals for mental health treatment](#), [the DfE announcement on school places](#), [A potentially life-changing initiative for children leaving care only has enough funding to support one in five young people](#), [the Education Policy Institute report on school funding pressures](#), [the latest school capacity figures for the academic year 2016 to 2017](#) and on the [report from the Care Quality Commission \(CQC\) on children's and young people's mental health needs](#).



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8. Cllr Roy Perry also made public statements on the [NAHT report on the Government's 30 hours free childcare offer](#), [the number of children who secured their first choice primary school place](#) and [the package of measures announced by the Department for Education around home education](#).

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

### **Industrial Strategy – Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)**

1. A roundtable event attended by representatives of the People and Places, City Regions, and Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Boards and Chairs from three LEPs was held on 15 March. The meeting was an opportunity to identify common ground between councils and LEPs and to strengthen their strategic relationship ahead of the publication of the Government's LEP Review.
2. Following the roundtable a letter was sent to the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, which was signed by the three Chairs of the LEP Network in attendance, along with Chairman Cllr Martin Tett of the EEHT Board, myself and Cllr Mark Hawthorne Chairman of the People and Places Board. The letter requested support from national government in three key areas: unified funding, local leadership and greater local flexibility.
3. A response to the letter was received on 6 May 2018 and Stephen Jones, Director of the Cities and Local Growth Unit, will be attending the next Board meeting on 18 June for a discussion regarding the Government's proposals.

### **Town and City Centre Management and Community Cohesion**

4. The government published its Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper in March as a response to the Casey Review, which closed for consultation on 5 June. The LGA submitted evidence to the government consultation, led by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. At the next meeting of the City Regions Board, we shall be discussing next steps in light of the Government's Green Paper and the work in this area being undertaken by the Safer, Stronger Communities Board. .

### **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. Public First have been commissioned to produce messaging analysis that will help inform how the LGA can best present the case for fiscal devolution to Government. WPI Economics, will support the LGA with econometric modelling that will help the LGA spell out in more detail what a specific instance of fiscal devolution would look like in practice.
6. Work is continuing on both projects and a seminar is currently being organised for Lead Members of the City Regions, People and Places and Resources Boards to discuss how best to take forward future activity in this area.

### **Skills and Employment – Work Local**

7. Following on from today's Forum, Cllr Mark Hawthorne and myself will be meeting the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, the Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP to discuss the LGA's vision for a more localised skills system, and build on the foundation for a systematic relationship between the DfE and the LGA.

8. 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. Establishment of the Taskforce is well underway, drawing on expertise from Members of the LGA's Children and Young People, Community and Wellbeing and EEHT Boards.

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## **Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Chair)**

### **Conferences, meetings and external events**

1. On 9 May I met with Lord Gardiner, Minister for Rural Affairs to discuss health and wellbeing in rural communities.
2. rural communities.
3. On 10 May Cllr Richard Kemp gave evidence to the Health Select Committee Inquiry into child obesity.
4. On 26 March Cllr Jackie Meldrum attended the DHSC Autism Strategy Annual accountability meeting chaired by Caroline Dineage MP.
5. Cllr Claire Wright represented the LGA at the Centre for Ageing Better review of Volunteering and Community Contribution in Later Life roundtable on 28 March.
6. Cllr Graham Gibbens represented the LGA at a roundtable discussion at Westminster hosted by Tracey Crouch MP on the vision and priorities for the national strategy on loneliness on 18 April 2018.
7. Mayor Kate Allsop attended NHS Confederation event 'Unlocking the Midlands' productivity: aligning Mental Health, Skills and Innovation' on 27 April.
8. On 14 May Cllr Graham Gibbens attended the Conservative Disability Group (CDG) 7th Annual Colloquium, hosted by Sarah Newton MP. This focussed on the opportunities for businesses to be more inclusive of disabled consumers; and the advantages of work environments which are more inclusive of disabled people.
9. In April 2018 the LGA, in partnership with the Dementia Action Alliance, published 'Dementia: Post Diagnosis Support. Guide for councils'. I wrote the foreword to this publication which showcases a number of good practice case studies by councils and partners.
10. On 28 March, Cllr Richard Kemp, Mayor Kate Allsop and I attended a Ministerial Roundtable on the Government's forthcoming care and support green paper, along with colleagues from ADASS and other sector partners.
11. On 15 May, Sarah Pickup chaired, and Cllr Linda Thomas spoke at, an LGA one day conference on the future of adult social care and support. The sold out conference involved a range of high profile speakers including Sir Amyas Morse, Baroness Ros Altmann and Andrea Sutcliffe.
12. On 15 May, Cllr Graham Gibbens attended Care England's care home parliamentary reception.
13. On 16 May, I attended a roundtable hosted by the Salvation Army exploring the social care needs of older people without housing assets. The Salvation Army intends to feed key discussion points from the roundtable into Government ahead of its care and support green paper.

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14. On 17 May, I spoke at the parliamentary Intergenerational Fairness Forum on the best way forward for developing a sustainable adult social care and support system. The IFF intends to feed key discussion points from the forum into Government ahead of its care and support green paper.
15. On 4 March I met the General Secretary and the Head of Policy of National Pensioners Convention to discuss the forthcoming Green Paper on care and support for older people and current progress on integration.
16. On 26 March and 9 April Mark Lloyd and I represented the LGA at two sessions of the Advisory Panel to Lord Darzi, who has been commissioned by the Institute of Public Policy Research to undertake an independent review into the future of health and social care. The review, which is part- sponsored by the LGA, will report in June.
17. On 26 March, I spoke at a national learning event organised by NHS England on integration of health and social care on the critical success factors for planning and delivering joined up and person-centred care and support.
18. On 10 March Cllr Linda Thomas, Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board, spoke at the King's Fund 8<sup>th</sup> National Leadership and Management Summit on the role of political leadership in driving service transformation.
19. On 15 May, the LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group, which reports to both the Community Wellbeing board and the Children and Young People's Board, met with Meeting with the Minister of State for Immigration, Rt. Hon Caroline Nokes MP. The meeting, chaired by Cllr David Simmonds and attended by lead members across the LGA and the UK, focused on key issues on local government's role in supporting asylum seekers and refugee resettlement.
20. On 23 April Mayor Kate Allsop represented the LGA at the Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association/UNITE SE Regional Conference.
21. On 12 March, Cllr Claire Wright attended a Ministerial roundtable to help launch Carers' Week 2018.
22. On 21 March, Cllr Graham Gibbens attended the PM 2020 Dementia Challenge Meaningful Care Group.
23. On 22 March, Mayor Kate Allsop attended the Women's Health Parliamentary Conference.
24. On 19 March, Cllr Rachel Eden attended a Shadow Home Office roundtable on mental health and policing.
25. On 25 April, I attended a roundtable hosted by the APPG on Learning Disability to launch new research into specialised supported housing for people with learning disabilities.
26. On 21 May, I gave oral evidence to the Health and Wellbeing Innovation Commission Inquiry into retirement homes and care homes.





**Councillors' Forum**

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**Publications**

27. In March we submitted written evidence to a joint Health and Social Care and Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry on long-term funding of adult social care and support.
28. In May we published the first two in a five-piece series of think pieces on the future of adult social care and support. The first explored why adult social care and support matters and the second considered the importance of the local dimension to care and support. Alongside the LGA perspective, guest contributors have included: Lyn Romeo, Caroline Abrahams, Duncan Selbie, Jon Rouse and Glen Garrod. Remaining publications will look at how adult social care should be funded for the long term, the prospects for political and public consensus, and next steps to secure the sustainability of this vital service.

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

### **Sport and physical activity**

1. I attended the Sport and Recreation Alliance meeting in April, setting out the importance of engaging with local councils and how that can be done effectively. This advice is being developed into a short guide for community groups, with the support of Lord Addington to engage various sporting groups.
2. I met with Martin Glenn, the Chair of the Football Association, where we discussed their partnership with the Premier League and DCMS who together have committed to making a major investment in local football over the next 10 years. They will work with every council in England to develop a local football facility plan (LFFP) and I will work to ensure every council benefits to the fullest extent from this investment offer.

### **Arts, Culture and Heritage**

3. I met with Emma Chaplin, Director of the Association of Independent Museums. We discussed the contribution that museums can make to a local areas, both in terms of health and cohesion for local residents and as attractors for visitors. We will be working together to enhance our support offer for council-run and -supported museums.
4. I met with Victoria Wallace, Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and we discussed ways in which the LGA and the commission could work more closely in the future. Off the back of this, the board has helped them make some useful contacts to support their Intereg bid.
5. I met with the Rt. Hon Michael Ellis MP, the new Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism prior to the Tourism and Brexit debate in the Commons in April. We discussed Skills, Cultural Regeneration and lengthening the season, and rural tourism at length. We have set up regular meetings going forwards to ensure the LGA are at the heart of the conversations within the department.

### **Tourism**

6. Cllr Geraldine Carter attending the Tourism Alliance's March Board meeting on behalf of the CTS Board. Cllr Carter followed at the March CTS Board meeting by discussing the planned tourism skills research which will explore the Board's concern about the impact of Brexit on recruitment in the tourism and hospitality sectors. The loss European workers on this sector is unknown so the board are keen to examine ways of delivering skills training to ensure a pipeline of talent and skills for the hospitality and tourism sectors.
7. I had the pleasure of being invited to speak at the Tourism Alliance conference, and later attended their parliamentary Reception.
8. Councillor Muhammed Butt has been asked to sit on the LGA's new Skills Taskforce on behalf of the Board.
9. I also met with Kate Nicholls from UK Hospitality, the new representative body for the hospitality and licensed entertainment sector. Kate is also the new lead for the skills element

of the tourism sector's bid for a deal under the Industrial Strategy. We discussed our support for that bid and our plans to commission in depth research into how councils can adopt a Work Local approach to supporting their local tourism industry in growing the skills base.

## **Parks**

10. I have attended meetings of the Parks Action group in May which was attended by the Parks Minister Rishi Sunak MP. The group continues to provide local government with a national voice on the future of parks, and continues to take action to safeguard and enhance parks and green spaces for future generations. I hope to inform and shape how future cross-government policy-making considers parks and green spaces and the multiple benefits they provide.
11. Our sold out Action on Parks conference took place on the 24 May and gave the Parks Action Group its first major public platform. It was opened by Clive Betts MP, discussing the findings of the select committee inquiry into public parks, followed by Rishi Sunak who has been appointed Minister of Parks at MHCLG. Workshops were led by the Action Group workstream leads, and councillors and officers were given the chance to influence national priorities for parks. It was a lively and thought-provoking day.
12. I met with two of our National Parks members to discuss how the LGA can effectively support them, particularly through the lens of culture, tourism and sport. We are planning to co-host a tourism conference with them in 2019, and Councillor Lewis has been appointed on behalf of CTS Board to sit on the programme board for their Arts Council/Visit England funded project to attract more visitors to the National Parks.

## **Media**

13. I had [an article published](#) in First Magazine explaining the role that Local Government plays in organising Christmas markets, which are attracting more visitors and becoming tourism destinations in their own right.
14. I also set out the importance of our parks in an article for the Countryside Management Association, which reaches frontline professionals involved with the management of all types of parks. In it, I stressed that we wanted to ensure that the Parks Actin Group addressed issues facing the parks in towns like Barnstaple as well as those in London or other cities.

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

### **Meetings and external events**

1. To help councils tackle the challenges raised for our town centres from changing consumer habits, online shopping and global trends, the LGA held a national conference on town centre revitalisation. I was delighted to have chaired the fully packed event, which included fascinating and insightful presentations from a range of experts and case study councils, as well as the Minister for local growth, Jake Berry MP.
2. The event also saw the launch of the LGA's [handbook](#) on town centre revitalisation aimed at council leadership. An accompanying [online toolkit](#) is also now available and those who could not make the event can access the [presentations](#) here.
3. Earlier in the spring we held a conference on potholes and highways maintenance. We were focussing on how authorities are working together and using new technology to do more with less. We also talked about the need for investment in our local roads network and we were pleased that the Government announced an additional £100m for councils to deal with the damage the cold weather has done to our roads. Although disappointingly this headline figure subsequently turned out to have included two previously announced funds. Presentations from the event are available [here](#).

### **Publications**

4. The LGA has launched a new publication which explores the major transition in cars and road vehicle technology that could eventually see our current vehicles replaced by transportation that is fully electric, automated and connected.
5. This combination of technologies will bring about the most significant change in how we travel since the invention of the internal combustion engine and it is important that local government is part of the discussion.
6. The LGA said the discussion paper - '[Clean, connected and in-control: What tomorrow's transport technology could mean for councils](#)' - will examine developments we can expect; how innovative councils are getting involved in trials and the issues that all councils will need to address in the future. It is also a call for engagement from different groups with an involvement in the area to feed ideas in and help better understand the potential of future transport technologies.

### **Community Transport**

7. The EEHT Board led the LGA's response to the Department for Transport's consultation on Section 19 and 22 permits for road passenger transport in Great Britain. The LGA's response highlighted the importance that Section 19 and 22 operators play in the provision of transport for councils and are often the only means by which people can

maintain an independent life, reducing the demands on other public services. Tax-payers and local people benefit considerably from the detailed knowledge of needs and provision of community transport (CT) operators and their lower operating costs due to their volunteer workforce. Their role often extends beyond providing transport. A revised interpretation of the regulations will likely reduce the availability of transport to some individuals and communities.

#### **Housing Adviser Programme:**

8. Following the success of last years programme the Housing Adviser Programme has been launched for the 2018/19 period. The Programme is designed to support local authorities deliver projects which help meet the housing needs of their local areas. Councils wishing to apply should complete their submission by Tuesday 26 June.

#### **Press Releases and Statements**

9. I have recently made public statements on the [powers to tackle lorry drivers that ignore road restrictions](#), on how [165,000 homes could be built with local communities ignored](#), the LGA responded to [Clean Air Strategy consultation](#) and I responded to the [Centrepoint report on young people and homelessness](#).

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

### **Improvement**

1. Our Housing Advisers Programme supports councils seeking to innovate in meeting the housing needs of their communities. This year's [programme](#) is now open and will accept applications until 26 June 2018.

### **Leadership**

2. Further to local elections in May, we are providing our usual support to new and other councillors, and councils undergoing change of control, eg our councillor [training](#), mentoring for new leaders and portfolio holders, our updated [guide for new councillors](#) and other support via councils' [Principal Adviser](#).
3. 2018/2019 Highlighting Political Leadership programmes information and dates are now available on our [website](#). We will provide a comprehensive list of events and dates to all members in July.
4. One of this year's new programmes is the [Women Councillor's Development Day](#) taking place on 22 June 2018 at Warwick Conferences.
5. NGDP council registrations closed with a record number of 59 councils signing up for Cohort 20 to take graduates in 2018/19, an increase of six on last year. We are already working to increase numbers for Cohort 21 with councils who have never taken part already expressing an interest.

### **Efficiency and productivity**

6. Having secured funding for cyber security work, we are commissioning a stocktake of councils' arrangements from governance and leadership to information and incidence management, after which, councils can bid for funding to address issues they identify. Further information is [available](#).
7. We are grateful to colleagues for their input ahead of the meeting with Capita's Chief Executive scheduled later in May. A group of chief executives with high value contracts with Capita will be discussing the top ten performance issues that Capita need to focus on.
8. In 2017/18, experts worked with 25 councils via our Productivity Experts Programme on efficiency savings and/or income generation of nearly £40 million. Further information including how to apply for expertise to skill councils to realise ambitious efficiency savings and income generation is [available](#).

### **Accountability, transparency and sharing good practice**

9. LG Inform Plus now offers enhanced data and tools to enable users to meet the GDPR to maintain a Record of Processing Activity (RoPA) via our [RoPA File Exchange](#).

10. Our newly launched My Local Metrics [Service](#) 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.

### **Innovation**

11. The Board's Innovation Zone working group, comprising Cllrs Fleming, Alan, Miller and Rankin, has been shaping the Zone's programme, the latest version of which is due to be added to our [website](#) and will be updated on a regular basis until conference. Members are encouraged to visit the Zone as part of our annual conference in Birmingham between 3 and 5 July. The Zone already promises an exciting programme, including robots, drones and virtual reality headsets, which are addressing local issues.

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

### **Post-Brexit England Commission**

1. Following on from the launch of the Commission on 28 February in London, the first two in a series of regional roadshows took place on 9 May in Taunton and 11 May in Nottingham. These were a great success, bringing together local leaders and key representatives of business who were able to discuss the opportunities as well as the challenges facing non-metropolitan areas in the period following Britain's departure from the EU. More roadshows are currently being organised for the 2018/19 Board cycle.
2. The publication of the Commission's Interim Report is in its final stages, and on course to be launched at Annual Conference in July.

### **Industrial Strategy – Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)**

3. A roundtable event attended by representatives of the People and Places, City Regions, and Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Boards and Chairs from three LEPs was held on 15 March. The meeting was an opportunity to identify common ground between councils and LEPs and to strengthen their strategic relationship ahead of the publication of the Government's LEP Review.
4. Following the roundtable a letter was sent to the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, which was signed by the three Chairs of the LEP Network in attendance, along with Chairman Cllr Martin Tett of the EEHT Board, Chair of the City Regions Board Sir Richard Leese, and myself. The letter requested support from national government in three key areas: unified funding, local leadership and greater local flexibility.
5. A response to the letter was received on 6 May 2018 and Alexandra Jones, Director of Industrial Strategy at BEIS, will be attending the next Board meeting on 12 June for a discussion regarding the Government's proposals.

### **Rural Digital Connectivity Task and Finish Group**

6. Following on from the last Cllrs' Forum, the first and second meetings of the Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group have taken place. These have established clear priorities for the group's focus on digital and mobile phone connectivity. At the most recent meeting, Members were given the chance to hold discussions with representatives from Ofcom, the UK's communication regulator, which laid the foundation of a strategic working partnership. We are also holding discussions with the British Standards Institute (BSI).
7. Members may recall that the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) have agreed to administer the Group at officer level. The Group's progress and proposed next steps will be presented at the next Board.

**Skills and Employment – Work Local**

8. Following on from today's Forum, Sir Richard Leese and myself will be meeting the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, the Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP to discuss the LGA's vision for a more localised skills system, and build on the foundation for a systematic relationship between the DfE and the LGA.
9. Both the People and Places and City Regions 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. Establishment of the Taskforce is well underway, drawing on expertise from Members of the LGA's Children and Young People, Community and Wellbeing and EEHT Boards.

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## **Resources Board – report from Cllr John Fuller (Vice-Chairman)**

### **Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention**

1. We are continuing our work on business rates retention in conjunction with MHCLG. The Business Rates Retention Steering Group (officers) met on 14 May 2018 and considered papers on the Fair Funding Review consultation outcomes, the safety net, levy and tier splits, and spreading the risk of valuation losses across the local government sector to reduce volatility. On this last point, MHCLG is suggesting that there is concern about the level of complexity within the business rates retention system and that, though addressing appeals losses is desirable, the level of complexity created will need to remain a consideration. MHCLG is seeking views from the sector on this point with a deadline of 1 July 2018. As the impact of appeals on local authorities is one of the key concerns with the current business rates retention system this could have significant financial consequences for the sector and Resources Board will consider the LGA's response at its next meeting later this month.
2. Officers have also continued work on the local and central rating lists and possible changes in the run-up to the implementation of 75 per cent business rates retention in April 2020 and in the longer term when a slot for primary legislation becomes available. Leadership Board has agreed an LGA template for assessing future Fair Funding Review proposals. The Officer Group have seen work by the University of Essex, advised by the LGA, on updating the data in the current formulae and have also considered public health formulae, and a draft summary of the responses to the Government's last consultation which closed in March
3. The member led LGA Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group is due to meet later this month and will consider these issues further. The Group will continue to advise LGA Leadership Board and Executive on LGA policy in this area.
4. As reported to the last Forum, LGA's Vice Chairman, Councillor David Simmonds, gave evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry into business rates retention along with myself (in my capacity as Chair District Councils Network), Cllr Paul Carter (County Councils Network) and Cllr David Finch (Essex County Council and member of Resources Board). The Select Committee has since published its report and this backs our call for councils to be able to use extra business rates income to plug the funding gap facing local government. The Committee suggests that that any new responsibilities placed on councils from further business rate retention should be linked to stimulating and promoting economic growth. The report follows the LGA's lines on business rates retention very closely.

### **NAO report on Financial Sustainability, Reserves and Public Accounts Committee inquiry**

5. The NAO published its latest report into the Financial Sustainability of local authorities in March including some stark messages about the funding of local government. We provided evidence during this study and responded to the report with a media statement and briefed MPs for a debate in Parliament on this on 20 March.
6. We also produced a briefing on council reserves in response to comments made about these at Treasury questions in the House of Commons and in the media.
7. The LGA Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee as part of their inquiry into the NAO report and the LGA also submitted written evidence. During

the session, the Chief Executive praised the work of councils in managing £16 billion of central government funding reductions over this decade. He also highlighted the over £5 billion funding gap facing the sector by 2019/20, alongside the pre-existing pressure to stabilise the adult social care provider market. Our evidence called for further business rates retention to be implemented without new duties to allow councils' funding gaps to be plugged.

8. The LGA Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee as part of their inquiry into the NAO report and the LGA also submitted written evidence. During the session, the Chief Executive praised the work of councils in managing £16 billion of central government funding reductions over this decade. He also highlighted the over £5 billion funding gap facing the sector by 2019/20, alongside the pre-existing pressure to stabilise the adult social care provider market. Our evidence called for further business rates retention to be implemented without new duties to allow councils' funding gaps to be plugged.
9. We have backed up our Parliamentary work on local government funding with further media activity, including interviews with national media such as Radio 4.

### **Capital flexibilities**

10. We have continued to call for councils to be able to invest in all asset classes, including shopping centres, when they can demonstrate a return to the taxpayer and support the local economy without taking on disproportionate risk. I discussed this issue in national media appearances.

### **Insurance Mutual**

11. The new mutual company was incorporated by the LGA on 1 May 2018 as LGAM Limited. Ian Rogers (Chief Actuary at Government's Actuary Department) and Brian Roberts (Former CIPFA President) are directors. James Alexander is company secretary. The seventeen councils which have been working with the LGA to develop the proposals will be able to formally join the mutual over coming months.
12. The mutual now needs to appoint a service provider to provide professional support including business development, underwriting and a range of other work to prepare to open for business. It is using an OJEU compliant neutral vendor to appoint a mutual manager.

### **EU Funding**

13. To date we are still awaiting details on how, or when, the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will be administered, the allocation principles, or the overall quantum of funding. A major consultation is expected later this year, preceded by a period of pre-consultation, which the timetable has not been announced. The LGA is pressing Government to provide clarity of the detail of UKSPF to best equip local areas following the UK exiting the European Union. More details can be at the [Beyond Brexit discussion document](#).

### **Workforce - Pay Negotiations**

14. The two-year local government NJC pay award was agreed on 10 April. The LGA's Workforce Team will soon publish advice to councils on issues related to moving employees on to the new pay spine next April.

15. The one-year, one per cent pay offers to Chief Executives and Chief Officers are the subject of further discussion between the two Sides. Members will be advised of developments in due course.

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

### **Counter Extremism**

#### Prevent

1. The Director of Prevent at the Home Office attended the Safer and Stronger Communities Board meeting in March, regarding plans for the future administration of 'Channel' panels by local authorities (case panels providing support to individuals at risk of radicalisation). We raised a number of concerns from councils about how the Home Office's proposals would be delivered in practice. In response, the Home Office thanked us for highlighting the issues and announced at the meeting that further trialling of the model would now be undertaken to help ensure these are resolved before it is rolled out nationally.
2. At the end of March I chaired a Leadership Essentials course on Prevent. The event was the third Prevent Leadership Essentials course we have delivered and was attended by 14 elected members from a range of authorities. Dates for further courses over the coming year around Prevent, counter-extremism and community cohesion are currently being finalised.

#### Strategic Resilience Board

3. Councillor Ian Stephens and Councillor Les Byrom attended the Strategic Resilience Board at the Home Office on 24 April. The Board discussed resilience issues generally as well as specific items on the Kerslake Report into the Manchester Arena Bombing and a presentation on the response to the Novichok nerve agent use in Salisbury.

### **Domestic Violence**

#### Sisters for Change

4. In May, Cllr Anita Lower spoke at the Sisters for Change roundtable event on the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Sophie Linden and Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Dame Vera Baird QC also contributed to the roundtable. During the meeting, Anita highlighted the importance of taking a public health approach to tackling domestic abuse – to ensure prevention and early intervention are central aspects of the new Bill. She urged stakeholders to contribute to the Home Office's consultation and outlined the LGA's proposed response.

#### Serious Violence Strategy

5. In April, I attended a Serious Violence Strategy private roundtable convened by the Home Secretary ahead of the launch of the Strategy later the same day. The Strategy brings together a number of initiatives to tackle serious violent crime, building on existing work to tackle knife crime, corrosive substances, firearms, and gang related violence and exploitation including county lines. Following this, I was invited to be a member, on behalf of the LGA, of the new Serious Violence Taskforce, which held its first meeting in April and focused on the creation of the National County Lines Coordination Centre. The next meeting is due to be held in June.

### **FGM Advisory Group**

6. Councillor Anita Lower chaired the National FGM Centre's Advisory Group. The group discussed the sustainability of the Centre and how the Centre's work was developing since the last meeting in January. The Group also had a presentation on the Centre's FGM Assessment tool, which has been developed by the Centre for social workers to help them assess cases where FGM is a concern. It comprises two parts, best practice guidance and the online FGM assessment tool and is available on the Centre's website: <http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/fgm-assessment-tool/>.
7. The Group also discussed arrangements for the September meeting, which will take the form of a workshop rather than a meeting to look at the offer of the Centre.

### **Cllr Alan Rhodes meeting with Vernon Coaker MP on Modern Slavery**

8. On 8 March Cllr Alan Rhodes met with Vernon Coaker MP, co-Chair of the APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. Cllr Rhodes highlighted the work of the LGA in tackling modern slavery including the joint work with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's office on the [council guide on tackling modern slavery](#) and the LGA's regional workshops on modern slavery.
9. Vernon Coaker MP outlined the work of the APPG. In particular, the APPG was seeking to increase its engagement with local government and to help foster joint working between the police and local government. The APPG's primary concerns were immigration, recognising the vulnerabilities of victims, garnering support for Lord McColl's Bill, improving funding, county lines, pushing the Government to implement all elements of the Modern Slavery Act. The APPG meets regularly and includes a range of stakeholders including NGOs who work on this issue and the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

### **Fire Commission**

10. Nick Hurd MP, the Minister for Policing and Fire spoke at the LGA's Fire Commission meeting. He spoke on his three key priorities on funding, inspection and responding to the Grenfell tower fire. He also spoke about standards. A new approach to professional standards in the fire and rescue service will be developed with the creation of a new Fire Standards Boards to ensure standards are nationally coordinated to a high level across the sector.

### **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller All-Party Parliamentary Group**

11. In March, I met with Baroness Whitaker, co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities to discuss the APPG's inquiry on unauthorised encampments and recent progress on the issue. Health inequality, transient sites, and language used to describe GRT communities were issues that were also raised in the meeting. Following this, the Government published a consultation on unauthorised encampments and we asked councils to keep us updated if they responded to the consultation. We have asked for councils to send us any case studies or examples of working with GRT communities, that we can share for best practice.



## **Licensing and Regulation**

### Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

12. Having lobbied for a reduction in the maximum stakes on fixed odds betting terminals or FOBTs, the government announced they are to be reduced from £100 to £2 to reduce the risk of gambling related harm following its consultation on gaming machines and social responsibility measures.

### Trading Standards

13. In May Cllr Anita Lower met with Lord Toby Harris, Chair of National Trading Standards (NTS) and Steve Rudd from the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) to hear about key issues for both organisations. Discussion focused on proposals outlined in the new consumer Green Paper which was launched in April, the future of food fraud investigations and the performance framework that ACTSO has been developing.

## **Public Spaces Protection Orders event**

14. In June, Cllr Morris Bright chaired the LGA event "Getting Public Spaces Protection Orders right – what have we learnt so far?" which shared best practice with local government teams on how to construct a PSPO, how to lead a good consultation process and reflecting on lessons learned in the process. Home Office minister Victoria Atkins MP opened the event and we were joined by the Home Office policy team in the afternoon, who outlined changes in their recent anti-social behaviour guidance. We also heard from our local government colleagues in Birmingham, Camden, Lambeth, Cheshire West and Chester, Oldham and others sharing their experiences of PSPOs at the event.

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07 June 2018

## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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**Title:** Councillors' Forum  
**Date:** Thursday 8 March 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	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest</b>  The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and noted the apologies as set out at <b><u>Appendix A</u></b> .  There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP</b>  The Chairman welcomed Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Care, to the meeting.  The Minister thanked members and the Chairman for inviting her to speak and noted that the integration of health and social care was vital in reforming the system and delivering effective services to those most in need of them. The Minister said that her focus would be centred around reform, housing, integration and loneliness, and she was looking forward to working with local government on the green paper for the care and support of older people. She noted that a parallel project would be run alongside the green paper which would focus on working age adults, and that part of this process would include roundtables and ongoing discussions with both the LGA and ADASS. The Minister acknowledged that funding was an issue for local government and she referenced the £2 billion in additional funding which she said would help commission sustainable and diverse services.  The Minister was not able to stay to take questions from members but the following comments were made following her departure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members did not feel that the Minister understood the full extent of the funding pressures local authorities were under and they questioned where money set aside went after the Dilnot cap was scrapped. Members were keen to press the Government on the £2.3 billion funding gap and for the Government to look at the whole picture on social care, which would include the impact closing local libraries, community and youth centres had on</li></ul>	

vulnerable people.

- Members felt that the Government needed to work more closely with local government in relation to the green paper and that there should be a greater focus on prevention.
- Members asked how we could reset the conversation about local health services and the interaction between local authorities and the NHS. It was suggested that more could be done to encourage local authorities and the NHS to work in partnership. It was noted that in some areas there had been disputes between local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) about the Better Care Fund.
- Lord Porter noted that the delayed transfer of care (DTC) figures had come down month on month and the local authorities ought to be praised for the work they had done to contribute towards this reduction.

### **Decision**

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

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

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

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

The following comments were made:

- It was noted that a meeting of the Business Rates Retention Group would follow Councillors' Forum.
- Cllr Simon Blackburn noted that the Government had launched a consultation on the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill and he reminded members that the LGA position on this was supportive. Cllr Blackburn said that the LGA would continue to work with the Government to ensure that there was a focus on prevention as well as refuges. Cllr Martin Tett asked about the Home Office suggestion that some Prevent responsibilities would be moved to local government. Cllr Blackburn was limited in the details he could provide following conversations with the security services but that he would update the political groups as and when any progress was made.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the Chairs' reports.

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

Members **agreed** the minutes as an accurate summary of the discussion

had at the previous meeting.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
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 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 Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Donna Jones JP	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
	Cllr Colin Riley	Castle Point Borough Council
	Mayor Tim Bowles	West of England Combined Authority
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Huntingdonshire District Council

	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Lisa Duffy	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Apologies	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Sabia Hussain	Slough Borough Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
	Ms Fiona Twycross AM	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

# LGA location map

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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)



