

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 18 October 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

www.local.gov.uk

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Councillors' Forum
18 October 2018

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 18 October 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 Suite (8 th floor)
11.00am	Labour	Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Eaton-Cockell Room (7 th floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in The Terrace Lounge (7th 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 3263	email: Lewis.addlington-lee@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:

Thomas French
020 7664 3041 / thomas.french@local.gov.uk

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Councillors' Forum – Membership 2018/2019

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (43)	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr James Jamieson (Vice Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Nadeem Ahmed	Pendle Borough 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 Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Gillian Brown OBE	Arun District Council
Cllr Nick Chard	Kent County Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Linda Haysey	East Herts Council
Cllr Matthew Hicks	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
Cllr Donna Jones JP	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset County Council
Cllr Joanne Laban	Enfield Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
Cllr Oonagh Moulton	Merton London Borough Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Andrew Proctor	Broadland District Council
Cllr Lynn Riley	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Nicholas Rushton	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Janet Walton	Borough of Poole
Cllr David Williams	Hertfordshire County Council

Labour (39)	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Tom Beattie	Corby Borough Council
Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Paulette Hamilton	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sabia Hussain	Slough Borough Council
Cllr Peter John OBE	Southwark Council
Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich Borough Council
Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Cllr Sian Timoney	Luton Borough Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	Brent Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Mayor Philip Glanville	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Judith Hughes	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Sue Jeffrey	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Cllr Robert Stewart	Swansea City and County Council

Ms Fiona Twycross AM	Greater London Authority
Cllr Alan Waters	Norwich City Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Liberal Democrat (10)	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Keith Aspden	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Vacancy	Liberal Democrat Group
Substitutes	
Cllr Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
Independent (8)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clarence Barrett	Havering London Borough Council
Cllr Wayne Davies	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Carolyn Rule	Cornwall Council
Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 24 January 2019, 12.30 pm, Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP

Purpose of report

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. In November 2017, the Government announced its intention to publish a green paper on adult social care reform “by summer recess 2018”. Following the January 2018 Cabinet reshuffle, it was announced that the newly renamed Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) would assume oversight of the green paper. Caroline Dinenage was appointed as Minister of State for Care on 9 January. The Minister attended Councillors’ Forum in March 2018 and talked about the green paper, quality, housing, integration and loneliness.
2. In June 2018, shortly after the announcement of new funding for the NHS rising to £20.5 billion per year by 2023/24, the Government announced that its green paper would be pushed back until the autumn, “around the same time” as the NHS Plan.
3. In light of this further delay to the Government’s proposals for the future of care and support, the LGA’s Chairman and Group Leaders approved plans for the LGA to develop its own green paper on adult social care and wellbeing.
4. The LGA’s green paper, *The lives we want to lead*, was published on 31 July and was aimed at stimulating a nationwide debate about how best to fund the care we want to see in all our communities for adults of all ages, and how our wider care and health system can be better geared towards supporting and improving people’s wellbeing. *The lives we want to lead* posed a series of 30 consultation questions across a range of topics and the deadline for responses ended on 26 September.
5. The Minister of State for Care attended the LGA Community Wellbeing Board’s annual ‘away day’ on 27 September. Her comments covered unpaid carers, funding, quality and the NHS Plan.
6. The Minister’s attendance at Councillors’ Forum is an important opportunity for Members to learn more, and ask questions, about the Government’s plans for the future of adult social care – both in terms of longer-term reform (the green paper), and the short-medium term funding position (Budget and Spending Review).

The LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing: *The lives we want to lead*

7. As a priority campaign for the organisation, a detailed plan of launch activity was prepared to promote the green paper, raise awareness of the funding crisis facing adult social care and encourage as many people to take part in the consultation as possible. As a result, the green paper has been mentioned 78 times in total in national print, online and broadcast media.

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8. The launch of the LGA green paper was very successful, with coverage in the Sun, Independent, Telegraph, Mail, Express, Mirror and Guardian. LGA spokespeople were interviewed on BBC Radio 4 Today, BBC Radio 5 Live, Sky News, BBC Victoria Derbyshire and BBC regional radio.
9. The Chairman wrote to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Secretaries of State for both Housing, Communities and Local Government and Health and Social Care to highlight our green paper and the Political Group Offices engaged with MPs and Peers. Colleagues briefed LGA Vice Presidents and we presented on our green paper at a dedicated parliamentary event in September.
10. There have been more than 15,500 web page views of our green paper, the 'easy read' version has been downloaded more than 400 times and our facilitators and communications packs have been downloaded more than 360 and 430 times respectively. Videos we produced to accompany the green paper have been watched more than 72,500 times. The Twitter debate, through #FutureofASC, has reached more than 4 million people. We have received more than 500 submissions to our consultation questions, which has exceeded our expectations. As part of our engagement process we have also commissioned public polling of 2,000 members of the public and a series of focus groups across the country.
11. Colleagues from the LGA's Research Team are carefully analysing all responses to the consultation. The key findings, along with the outputs of the public polling, focus groups and other linked work, will be brought together in a further publication in November in time for the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference.

Ministerial biography

12. 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.
13. The Minister's responsibilities include:
 - 13.1. Overseeing all aspects of adult social care, including dementia, loneliness and disabilities;
 - 13.2. Hospital care quality and patient safety;
 - 13.3. Community health services;
 - 13.4. Health and social care integration;

Financial implications

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

Implications for Wales

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

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Appendix A Ministerial biography



1. Caroline Dinenage was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care in January 2018. Previously, Caroline has held Ministerial positions at the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice.
2. She was elected Conservative MP for Gosport in 2010 – having previously served on the City of Winchester local council and been a small business owner for 20 years.
3. The minister's responsibilities include:
 - 3.1. overseeing all aspects of adult social care, including dementia, loneliness and disabilities;
 - 3.2. hospital care quality and patient safety;
 - 3.3. community health services;
 - 3.4. health and social care integration';

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Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities in the period between 1 September – 18 October 2018.

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

4 Sep	Fire safety and rescue All Party Parliamentary Group meeting
4 Sep	Ministerial Building Remediation Taskforce (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)
4 Sep	The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP (Secretary of State - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)
6 Sep	Review of Build out roundtable with Sir Oliver Letwin (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)
10 Sep	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government / Local Government Association Brexit Delivery Board
21 Sep	Hampshire and Isle of Wight LGA meeting
15 Oct	Local Government Association Leaders programme
16 Oct	The Rt Hon Gavin Barwell (Number 10 Downing Street)
17 Oct	The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (Chief Secretary to the Treasury, HMT)

Meetings with organisations and individuals

6 Sep	Simon Tennent (Managing Director, Valcan)
10 Sep	Cllr David Hodge (Surrey County Council), Cllr Paul Spooner (Guildford Borough Council), Bob Pickles (Surrey Employment and Skills Board) - Apprenticeship Levy
10 Sep	Justin Griggs (Head of policy and communication - National Association of Local Councils)
11 Sep	Jon Johnson (Chair - National Federation for Affordable Building)
17 Oct	Cllr Sue Baxter (Chairman, National Association of Local Councils)

Events and speaking engagements

5 Sep	East of England All Party Parliamentary Group Parliamentary Autumn Budget submission launch
5 Sep	National Housing Federation reception
11 Sep	Residential Landlords Association Reception with The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP (Secretary of State - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)
12 Sep	Social Justice Caucus meeting with The Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP Chancellor of the Exchequer - HMT)
12 Sep	Local Government Association's parliamentary briefing on the future of adult social care
25 Sep	Westminster Briefing's 'Next Steps for Building Regulations and Fire Safety' conference
30 Sep/30 Oct	Conservative Party Conference
30 Sep	Prospect event on 'Addressing the construction skills gap'
30 Sep	YoungMind & Conservatives for Mental Health roundtable on 'Children and young people's mental health'

Children and Young People Board – from Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Chair)

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. Recently I spoke at a number of events at Labour party conference. On Monday 24 September I attended a Barnardo's reception on lost childhoods. I also outlined details of the funding cuts to children's services and our vision for children's services in Bright Futures. My speech was well received and a number of MPs, including Shadow Early Years Minister, Tracy Brabin MP and Lucy Powell MP commended her knowledge and passion for issues affecting children and young people.
2. On Tuesday 25 September, I was a panellist for a debate on supporting children in need into adulthood where she highlighted the rising demand facing children's services. The event was organised by Children's Society and British Association of Social Workers. I also spoke at another panel debate on that day on children's early years, organised by Action for Children and attended by Shadow Early Years Minister, Tracy Brabin MP and Lucy Powell MP. I highlighted the importance of early years provisions in improving social mobility and the need for greater investment in early years provision.
3. On Monday 24 September, CYP Board member Cllr Clare Coghill spoke at a roundtable organised by the National Youth Agency at Labour party conference. Cllr Coghill highlighted the role of councils in helping young people transition into adulthood. The event was also attended by Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP, Labour MP for Brighton, Kemptown and Chair of the APPG for Youth Work and Tracy Brabin, Shadow Early Years Minister.
4. Cllr Teresa Heritage chaired the LGAs panel debate at Conservative party conference. The event on Monday 1 October, focussed on the spending review and what it could provide for communities.
5. Cllr Heritage also spoke at a number of other events at the conference including, a roundtable organised by UK Youth on youth loneliness on Sunday 30 September. At the roundtable, she highlighted our call for the Government to prioritise child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) with sustainable funding. Other attendees included Andrew Bowie MP and Alex Burghart MP, the Prime Minister's former adviser on social justice. On Monday 1 October, Cllr Heritage attended a Barnardo's reception. The event also attended by Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Esther McVey MP, Victoria Atkins MP, Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability Minister and Nadhim Zahawi MP, Children and Families Minister and focussed on children's services. On Tuesday 2 October 2018, Cllr Heritage spoke at a roundtable on addiction and family resilience. She highlighted the vital public health services that local councils provide, including in commissioning targeted and effective substance misuse services. She also outlined our calls for the Government to reverse reductions to the public health grant to councils.
6. On Monday 1 October, Cllr Natasha Airey spoke at a roundtable at Conservative party conference organised by the National Youth Agency. The event focussed on youth work and services and Cllr Airey highlighted current funding reductions to children and youth services. Ben Bradley MP who is a member of the APPG on Youth Affairs also attended.

7. Cllr Lucy Nethsingha spoke at a National Youth Agency roundtable at Liberal Democrat party conference on Monday 17 September. The event focused on youth work and services and was an extension to her earlier appearance at the APPG for Youth Work inquiry in July. Cllr Nethsingha spoke on the important role of youth work as part of a broader package of services for young people, the £3 billion funding gap faced by children's services and the reduction in funding for the Early Intervention Grant. She also attended a visit to the Brighton Young People's Centre as part of this.

Publications and correspondence

8. In September we responded to the Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into the First 1000 days of Life. We welcome the committee's inquiry and submitted evidence on the wider role councils play in supporting and improving people's mental and physical wellbeing through addressing the wider determinants of health and delivering support that wraps around children and their families. We raised our concerns about the funding cuts to local government and the impact this is having on councils' ability to deliver these services.
9. In August I called for the [Government's National Citizen Service to be devolved to local youth services](#), which was reported on **BBC Radio 4's Today programme** and on **BBC Breakfast**, **BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show**, **BBC Radio 2**, **LBC** and across **BBC local radio** news bulletins, together with the [Independent](#), [Guardian](#), [Telegraph](#), **i paper**, [Express Online](#), [Mirror Online](#) and [BBC Online](#). I was also interviewed about this on **LBC**.
10. Our press release in August with my warning that [England is facing a secondary school places "emergency" with more than 130,000 children at risk of missing a place over the next five years](#) was reported on **BBC Radio 4's Today programme** and in the [Times](#), [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), **i paper**, [Mail \(twice\)](#), [Mirror](#), [Sun](#), [ITV Online](#), [Sky News Online](#), [LBC Online](#) and [Huffington Post](#). Our analysis of government figures showed that by 2023/24, 71 English councils (52 per cent) may not be able to meet the need for 133,926 secondary school places. LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds was also interviewed on **Good Morning Britain** and **Sky News Sunrise**.
11. The [Mail](#), [Mirror](#), [Sun](#), [Telegraph Online](#), [Independent Online](#) and [ITV Online](#) in August featured our [response to Children's Society research about the number of boys and girls who have self-harmed in the past year](#), calling for councils and schools to be given funding to offer independent mental health counselling so pupils have access to support when they need it, which was also reported on **BBC Breakfast** and **Good Morning Britain**.
12. The [Observer](#) on 1 September featured our warning on its front page that children's services are reaching a tipping point and urgent funds are required to address the problem, after councils in England had to spend £816 million more on children's social care than they had budgeted for. This was also referenced in newspaper reviews on the **BBC News channel**, **Sky News** and on **BBC Radio 4**.
13. I featured on [Guardian Online](#) in September with our [response to a National Association of Head Teachers report on pressures on schools supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities](#) and our call for an urgent review of funding to meet the unprecedented rise in demand that councils are experiencing.
14. In September, **BBC Breakfast** reported our Bright Futures lines that councils are facing a £3 billion funding shortfall in children's services by 2025, in a piece about support for young carers.



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15. The [Independent](#) in September featured my [response to the latest Department for Education figures showing that spending on children at risk of neglect or abuse has reduced by 26 per cent over the past five years](#), about how children's services are under huge and increasing financial pressures, with many councils being pushed to the brink by unprecedented demand.
16. As new Chair of the Children and Young People Board I was recently interviewed by [CYP Now](#) and I used the interview to reiterate our call for additional funding to help meet the £2 billion children's funding gap facing councils. I also highlighted the need for additional powers for councils to ensure we can meet our remaining education duties and called for more to be done to understand the impact of informal school exclusions on children and young people.
17. [National Children's and Adult Services Conference 2018](#) - This year's NCAS conference is taking place on Manchester from the 14th – 16th November, with our Lead Member meeting taking place from 5pm – 6pm on the afternoon of the 15th. I have invited the Children's Minister, Nadhim Zahawi MP to join us for this meeting for a Chatham House discussion of the challenges facing councils in delivering effective children's services and I would like to encourage those of you attending the conference to come along and contribute to this discussion.

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Position: Principal Policy Adviser
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E-mail: ian.keating@local.gov.uk

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

2018-19 Work Programme

1. The primary objective of the City Regions Board remains the devolution of power and resources to local government. The Board has agreed a work programme for the 2018-19 political cycle that seeks to support this objective.
2. Reflecting the current national context, the Board's 2018-19 work programme consists of four key components:
 - 2.1. **Delivering devolution** – overseeing work to support the delivery of devolution deals already agreed and to ensure that the lessons from those in the 'vanguard' mayoral combined authority areas are captured and shared with councils more widely;
 - 2.2. **Driving devolution** – advancing the case for devolution through national Government's place-based growth agenda e.g. the Industrial Strategy and on a Department-by-Department basis, such as skills and employment, and trade and investment;
 - 2.3. **Future devolution** – building the policy arguments and stakeholder networks to support devolution that goes beyond the current Government's ambitions e.g. greater fiscal autonomy, with a view to influencing future manifestos.
 - 2.4. **Urban leadership** – assembling a coalition of interested and relevant parties to consider and re-articulate the distinct concerns and opportunities of urban authorities across England to a national audience.
3. The Board will oversee a wide range of policy and improvement activity in pursuit of each of these four components.

Urban Leadership

4. In line with the agreed work programme, activity will be undertaken to assemble a coalition of interested and relevant parties to consider and re-articulate the distinct concerns and opportunities of urban authorities across England to a national audience in the lead up to the 2019 Spending Review.
5. As an initial step, the Board has agreed to commence engagement with partners to identify potential joint lobbying lines arising from the established policy positions of relevant representative bodies, such as London Councils, Core Cities and Key Cities.

Industrial Strategy

6. The Board continues to progress work relating to the key place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy – the Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), the development of Local Industrial Strategies and the design of UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
7. Following the publication of the conclusions of the LEP Review in July, Members have expressed particular concerns regarding the Government's position on future LEP geographies

and the potential dilution of democratic accountability on LEP Boards resulting from the recommendations of the review. In response, the Chairman of the People and Places Board and I have written to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy seeking urgent clarity on both these issues.

8. Work continues to engage Whitehall officials on the key issues for councils relating to the Industrial Strategy, including Local Industrial Strategies and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This follows recent LGA lobbying successes including the confirmation that every area will be invited to agree a Local Industrial Strategy with government and the announcement that funding for EU programmes will be guaranteed until the end of 2020 in the event of a no deal Brexit.

Skills and Employment – Work Local

9. The City Regions and People and Places Boards continue to push forward the LGA's Work Local proposals for skills and employment devolution to Government, Opposition and key stakeholders.
10. As part of this, we have established a new Skills Taskforce made up of LGA Board members which will aim to engage a range of stakeholders during a series of roundtables. Our aim is to build relationships with external organisations around the skills and employability agenda.
11. Following on from positive discussions in the summer with the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Skills and Apprenticeships Minister, we are also continuing to pursue a strategic DfE/LGA political and operational partnership on post 16 skills to benefit both devolved and non-devolved areas. This is in progress with Whitehall officials.

Devolution Improvement Support Offer

12. The City Regions board will continue to develop the LGAs sector led improvement offer for Combined Authorities (CAs). This includes a number of key policy networks that allow CA's to share best practice and look at key collective issues. The next round of network meetings will take place in October and November. As agreed at the June board meeting a Governance and Scrutiny network and a HR network have also now been set up.
13. The LGA's improvement offer is available for all CA's as well as bespoke and tailored support. Further work is being carried out in regards to a sector led peer offer similar to peer challenge with a view to having a tool in place by 2019/20. Scoping is also being carried out for the LGA to host commercial proposition workshops for CA's within this financial year which will be discussed at the next CA CEX meeting in November.

Trade and investment

14. The City Regions Board will continue to work alongside the People and Places Board to develop the LGA's approach to trade and international investment, by working with the Department for International Trade to understand and strengthen the existing sub-national trade and investment landscape, building an evidence base of place and sectoral priorities for future trade deals and agreeing with Government how the views and international relationships of local government might be harnessed during these deals.



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15. To inform this activity, a survey of the LGA's membership has been undertaken to highlight the depth and diversity of trade and other international links established between councils and global partners, with a view to strengthening the role of sub-national government in future trade and investment activity.
16. In addition to this, the LGA is undertaking a piece of improvement work to outline the role councils can play in attracting foreign capital investment. It will capture sectoral best practice and develop a set of resources to support councils and their private sector partners to maximise foreign capital investment opportunities and consider how to develop a longer-term pipeline of projects to meet a range of international investor needs.

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Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Ian Hudspeth (Chairman)

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. In July Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE attended a discussion on rural loneliness hosted by DEFRA.
2. In August, in partnership with ADASS, we provided comments to the DHSC on the Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF). The DHSC published the SAF in September 2018. Councillor Jackie Meldrum attends the national Autism Strategy Board.
3. In September, Cllr Meldrum spoke on the LGA Green Paper to the Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) Building Community Capacity Group.
4. On 18 September Councillor Richard Kemp participated in an Accountable Care Journal panel debate on integration, emphasising that we need a place based and person centred approach to integration that is locally led by all system leaders.
5. The LGA, Association of Directors of Public Health and Public Health England wrote to Directors of Public Health on 1 October to encourage them to complete a voluntary self-assessment of local suicide prevention plans. The findings will help us to develop sector-led support and share good practice.
6. On 8 October I was delighted to give the keynote speech at a joint LGA / Centre for Ageing Better conference about how housing adaptations can help keep people healthier and happier in their own homes for longer. A new good practice guide was launched.
7. I spoke at a number of events at Conservative party conference where I had the opportunity to highlight our recent social care green paper. On Monday 1 October, I spoke at two events organised by the Salvation Army and at another organised by Independent Age event on the future of adult social care. I also spoke on a panel at an event organised by Centre for Progressive Policy event on safeguarding the NHS for the next 70 years. Other speakers at the event included Dr. Sarah Wollaston, Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee. On Tuesday 2 October, I spoke on a panel at an event organised by Carers UK on the future of care and the role of family and the state.
8. Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE also attended a working dinner organised by IPPR/Gilead Sciences on a 10-point plan for better health and care for the 2020s and spoke at an IPPR fringe debate on social care.

Publications and correspondence

9. On 31 July we published our green paper on the future of adult social care and wellbeing, *The lives we want to lead*. In the absence of the Government's own green paper (and following further delay to this), we launched our own green paper to stimulate a nationwide debate about how best to fund the care we want to see in all our communities for adults of all ages and how our wider care and health system can be better geared towards supporting and improving people's wellbeing.

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10. The response to our green paper has been an enormous success. There have been more than 15,500 views of our green paper, the 'easy read' version has been downloaded more than 400 times and our facilitators and communications packs have been downloaded more than 360 and 430 times respectively. We have received more than 500 submissions to our consultation questions and the Twitter debate, through #FutureofASC, has reached more than 4 million people. Accompanying videos we produced have been watched more than 72,500 times. We have conducted public polling as well as focus groups as part of the consultation process.
11. The Chairman wrote to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Secretaries of State for both Housing, Communities and Local Government and Health and Social Care to highlight our green paper and the Political Group Offices engaged with MPs and Peers. Colleagues briefed LGA Vice Presidents and we presented on our green paper at a dedicated parliamentary event in September. As part of our wider campaigning around the LGA Social Care Green Paper, we have also interviewed a number of key Parliamentarians, asking them why social care is important for the nation.
12. Our green paper has enjoyed similar success in the media. On the day of the publication's launch, the green paper achieved 26 episodes of national coverage. This included Cllr Izzi Seccombe being interviewed on BBC radio stations, Cllr Marianne Overton being interviewed live on Sky News and Sky News Radio, Cllr David Simmonds appearing on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show and BBC Radio 5 Live, and Cllr Richard Kemp being interviewed on several regional BBC radio stations. The green paper was covered in print media, including The Telegraph, The Independent and The Guardian, The Sun and The Mail. Cllr Izzi Seccombe wrote about the launch of our green paper in The Times Red Box and the Municipal Journal and Cllr Nick Forbes wrote a comment piece in The Daily Express. Carers World Radio broadcast a special programme dedicated to our green paper in September.
13. Senior LGA Members and officers have spoken about our green paper at several recent national events and conferences.
14. Colleagues are now busy analysing all received submissions and we will publish our response to the consultation in November at the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference.
15. I co-signed a letter to Ministers alongside 20 other voluntary sector organisations which called for urgent clarification on sleep-in payments in the light of continued confusion over Government guidance and the Social Care Compliance Scheme given the Court of Appeal case. The letter also emphasised the need for a long-term solution to funding the social care workforce that will ensure fair pay.
16. The LGA submitted written evidence to the House of Lords Committee on Economic Affairs as part of its inquiry on the future of adult social care in England. The submission highlighted our recent green paper on adult social care.
17. The LGA has submitted written evidence on sexual health to the Health and Social Care Committee. Our submission highlighted the record demand for sexual health services which are adding to the existing pressures faced by local authorities, particularly as public health budgets continue to be constrained by the £533 million reduction to the public health grant.



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18. We also continue to engage Parliamentarians over the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill which is currently undergoing its Committee stage in the House of Lords. Local authorities will be given additional responsibilities under the new Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards process to work with partners to protect the rights of people who lack capacity on their care decisions. Whilst we welcome the Bill, we have concerns about it will be implemented. Colleagues have briefed Peers about our concerns and also attended a briefing event with Parliamentarians.
19. We briefed MPs ahead of a debate in the House of Commons on asylum accommodation contracts. Our briefing highlighted the important role that councils play in supporting and delivering the many programmes for refugees and asylum seekers and their desire to find sustainable solutions that minimise pressures on them, their communities and vulnerable individuals.

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

Joint Conference with the FA

1. The 18th September saw our first joint conference with the FA take place at Wembley Stadium, largely focused on how local authorities can help to provide and maintain football facilities. A presentation from Chief Exec of the FA Martin Glenn, as well as information on the national football facilities strategy, aimed at delivering increased investment into the grassroots game. Workgroups were also held on issues such as the maintenance of grass pitches in public places. We are looking forward to further strengthening of the link between the FA and LGA, and local authorities and football associations working together effectively going forwards.

Sport England Contracts

2. In 2018/19, we have arranged increased contracts with Sport England, a two-year agreement worth £271, 728. . This will deliver: Five leadership essentials events for councillors (average 2/3 per year); Six leadership events for senior strategic officers (average 3 per year); Four regional events for councillors and/or senior strategic officers (average 2 per year); Four masterclasses for senior strategic officers over the two years. 2 of these events have already taken place and we have received very positive feedback.

Arts Council England Contracts

3. Additionally, we have ongoing discussions with Arts Council England, but to date they have confirmed their intention to commission us to deliver: Two leadership essentials events for portfolio holders; Three cultural peer challenges; Ten library peer challenges and a councillor handbook on museums services. The value of this activity is £149, 860.

Tourism Skills Research

4. We have commissioned research into tourism skills, focusing on 8 council areas with a strong tourism sector. Ultimately Rubicon Regeneration won the contract and we have suggested that a presentation on progress with the project is delivered to the CTS Board on 26 November. The final report is due at the end of March 2019.

Libraries Week

5. We are releasing a press release will be issued for Libraries Week which takes place from the 8th- 13th October. The focus on the press release will be how libraries are helping to support health and wellbeing of residents in our communities. An article has also been submitted to the Arts Professional magazine which will be published for Libraries Week. The comment piece focuses on how councils are using culture to preserve access to the arts, and the increasing important part of Libraries in the national landscape.

Parks Action Group

6. In October, we will be releasing press statements relating to the Parks Action Group. We are also planning a separate article for the First magazine which will focus on how

councils are using Parks to achieve key outcomes such as wellbeing and health, loneliness, skills and tourism.

Seaside Regeneration

7. We have submitted a response to the House of Lords select committee on regenerating seaside towns and communities. Utilising information from the LGA's conducted research into how councils can lead, promote, or support culture-led regeneration, we were able to share key findings and selected case studies with the committee.

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

Meetings and external events

1. I attended the TCPA & Crest Nicholson fringe event at the Conservative Party Conference in September 2018. I spoke on *Building Homes, Creating Communities*.

Transport

2. The LGA has provided written submissions to a number of Transport Committee inquiries. These inquiries include:
 - 2.1. **Health of the bus market inquiry.** This inquiry sought written evidence on the effectiveness and ambition of DfT's policies on buses; factors that affect bus use; the provision of services to isolated communities; and the viability and long-term sustainability of bus services, including funding and public grants.
 - 2.2. **Local roads funding and governance inquiry.** The focus of this inquiry was on the condition of local roads, adequacy of funding, including the societal and economic costs of not maintaining them properly and whether governance changes are required. The key points of our submission, are that councils take the maintenance of their roads and highways infrastructure very seriously. They spend approximately £3.6 billion a year maintaining nearly 185,000 miles of local roads, as well as footpaths, cycleways, bridges, tunnels, drainage, street lighting, traffic signals and street furniture.
 - 2.3. **The Active Travel inquiry.** This inquiry called for evidence on the benefits and risks of active travel, recent trends, the effectiveness of DfT in setting strategic objectives, and the balance of responsibilities between central and local bodies. The findings from our recent modal shift survey will be used to reinforce key issues relating to councils.

Modal Shift survey

3. Over the summer we have surveyed member authorities on their approach to modal shift and encouraging more sustainable transport. It revealed the overwhelming majority have introduced 20mph zones, provided secure cycle parking and/or changing facilities, promoted cycling and/or walking through schools and included sustainable travel within their Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
4. However, the survey reveals that the main barriers stopping councils from doing more to invest in sustainable travel were: lack of revenue funding (87 per cent for cycling/walking and 82 per cent for public transport); uncertainty over continued levels of funding (74 per cent for cycling/walking and 79 per cent for public transport); and lack of capital funding (68 per cent for cycling/walking and for public transport). The full results are available [here](#).
- 5.

Housing

6. A campaign win, as the LGA responded to the announcement in the Prime Minister's Conference speech, that the housing revenue account borrowing cap will be scrapped. The response can be read [here](#).
7. In August, the LGA published *Speeding up delivery Learning from councils enabling timely build-out of high quality housing*. This report highlights some distinctive projects and innovative practices that are being used in a number of different development contexts. The report can be read [here](#).
8. The LGA welcomed the opportunity to respond to the MHCLG consultation on *Use of receipts from Right to Buy sales*. The response to the consultation at the October board.

Environment

9. A waste and recycling survey was sent out to every council in September 2018. Part of the survey focused on questions related to the impact of Chinese restrictions on waste imports. Of those councils which responded 49 per cent said they had felt a significant impact from the ban. However, a much smaller proportion of councils i.e. 13 per cent were able to provide specific estimates of the financial impact. Our survey indicated that there was a median income loss to the councils which responded of £371400 pa. There was also an increase in the cost of recycling of around £428600 pa.
10. Looking to the future China will be pre-inspecting all imported containers. There will be supervised loading and sealing of containers. Site operators are currently being given additional training about what waste is/isn't acceptable. China has reported a 64 per cent reduction in waste imports for restricted categories for Q1 2018. Imports of waste paper declined substantially in May compared to April (23 per cent). China will ban an additional 16 wastes from the end of 2018 including post-industrial plastics, and a further 16 wastes from the end of 2019. This reduces the permitted waste types from 66 in 2017 to 18 by the end of 2019.
11. The board is still interested in receiving receiving information from councils on the financial implications of the China ban, anyone member with information should email Sonika.Sidhu@local.gov.uk

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Improvement and Innovation Board – from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

Innovation

1. **LGA Behavioural Insights Programme grant funding 2018** - phase four of our prestigious [programme](#) has launched, part of our wider support to council innovation. We are looking for applications from councils with ideas aimed at managing service demand or achieving efficiencies. We are encouraging applications from councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks that would like to work on a behavioural insights or 'nudge' project. Successful local authorities will benefit from up to £25,000 match funding to run a trial. The closing date is Thursday 1 November and further information is available on our [website](#).

Leadership

2. **National Graduate Development Programme** - Cohort 21 [council registrations](#) are open. We are encouraging councils to apply early so we can advertise the programme locally with the aim of attracting candidates that are interested in the council before applications close. This year's recruitment cycle was opened to candidates from 17 September 2018 and will close on 3 January 2019.
3. **Leadership Essentials for children's services** - we have experienced tremendous demand for our Leadership Essentials Children's programme. Events in September, October and January have been fully booked and in light of this overwhelming demand we have added [two new dates for our Leadership Essentials for children's services](#) in February and March 2019.

Efficiency and productivity

4. **Carillion: lessons for the public sector** - we ran this successful conference with Oxfordshire County Council on 2 October, which provided an opportunity for officers to hear from councils directly affected by the collapse earlier this year.
5. **Cyber security: improve your council's resilience** - on 7 November we will be holding an event for both councillors and council officers. Delegates will hear high level findings of the LGA's Cyber Security Stocktake, a snapshot study of the cyber security arrangements in place across councils in England, providing an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses across the sector. Delegates will also hear from the LGA how to bid for funding to improve their cyber resilience, as well as from key partners - including the National Cyber Security Centre, the police and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government – about the resources they have available to support councils. Places can be booked via our [website](#).
6. **Digital Showcase** - on 22 November 2018 we will be hosting this event at our 18 Smith Square offices. This event will provide a forum to share and learn about some of the many innovative approaches to digital transformation already implemented in councils, as well as gain a greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities they have to navigate as they set out to implement different digital tools and solutions. Examples will include the work using digital tools and solutions to transform adult social care, bringing

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together data from different partners to tackle troubled families and work on channel shift, making it easier for residents to self-serve. This event is free to all councils, and further information is available on our [website](#).

Improvement

7. **An insight-driven approach to migration and cohesion** - the 2016 Casey Review uncovered a need for better insight around migration and change. The LGA is working alongside The Campaign Company and Webber-Phillips to explore how innovative new approaches can deliver this, helping councils to tackle cohesion on the ground. Our event with The Campaign Company on 19 October will help colleagues learn about the [Webber-Phillips' new Origins tool, which maps migration and cohesion](#) and helps authorities prepare for changes within their local neighbourhoods.

Accountability, transparency and sharing good practice

8. **Data maturity self-assessment tool** - we recently launched this free online [tool](#) through which local authorities can complete a questionnaire to highlight their capabilities, be compared with others, and receive suggested next steps.

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

Work Programme

1. The primary objective of the People and Places Board remains the devolution of power and resources to local government across England, with a specific focus on non-metropolitan England.
2. Recognising that few members of the Board are likely to be actively engaged in delivering devolution deals and the importance of maintaining a focus on issues specific to non-metropolitan and rural areas it has been agreed that the work programme will include a specific focus on those issues of greatest relevance to rural and coastal communities.
3. Reflecting the national context, the composition of the Board and its particular place-based focus it has therefore been agreed that the 2018/19 work programme will have three components:
 - 3.1. **Pushing for devolution now** – advocating for devolution through national Government's local growth agenda i.e. the place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy and on a Department-by-Department basis, such as devolution of skills and employment support, and sub-national trade and investment reform;
 - 3.2. **Building the case for future devolution** – using the Post-Brexit England Commission as a platform to advance a refreshed case for devolution to non-metropolitan areas, re-positioning councils as a key partner with Government in shaping and supporting a successful post-Brexit England; and
 - 3.3. **Strengthening non-metropolitan economic resilience** – pushing for parity of treatment in Government policy and investment across all parts of England, with a targeted focus on issues of particular priority, reflecting the extent of the Board's wider work-programme, such as digital connectivity and the opportunity to explore the role of councils in rural land management, alongside reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Post Brexit England Commission

4. Since its launch in February 2018, the People and Places Board's Post-Brexit England Commission has built a broad coalition of partners from across local government, Parliament, business and the public and housing sectors. In May, it began a series of roadshows across the country to gather evidence on the challenges rural and coastal communities are facing, and the local policy levers needed to tackle them.
5. At the LGA Annual Conference in July 2018, the Commission published an interim report detailing its findings to date. [‘The Future of Non-Metropolitan England: moving the conversation on’](#) outlines the ‘perfect storm’ of social and demographic challenges facing rural and coastal communities and identifies seven key challenges which local government can address if given the requisite powers and funding.

6. The report received a high level of attention from delegates and secured extensive positive coverage in the national media including [the Daily Telegraph](#), [the Guardian](#), [The Times](#) and [the Express](#). Cllr Hawthorne was also interviewed by Sky News Radio, which supplies news to every commercial radio station in the UK.
7. Having already held events in the South West, East Midlands, West Midlands and North West, the Commission's remaining roadshows are as follows and members can register their attendance on the LGA website – www.local.gov.uk/events.

East of England	Tuesday 27 November, Essex County Council
South East	Tuesday 18 December, LGA, Smith Square
Yorkshire and Humber	Tuesday 15 January, Railway Museum, York
North East	Tuesday 5 February, Radisson Blu, Durham

8. The Commission's interim report is the first major milestone in its programme of work. Its publication, and the attention it has received to date, provides a firm foundation on which to develop the next phase of the Commission's activity which will culminate in the publication of a final report in 2019.

Industrial Strategy

9. The People and Places Board has continued to represent the interests of non-metropolitan areas in relation to the key place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy, specifically the Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), the introduction of Local Industrial Strategies and the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
10. The most pressing issues for the Board relate to the implementation of the LEP Review following the publication of its conclusions in July. Specifically, Members have raised particular concerns regarding the Government's position on future LEP geographies as well as how council oversight and democratic accountability will be preserved following implementation of the review's recommendations. I have written with the Chair of the City Regions Board to the BEIS Secretary of State seeking urgent clarity on these matters.
11. The LGA and the LEP Network separately wrote to the BEIS Secretary of State in June calling for the Government to agree Local Industrial Strategies with all areas of England and an announcement was made to confirm this by the Government in July. We will continue to explore opportunities for joint work with the LEP Network, with a particular focus on the upcoming UKSPF consultation.

Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group

12. The Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group has refreshed its membership and will meet next month to agree its new programme of work. The Group plans to invite Openreach to their first meeting to discuss how the communications provider and local government can work together to ensure new builds are connected to future-proofed fibre broadband.

Skills and Employment – Work Local

13. The City Regions and People and Places Boards continue to push forward the LGA's Work Local proposals for skills and employment devolution to Government, Opposition and key stakeholders.
14. As part of this, we have established a new Skills Taskforce made up of LGA Board members which will aim to engage a range of stakeholders during a series of roundtables. Our aim is to build relationships with external organisations around the skills and employability agenda.
15. Following on from positive discussions in the summer with the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Skills and Apprenticeships Minister, we are also continuing to pursue a strategic DfE/LGA political and operational partnership on post 16 skills to benefit both devolved and non-devolved areas. This is in progress with Whitehall officials.

Trade and investment

16. As Britain prepares to leave the EU, we will be working in partnership with the City Regions Board to inform the LGA's policy work on trade and international investment. This will entail engaging with Whitehall to strengthen the sub-national trade and investment landscape, developing an evidence base of local priorities for national trade deals and agreeing with Government how the views and experience of local government can feed into the process of agreeing trade deals.
17. To inform this activity, a survey of the LGA's membership has been undertaken to highlight the depth and diversity of trade and other international links established between councils and global partners, with a view to strengthening the role of sub-national government in future trade and investment activity.
18. In addition to this, the LGA is undertaking a piece of improvement work to outline the role councils can play in attracting foreign capital investment. It will capture sectoral best practice and develop a set of resources to support councils and their private sector partners to maximise foreign capital investment opportunities and consider how to develop a longer-term pipeline of projects to meet a range of international investor needs.

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Resources Board – report from Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)

Local Government Finance

Technical Consultation on 2019-20 Local Government Finance Settlement

1. Our [response](#) to the [technical consultation on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement](#) was submitted in September. The Resources Board provided clearance of this response alongside the LGA Leadership Board and Executive. The consultation covered a number of areas, including dealing with 'Negative revenue support grant' in 2019/20. The Government's preferred option is to cancel the negative adjustment in 2019/20 for the 168 authorities affected at a total cost to the Government of £153 million. Other authorities will not receive any additional resources as part of this proposal.
2. Some key points in our response were to highlight the funding gap and urge the ending of council tax referenda. In addition we noted that those authorities affected by 'negative RSG' will welcome the Government's proposal to cancel the tariff/top-up adjustment in the 2019/20 settlement, and we urged the Government not to increase the New Homes Bonus threshold again. We also called for the government to increase the District Council precept limit from £5 to £10.
3. Finally, the response also included a proposal added in by Resources Board to examine an additional 'prevention precept' to be raised in shire district areas so that the same amount of adult social care precept, adjusting for differing taxbases, could be raised in a two tier area as in a unitary area. How this 'prevention precept' is used should be agreed locally.

Autumn Budget

4. The Chancellor will announce his 2018 Autumn Budget on Monday 29 October. The focus of the [LGA submission](#), was agreed by Resources Board as well as LGA Leadership Board and Executive. Our submission calls for the Government to meet the £3.9 billion funding gap facing local government in 2019/20 and to commit to a full assessment of the overall funding needs of local government in the 2019 Spending Review and guarantee to fully fund them. It also outlines 20 other short term actions the Government needs to take to help local authorities provide the services their residents need.
5. I also contributed to articles for [The Guardian](#) and [Mirror](#), as well as appearing on the [BBC's Newsnight](#), to highlight the effect funding cuts to local authorities has had on communities.

Cipfa Resilience Index

6. The Resources Board lead members agreed [a response](#) to the [Cipfa consultation on its proposals for a local authority financial resilience index](#). Since then, officers have had further discussions with Cipfa and we hope to work together with them on publishing data that is useful to councils without it being turned into a formal index or league table.

IFRS 9 – “Movements on Fair value”

7. The Resources Board responded to the [Government's consultation](#) on a statutory override to the IFRS 9 accounting code. While this is a technical topic, without the statutory override some councils might be forced to make real service reductions in response to paper movements in the values of certain pooled investments. The override was something we called for, but the Government's proposal is to make it temporary. Our [response](#) calls for it to be permanent.

Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review

8. I chair the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group, which report to LGA Leadership Board and Executive and has further representation from the Resources Board as well as other LGA Boards.
9. LGA Leadership Board, Executive and the Task and Finish Group continue to develop LGA policy on Further Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review. We have also published two modelling tools for member councils to allow them to assess the impact on individual local authorities of different needs formulae and different ways to take council tax into account as part of a new needs baseline. A tool for modelling different elements of Business Rates Retention has also been commissioned and will be published in the near future.
10. Other officer groups also continue to meet – both the Fair Funding Review working group and the Systems Design working group met in September. We hosted a successful event for councils to meet MHCLG and discuss the process to become a 75 per cent business rates retention pilot in 2019/20. Government consultations on both the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention are expected in the coming quarter.

Workforce

Local Government Workforce Strategy

11. The workforce team conducted a consultation exercise on the strategic priorities for workforce development across councils over the summer. The results have provided a clear steer for the upcoming workforce strategy.

Equalities and Diversity

12. Cllr Sharon Taylor has been appointed as the LGA's first equality and diversity champion, to provide a high profile for a growing work programme. There is a particular focus on gender equality at the moment but this is being widened.

Apprenticeships Accelerator Programme

13. The LGA has secured funding from ESFA to run the Apprenticeships Accelerator Programme (AAP). A pilot phase will run from October 2018 to February 2019 providing up to 25 councils with five days of workforce development support. Following an evaluation process, a second phase is expected to launch in Spring 2019.

Apprenticeship Levy: New Flexibilities

14. Following lobbying by the LGA, the government has announced a package of reforms to the Apprenticeship Levy including increasing the amount of Levy funds that can be transferred to another employer from 10 per cent to 25 per cent, and extra funding to speed up standards development. The change to the transfers policy will be effective from April 2019.

Welfare

Universal Support

15. You may have seen the [announcement](#) from the Department for Work and Pensions that, from April 2019, Citizens Advice will take on the responsibility for delivering the Universal Support service currently being delivered by councils. As both the Chair of the Resources board and a Leader, I know this news has caused significant disappointment and uncertainty for councils, and many of you have a number of questions about the practical implications for residents next year. We are in contact with DWP to relay concerns, including not receiving notice of these plans and the lack of consultation. We are seeking urgent clarification around how the new arrangements will relate to existing structures and mechanisms, as well as the support councils provide to our more vulnerable residents during Managed Migration.
16. The Resources Board are keeping a close eye on these developments and will continue to update Members. If you would like to feed in any views from your own area please [contact Rose Doran](#).

Local Government Mutual

17. The mutual has been registered under the name Local Government Mutual Limited after receiving permission from government and the FCA. LGM Management Services Limited have been appointed as the mutual manager. This is a joint venture between the LGA and Regis Mutual Management Limited. A full governance review is being undertaken to ensure the mutual is fit for purpose when providing cover to local authorities. A third director is being appointed who has FCA Approved Person status. This will allow the mutual to undertake FCA regulated activity, such as conversations with authorities who wish to consider the mutual for their future cover requirements, as soon as his appointment is registered with the FCA. An OJEU procurement is taking place for the insurances required by the mutual. Please [contact James Alexander](#) for more information.

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

Serious Violence Taskforce Meeting

1. In July, I attended the Serious Violence Taskforce meeting which focused on relationships education for children and young people. I called for a greater focus on the impact of watching online pornography and the effect that violent online content can have on children and younger people, and how this affects their views of healthy relationships. In addition to this, the LGA submitted written evidence to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry into [serious violence](#). In our response, we highlighted the importance of investing in early intervention and prevention, as well as taking a multi-agency approach to tackling this important issue.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Independent Group Seminar

2. At the Independent Group meeting, Cllr Clive Woodbridge spoke about the importance of addressing anti-social behaviour in local communities and forming strong partnerships with neighbourhood police officers. There were presentations from the Manifesto Club and the London Anti-Social Behaviour Advisory Service.

Meeting with the Food Standards Agency

3. In September, I met with Heather Hancock, Chair of the Food Standards Agency, to discuss issues impacting on local authorities' food work. The expansion of the National Food Crime Unit will link closely with trading standards' work on food standards, but Heather emphasised that the FSA intend the work of the NFCU to complement rather than duplicate the work councils are already doing. The FSA's Regulating our Future programme is developing proposals that could significantly change the approach to regulating food businesses, and Heather agreed to attend the next meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board to provide a full update.

Extremism

4. In September I wrote to Baroness Williams, Minister of State for Countering Extremism, to raise a number of issues regarding national efforts, including responding to evolving threats from extremism, particularly far-right extremism; the need for adequate support for local authorities who do not currently receive specialist Home Office funding for counter extremism work; and the role of the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE) in helping to develop local government's response. I will be meeting with Baroness Williams shortly to discuss these in more detail.

FGM

National FGM Centre Advisory Board

5. On 24 September, Deputy-Chair Cllr Anita Lower (Community Cohesion Champion and Chair of the National FGM Centre (NFGMC) Advisory Board) Chaired the National FGM Centre Advisory Group. The meeting included a full workshop on sustainability of the National FGM Centre given by Department of Education Innovation Coach, Heather Rolinson and resulted in broad agreement to consider partnership working in more detail at future meetings.

US/UK Proclamation of Interagency Support

6. In August, Cllr Lower also attended the American Embassy in London with lead NFGMC officers and other 'Honour-based' abuse leads where the US/UK Proclamation of Interagency Support for FGM/Cutting investigations was signed. This agreement formalised an international law enforcement partnership to enhance knowledge of, and the response to FGM/C.

NFGMC Consultation Event

7. Following the successful launch of the National FGM Centre's FGM risk assessment tool in Manchester and London earlier this year, Cllr Lower and lead officers of the NFGMC hosted a consultation event in Cardiff in October aimed at showcasing the tool to relevant members of Welsh government and local government with an aim to making it relevant under Welsh legislation.

Enhancing Community Safety Through Effective Local Policing Forum

8. In October, Vice-Chairman Cllr Bright spoke at the Inside Government Conference on enhancing the relationship between the police and local authorities. He spoke about the importance of strong partnerships and multi-agency working to tackle crime. On serious violent crime, he said that early intervention and prevention would be key to tackling the root causes of serious violence.

Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC)

Meeting with Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service

9. On the 11 September, Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair of the FSMC, attended the HMICFRS External Reference Group. The group considered the ongoing round of inspections of Fire and Rescue Services and Cllr Stephens particularly contributed to a discussion on the framework for corporate inspection which HMICFRS are currently developing. On the 17 September Cllr Stephens met with senior officers from HMICFRS again to give more feedback on the proposed framework and triggers for corporate inspections of Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Meeting with the Fire Industry Association's Fire and Rescue Suppliers (FIRESA)

10. On the 17 September Cllr Stephen also met with James Jones, Chair of the FIRESA Council. They discussed the improvement procurement framework and quality assurance for products across the Fire sector.

Meeting with Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP)

11. On the 3 September Cllr Nick Chard, Deputy-Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the JESIP Interoperability Board. The group discussed the need to continue to promote the collection of good practice through the Joint Organisational Learning online platform.

Modern Slavery

Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry on Modern Slavery

12. In September the Board submitted the LGA's response to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry on modern slavery, which highlighted councils role and the current barriers they face in tackling modern slavery. This included the impact of the funding gap on wider services and lack of affordable housing.

House of Commons debate on Tackling Modern-day Slavery

13. In early October, ahead of the House of Commons debate on [Tackling Modern-day Slavery](#), we briefed relevant parliamentarians on these same issues highlighting the ambiguities faced by councils due to the lack of published guidance from councils and the increasing concern of county lines linked to modern slavery.

Taxi Licensing

14. In September, the cross-industry working group that was set-up to look at Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) licensing published a [report](#) with a number of recommendations for government. The LGA was pleased to participate in the working group and that many of our asks were included in the report's recommendations. Government is expected to respond later this year and we will continue to lobby for the much-needed legislative reform we have campaigned for.

Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs)

15. I gave evidence to the APPG on FOBTs on 12 September, highlighting the impact on local communities of delaying the £2 stake reduction of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.
16. In October Vice-Chairman, Cllr Morris Bright, joined a panel discussion on the impact of delaying the £2 stake reduction of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals at a fringe event at Conservative Party Conference.

Media Roundup

17. Since the last Forum, I have given comments in the following press releases on behalf of the Board:
- 17.1. [Response to government launch of FGM awareness campaign](#)
 - 17.2. [LGA responds to Sajid Javid announcement on funding to tackle serious violence](#)
 - 17.3. [Councils issue warning about sale of illegal toxic cosmetics](#)
 - 17.4. [LGA responds to a new strategy introduced by the Office for Product Safety and Standards](#)
 - 17.5. [LGA responds to Which? report on unidentifiable fire risk appliances](#)
 - 17.6. [Heatwave: bathers warned of drowning risk following recent deaths](#)
 - 17.7. [Delay to FOBT stake cut could cost gamblers £3 billion](#)



Councillors' Forum

18 October 2018

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18 October 2018

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date:	Thursday 19 July 2018
Venue:	Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Declarations of Interest

Lord Gary Porter introduced Cllr Adele Morris (Deputy Chair of Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board) to take questions on the item and offer a perspective on behalf of the LGA.

Cllr Adele Morris introduced Susan Emmett, Head of Engagement, Homes England.

Susan Emmett spoke about affordable housing being one of the defining issues of our time and there is a lot of work to do. The average home costs eight times more than the average income and in places like London and Oxford this can be in double figures. There is a whole generation of young people who cannot get on the housing ladder. To tackle this the government aims to build 300,000 homes a year by 2025. While that target is not being reached, 74% more homes are being built than last year.

Susan Emmett stated that Homes England are moving away from the old model of grant distribution and individual investment programs. Homes England are supporting partners with land, expertise and investment in infrastructure. Homes England have a strategic partnership with 8 housing associations across the country, with over 40,000 affordable homes to be built. Homes England intends to bring to market more than 1,250 hectares of development opportunities over the next 12 months.

Susan Emmett highlighted that key partners in affordable housing will always be in local government and Homes England has extensive local government experience. For example, recently working with Mid Sussex District Council to obtain the 176 hectares site north of Burgess Hill in West Sussex. The site was a key location for new housing but it stood empty for 10 years, and working with local government it will go forward for development. Another example is in Plymouth, a 32 hectares site has been acquired, which will lead to over 400 Homes. These interventions do bring around new houses built but the impact on local activity is important too.

Susan Emmett asked councils with housing ambitions to work with Homes England to deliver these ambitious targets.

Cllr Adele Morris thanked Susan Emmett and opened the item to questions from members.

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

- Preferred Partner status is something more local councils are trying to achieve

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- with Homes England and moving away from unstructured grant funding.
- Homes England needs to look at existing builds that are empty. Highstreets have lots of empty accommodation above shops in the town centre.
 - Young people are not getting the skills to get into the house building industry.
 - Skilled workers are leaving the UK who are vital to building new homes.
 - Collaboration with investment funds who are interested in social housing should be part of partnerships with local government and Homes England.
 - Derelict brownfield sites are prime for building new homes and local councils are supportive of working with Homes England.

Susan Emmett responded with

- Homes England is moving away from just grant funding and more to working with councils in a structured way with a more holistic approach.
- Urban regeneration is an issue but Homes England's remit right now is new developments.
- We have an ageing workforce in the house building industry and not enough young people are coming into the sector. Homes England are working on increasing industry wide apprenticeships and supporting schemes on worker retention.
- While there are many brownfield sites that could potentially be worked on, suitability of sites is what Homes England is concerned with.

Cllr Adele Morris commented

- Local Government Association has published [Revitalising Town Centres](#) to help local councils on urban regeneration.

Cllr Adele Morris thanked Susan Emmett for attending and speaking to Councillors' Forum.

Any questions should be directed to Susan.Emmett@homesengland.gov.uk

9 New Local Government Mutual

Lord Gary Porter introduced Cllr Michael Payne from the Insurance Mutual Task and Finish Group.

Cllr Michael Payne introduced the New Local Government Mutual. He thanked the previous lead members for their hard work including the former leader of the London Borough of Haringey Claire Kober OBE. Cllr Michael Payne highlighted the importance of reducing cost to councils and the New Local Government Mutual was a way to do that. Cllr Michael Payne introduced James Alexander.

James Alexander highlighted three key messages

1. The New Local Government Mutual will save councils money
2. The New Local Government Mutual has learnt from previous schemes
3. Officers will have conversations with local authorities to make sure it works for all authorities.

James Alexander gave a background to the 17 local authorities working with the Local Government Association to develop the mutual since late 2017. Data analysis found that authorities are expected to take on losses and councils would save money through

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the mutual, with unexpected losses also being covered. Councils who sign up will not have to go through an expensive council procurement process.

The mutual will follow the Hybrid Discretionary Mutual model and aggregate stop loss cover will be included. The costs of the mutual will go down over the years and any surplus will go back to authorities or into the mutual. Officers will be visiting authorities and there is an event on 18th September at 18 Smith Square.

Lord Porter highlighted that the Local Government Mutual will save councils money and the tax payer.

10 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

Cllr Roy Perry, Vice-Chair of Children and Young People Board pay tribute to Cllr Richard Watts for his hard work as chair. Cllr Roy Perry highlighted the work the board has done on home education.

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

11 Digest of the last meeting

Members **agreed** the minutes as an accurate summary of the discussion at the previous meeting on Thursday 7 June 2018.

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
Members	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District 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 OBE	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

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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 Rebecca Knox	Dorset County Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District 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 James Palmer	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cllr Nick Forbes	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 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
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich Borough Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough 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

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	<p>Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE Cllr Richard Kemp CBE Cllr Claire Hudson Cllr Abigail Bell Cllr Keith Aspden Cllr Chris White Cllr Jon Hubbard Vacancy Cllr Colin Mann Cllr Alan Seldon Cllr Wayne Davies Cllr Carolyn Rule Cllr Chris Townsend</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council Liverpool City Council Mendip District Council Hull City Council North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service Hertfordshire County Council Wiltshire Council Liberal Democrats Caerphilly County Borough Council Herefordshire Council Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council Cornwall Council Surrey County Council</p>
Apologies	<p>Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE Cllr Nigel Ashton Cllr Keith Glazier Cllr Donna Jones JP Cllr Colin Noble Mayor Tim Bowles Cllr Rishi Shori Cllr Graham Chapman Cllr Linda Thomas Cllr Judith Blake CBE Ms Fiona Twycross AM Cllr Vince Maple Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe Cllr Debbie Wilcox Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE Cllr Robert Bucke</p>	<p>Warwickshire County Council North Somerset Council East Sussex County Council Portsmouth City Council Suffolk County Council West of England Combined Authority Bury Metropolitan Borough Council Nottingham City Council Bolton Council Leeds City Council London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) Medway Council Bradford Metropolitan District Council Newport City Council Stevenage Borough Council Tendring District Council</p>
In Attendance	<p>Susan Emmett</p>	<p>Homes England</p>

LGA location map

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131
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

