

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 22 January 2015
12.30 pm

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local
Government House, 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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Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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Councillors' Forum
22 January 2015

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 22 January 2015**
Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 12.45pm

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

11.00am – Labour	Westminster Suite (8 th floor)
11.00am – Conservative	Smith Square 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am – Liberal Democrats	Smith Square 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am – Independents	Rathbone Rooms 7.1 & 7.2 (7 th 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.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Labour:	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative:	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Patrick McDermott
patrick.mcdermott@local.gov.uk 0207 664 3342

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Councillors' Forum – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
Labour (42)	
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Jim McMahon (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Lord Peter Smith	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
Cllr David Sparks OBE (Chairman)	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr James Alexander	City of York Council
Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ron Round JP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Mahroof Hussain MBE	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Cllr Claire Kober	Haringey Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council

Cllr John Clarke	Gedling Borough Council
Conservative (38)	
Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Gary Porter (Vice Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Sir William Lawrence Bt	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge District Council
Cllr Ravi Govindia	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Elaine Atkinson	Borough of Poole
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (12)	
Cllr Keith House	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Barbara Janke	Bristol City Council
Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council

Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Cllr Cathy Bakewell MBE	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tim Bick	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Flick Rea MBE	Camden Council
Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Cllr Hilary Jones	Derby City Council
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Cllr Jeff Reid	Northumberland Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Teignbridge District Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
Cllr Roger Symonds	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Independent (10)	
Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Norman Bradbury	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice Chairman)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons	
Cllr Glenda Vaughan-Powell	
Cllr Norman Murphy	
Alderman Sir David Wootton	
Substitutes	
Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 5 March 2015, 12.30 pm, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Chair's Update

This report covers Councillor David Sparks' activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum.

Local Government Association (LGA) business

Meetings

- Leading members of **COSLA**, **WLGA** and **NILGA** to review the position of local government across the UK after the Scottish referendum.
- **European and International Delegation Leaders**, discussing the LGA's role in EU and international issues.

Speaking engagements

- European meeting of **Commonwealth Local Government Forum** to discuss decentralisation and devolution.
- **Independent Group Annual Conference** on how local government is changing and how the LGA's vision fits into this.
- **Political and Constitutional Reform Committee**, discussing devolution following the Scottish referendum.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

Meetings

- **Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP**, Chief Secretary to the Treasury to discuss local government finance and the Autumn Statement.
- **Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP**, Secretary of State for Health, where I highlighted the 100 days campaign.
- **Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for Health further highlighting the 100 days campaign.
- **Chuka Umunna MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss economic growth and devolution.
- **Sarah Wollaston MP**, Chair of the Health Select Committee where I highlighted the 100 days campaign.
- **Emma Reynolds MP**, Shadow Minister for housing, to discuss the Lyons review on housing and the LGA's 100 days campaign.
- **Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP**, Minister of State for Care and Support to discuss the 100 days campaign.
- **Graham Stuart MP** to discuss the LGA's Autumn Statement submission.
- **Oliver Letwin MP**, Minister for Government Policy and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancashire to discuss devolution and the 100 days campaign.
- **William Hague MP**, in his capacity as Chair of the Cabinet Committee for Devolved Powers to discuss devolution.
- **Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**, Minister for Universities, Science and Cities where I discussed devolution to cities and shires, growth and skills.
- **Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP** to discuss devolution and the 100 Days campaign.
- **Rt Hon Ed Balls MP**, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss devolution and decentralisation.

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

Speaking engagements

- **National Children and Adult Services Conference** on the future of children and adults' services.
- An event run by the **Association of North East Councils** on the future for health and wellbeing.
- **European Structural Investment Fund Programme Growth Board** where I discussed the LGA/LEP Network proposal.

Meetings

- **Neil Cleeveley** to discuss the possibility of joint work with **NAVCA**.
- **Liz Pearce CBE**, Chief Executive of the **British Property Federation**, and **Ghislaine Trehearne**, Assistant Director, to discuss opportunities for joint working.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

Visits

- **Lancashire County Council**, meeting with **Cllr Jenifer Mein, Leader**, and **Cllr David Borrow**, Deputy Leader to discuss their membership and future direction following their corporate peer challenge.
- Tri-Borough trialling project alongside **Lord Freud** in **Lambeth, Lewisham** and **Southwark**, focusing on a Peckham Jobcentre.

Meetings

- **South East England Councils (SEEC) Executive**, reiterating the LGA's aims for all councils.
- Leader of Preston City Council, **Cllr Peter Rankin**, and the Chief Executive **Lorraine Norris** to discuss their membership and the LGA's role.
- **Cllr John Hart**, Leader of Devon County Council to discuss the south west.
- **Leaders' Committee**, a meeting of the London Council Leaders, to discuss current key issues.

Speaking engagements

- **South West Councils Leaders Meeting** on the LGA's 100 days campaign and devolution work.
- **East Midlands Councils Event** on the future of Local Government and Public Services in the Next Parliament.
- **County Councils' Network Annual Conference**, setting out a common agenda for local government.
- **Assembly of the East of England LGA**, focusing on 100 days and devolution.

Children & Young People Board – report from Cllr David Simmonds (Chairman)

Leadership Essentials: Political Leadership in Children's Services

1. I chaired the Leadership Essentials programme for lead members for children's services at Warwick Conference Centre on 7 and 8 December. Delegates from a range of councils attended including Rotherham, Waltham Forest, Portsmouth and Shropshire. The group were keen to discuss the council role in education, including the role of academies. During the programme we heard from Mark Rogers, Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council; as well as Louise Bamfield of the RSA and Cllr Paul Watling of Telford and Wrekin council. The presentations were thought provoking and led to interesting debates and discussions.

National Adoption Leadership Board

2. I represented the LGA at the December meeting of the national Adoption Leadership Board, chaired by Sir Martin Narey. Local authorities and voluntary adoption agencies have made considerable progress in this area over recent years, and a record number of children were placed with loving adoptive families over the past 12 months. It is important that we maintain this momentum, and the Board recently published two pieces of myth busting guidance to clarify the implications of recent high court judgements - further details at <http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/news/adoption-leadership-board-publishes-addendum-myth-buster-new-guide-social-workers/>

Our ambition for children

3. I was interviewed for a film to accompany the LGA's 'Our ambitions for children and young people' report that has been commissioned by the British Youth Council on behalf of the LGA. The film includes examples of the good work being carried out across the UK to prioritise children and young people.

Youth Offending Team review

4. The Ministry of Justice has announced a review of YOTs. I wrote to Andrew Selous MP, the Justice Minister, to emphasise the success of the YOT model and to call for partners involved in contributing to that success to be involved in designing and leading the review – including local government, police and health. In his response, the Minister made it clear that the role of councils and other local agencies will be a key element of the review and we will ensure that LGA is closely involved.

Youth engagement

5. I responded to a report criticising councils for the levels of young people whose participation status is 'not known' to them. The response emphasised the 14 per cent reduction in young people whose participation status is 'not known' in the last two years and called for legal powers for councils to ensure partners share information so that they can build on this success. The CYP Board is running a good practice project with 40 councils and government to help improve how partners can collectively identify and track the destinations of vulnerable young people.

Local authority schemes supporting young people towards work

6. The Children and Young People Board has worked with the City Regions Board to jointly develop a report looking at successful schemes helping vulnerable young people and adults towards employment. The report found local schemes were successful in reaching people national programmes struggled to support because they brought together interventions and partners around vulnerable young people, valued soft outcomes, and engaged employers.

Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing joint meeting

7. I chaired a joint meeting between lead members of the CYP and CWB Boards to establish how both Boards can support work together on children's health policy. We discussed the transfer of responsibility for commissioning health services for 0-5 year olds to local government. We are clear that this is moving in the right direction but are aware that some councils still face challenges. We also discussed how schools need to work closely with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to support young people with mental health problems and the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards in this process.

Council visits

8. I attended the Rotherham Improvement Board on 9 January.

Contact officer:	Helen Johnston
Position:	Head of Programmes
Phone no:	020 7664 3172
E-mail:	Helen.johnston@local.gov.uk

City Regions Board: Report from Cllr Sir Richard Leese CBE (Chairman)

1. Since the Board agreed its work programme in April, devolution has shot to the top of the public policy agenda. As a result, the City Regions Board decided to refresh its focus for the rest of the year in order to really capitalise on the growing momentum towards devolution. The detailed work in the priority areas agreed by the Board is playing an important part of that endeavour, by providing us compelling new evidence with which to illustrate and press our case.

Devolution and public service reform

2. On 11 December, I spoke on behalf of the City Regions Board at a seminar on devolution with the LGA Executive. I set out some personal reflections from my involvement with the Greater Manchester negotiations, particularly that we need to avoid pitching devolution as an act of faith and rather position it as a real solution backed by tangible evidence. With the LGA now working on a vision and route-map for achieving devolution within the UK over the course of the next parliament, City Regions Board members will be discussing how we can help shape that vision at our next meeting on 19 January.
3. As public service reform is a priority for local government as a whole, the City Regions Board and People and Places Board have joined together to commission a research project to refresh the evidence and develop a model for public service transformation across the local public sector in non-metropolitan and city areas. Board members are looking forward to using the final report, due in February, as a platform for a deeper discussion of how to advance the case for public service reform with a future government as the framework for the next Spending Review is being developed.

Skills, Employment and Welfare Reform

4. The City Regions and People and Places Board commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (Inclusion) to provide a series of reports which sets out the future skills and employment challenges that will hit the desk of an incoming (or returning) minister. The first report (which was presented to members of the Board in July) focused on place and looked at whether current employment and skills policy would deliver skills for future jobs in a range of cities. Interim findings from the second Inclusion report looking at the current national skills, employment and welfare system from the perspective of individuals was presented at the City Regions Board meeting on 19 January. A third and final report giving conclusions to the research papers will be delivered in March.

5. The City Regions and Children and Young People Boards jointly commissioned the National Institute of Economic Research (NIESR) to review the advantages of local delivery from council-led employment schemes supporting people towards work. This report has now been completed. It reveals that the local schemes support some of the most vulnerable groups in society. It will be published in January. The foreword is co-authored by the chairs of the City Regions, Children and Young People and People and Places Boards. NIESR attended the City Regions Board on 19 January to present its findings.

Trade and investment

6. Earlier this year, members agreed that there were significant gaps in national trade and inward investment policy in terms of harnessing the full potential of city regions. We commissioned Oxford Economics to produce long-term projections of national economic performance if current trends hold, with additional reference to the role of England's city-regions in generating exports and attracting investment.
7. The final report, delivered last month, confirms that that the UK's global economic competitiveness is at significant risk of deterioration based on current trends. It also shows that there is significant scope for city-regions to play a greater role and help boost national performance through better leveraging of key specialisms and competitive advantages that exist in different areas.
8. Our work in this area has attracted significant interest from third parties such as the British Property Federation and Universities UK. We will be working with them to develop proposals for reforms to national policy and delivery arrangements that we can use to influence the thinking of ministers from May 2015.

Contact officer:

Carolyn Downs

Position:

LGA Chief Executive

Phone no:

020 7664 3213

E-mail:

carolyn.downs@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Board –from Cllr Izzi Seccome (Chair)

Health and Wellbeing

1. I chaired a well-attended and well received event for Local Healthwatch reps on Health and Wellbeing Boards on 11th November where we launched a toolkit for Local healthwatch reps 'On the Board'. Also as part of the Health and Wellbeing System Improvement Programme we have launched two other very useful publications; " Making an Impact through Good Governance – a practical Guide for HWBs" http://www.local.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing-boards/-/journal_content/56/10180/6656438/PUBLICATION and " Connecting HWBs – a Social Media Guide" http://www.local.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing-boards/-/journal_content/56/10180/6692016/PUBLICATION.
2. The Health and Wellbeing peer challenge continues to be popular and is proving a rich source of evidence to develop the national picture of HWBs and to direct the future focus of the support programme. I was part of the challenge team for Wiltshire, which I found fascinating and highly recommend as a learning experience and I am looking forward to my own HWB and authority undergoing the challenge this month. We have also increased the number of NHS peers we have trained to take part in the challenges.
3. The Shared Intelligence interim evaluation report has provided us with a state of the nation piece on HWBs and has started to describe what a good HWB looks like. This provides a useful basis for developing the improvement programme next year. We are starting to develop the new programme positioning this clearly at the strategic leadership level with Chairs and Vice Chairs of HWBs. We are also aware of the need to build in flexibility to be able to respond to new leadership support needs post election. We are starting a discussion with HWB Chairs on the future for HWBs and how we can best equip them at our Summit on 25th March 2015 http://www.local.gov.uk/events/-/journal_content/56/10180/6780735/EVENT which will be chaired by Cllr Linda Thomas.
4. I have launched the CWB ambassadors. These are members of CWB, who are HWB Chairs and linked them to each HWB Chairs regional network to facilitate a two way flow of information. I have also issued a standing invitation to all regional network Chairs to attend CWB. I look forward to this new initiative bearing fruit and ensuring we have our finger on the pulse on what matters to HWBs.

NHS 5 Year forward view

5. NHS England published their Five Year Forward View on 23 October 2014, alongside five other core NHS partners – Public Health England, Monitor, Trust Development Authority, Health Education England, Care Quality Commission. This clearly set out the challenges facing the NHS, along with their approach to dealing with those challenges. It is proposed that there will be six major work streams, each with their own board and a working group to support delivery. They are as follows:
 - 5.1 Partnership
 - 5.2 Quality
 - 5.3 Prevention
 - 5.4 Models of care
 - 5.5 Information
 - 5.6 Workforce
6. The plan forecasts a shortfall of £30bn over five years if services carry on as they are (to which the £4bn shortfall in social care funding would need to be added) but commits to reducing this requirement to £8bn through better prevention and improved efficiency.
7. There are a number of key messages within the Five Year Forward View that would be particularly welcomed by, and provide opportunities for, local government. In particular the proposed approach envisages much stronger partnerships for prevention with communities, the voluntary sector and with employers – which will link closely with Public Health leadership by Local Government
8. On the new models of care it is proposed that the leading localities that were performing well and had a track record of innovation would be supported to innovate (a kind of super pioneer programme – they were called prototypes); the poorest performers that were struggling would be directed to reform by nationally sponsored changes (building on the challenged health economies programme) and the middle segment would be asked to set out their plans and offered a range of support offers to help them reform. The plan is to identify sites in February and start in a number of areas in March.
9. We have actively argued for a more locally driven approach, full inclusion of social care, wider engagement in each place (as well as nationally) and for a share of national change capacity and money so that local government could play a full part.
10. The LGA were invited to take part in follow up events, and it is under active discussion how the LGA will be involved in these programmes on a permanent basis. It is proposed that we invite senior NHS colleagues to present their recommendations to the Community Wellbeing Board at the next possible opportunity.

Better Care Fund

11. Following the changes to the 'pay for performance' element of the fund in Summer 2014, local areas were asked to revise their plans. This was not a change that the

LGA supported as it had the potential to put additional strain on local relationships, undermine the national condition to protect social care and also divert attention away from implementation to top down assurance.

12. However, NHS and local government partners locally, through Health and Wellbeing Boards, have in large taken a pragmatic and positive approach, resulting in 97% of plans being approved in October 2014, in some cases with some support or conditionality. All but two plans were resubmitted before 9 January, and it is expected that the vast majority of plans will be fully approved by February 2015, enabling all areas to focus on the more important task of implementation.
13. Further peer-led support was provided to assist local areas in developing ambitious but deliverable plans where they were not fully approved, and further support has been commissioned in the form of workshops and online knowledge sharing to assist with implementation through to April 2015 and beyond.
14. The LGA remains positive about the opportunities presented by the Better Care Fund to improve care and support for people locally, and to make more effective use of resources across health and care. Based on the plans submitted in September 2014, the total £5.3bn pot (almost half of all HWBS pooling more than the minimum amount) is expected to deliver savings of £532m, a reduction in non elective activity of over 3%, 100,000 fewer unnecessary days in hospital and 12,000 older people remaining at home three months after discharge.
15. But the Better Care Fund is not new money. We have called on the Government to allow local areas to shape the next iteration of a bigger BCF over a longer period of time and with an accompanying transformation fund of new money to support transition. This must be free from Whitehall interference so that real transformation can be achieved on the basis of investing to save, rather than saving to invest.
16. The BCF cannot immediately solve the unsustainable level of funding (and looming crisis) in both the NHS and social care. We will need to continue to work together nationally and locally to develop sustainable solutions to the challenges facing our health and social care system, including through the New Models of Care

LGA vision for health and care

17. In order to inform the LGA's position in response to the Five Year forward View and in the build up to the General Election, Members instructed officers to commission an independent report outlining a vision and practical steps for the future health and care system.
18. The report will make recommendations to address the biggest challenges facing social care, and will provide a practical response to the Five Year Forward View and current direction of travel.
19. The report will be published following sign-off by Members in early February 2015

Transfer of 0-5s public health commissioning responsibilities to local government

20. On 11 December the DH published indicative funding allocations for local authority commissioning of 0-5 public health services from 1 October 2015, which will complete the transfer of public health responsibilities to local authorities. Local authorities have until 16 January 2015 to raise any concerns regarding their allocations.
21. The indicative allocations are based on current spend on existing services and the expectation will be that current resources will be 'lifted and shifted' to local government. We have received feedback from local authorities on a number of finance and contracting issues which we have fed into national discussions. Adjustments to the indicative allocations have been made to reflect concerns raised by a range of local areas. The DH has also introduced a 'floor' allocation, meaning that the minimum allocation to any local authority will be not less than £160 per head of 0 – 5 population.
22. The DH has also listened to our concerns and confirmed an extra £2 million to fund local government commissioning responsibilities. We are continuing to press for a clear plan to move to funding which reflects need over time, and to ensure regulations do not add any unfunded new burdens to local authorities in taking on the new roles.
23. We are aware of particular concerns in some areas that current allocations do not relate to need. We are seeking a clear view of how the funding will shift to a needs based formula over time and have expressed concern that this could take many years unless substantial extra funding is made available.
24. The DH has consulted with us and partners on the draft regulations for the five mandated universal checks. We expect the regulations to make very clear that councils will not be expected to suddenly increase coverage of the mandated checks and can only be expected to take a reasonable approach to continuous improvement. We will continue to resist any expectation of a sudden uplift which constitutes a new burden. We are also pressing for greater clarity about current performance at local authority level, so councils have a clear baseline pre-transfer.

Children's Mental Health

25. Cllr Gillian Ford attended the Department of Health and NHS England Children and Young People Taskforce on 16th December. The Taskforce is drafting proposals on the following areas: Data and Standards, Prevention and access, A co-ordinated system, Vulnerable groups and inequalities. It plans to report to Ministers in the Spring.
26. The LGA responded to the Taskforce's consultation on how mental health services could be improved for children and young people. Our key points included:

- 26.1 For the CAMHS system to be sufficiently funded and resourced.
- 26.2 A need for more information, data and evidence about the business case for investing in early intervention and preventative services.
- 26.3 A whole system approach to CAMHS in which all partners take ownership, responsibility and accountability for CYP's mental health. Better integration across all tiers and join up with wider council led initiatives such as Troubled Families.
- 26.4 Supporting commissioners to help them jointly commission mental health services with wider services such as housing and education. Sharing different models of what works more widely.
- 26.5 Developing child and young person friendly services and environments in consultation with CYP.

27. The task force is due to report in Spring 2015.

Joint officeholders meeting between the Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Board - 8 January 2015

28. A joint meeting was held between lead members of the CYP and CWB Boards to establish how both Boards can support work together on children's health policy work going forward. Children's health has been a joint Board priority since 2011. The key outcomes included:

- 28.1 Officeholders agreed that the work on the transfer of 0-5s public health commissioning to local government in October 2015 was travelling in the right direction. They noted that this was a challenging situation for local authorities particularly in relation to asylum seekers and army populations but they suggested developing and modifying the funding formula in future.
- 28.2 Officeholders considered that more work needs to be done for CAMHS to work closer with schools and that clear monitoring by the CQC was needed. They noted the need to consider using safeguarding as a model for showing local accountability and the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards in bringing together services.
- 28.3 Officeholders discussed and agreed proposals for an initial programme of work to gain a better understanding of the cost pressures on adult social care for those adults with learning disabilities. It was suggested that a scoping study would take place for people with learning difficulties and autism to understand better their experiences, outcomes and transition.

Winter Pressures

29. In recent weeks there has been considerable media coverage of the 'winter pressures' facing the NHS. Some of this coverage has laid the blame for NHS pressures on adult social care – particularly its part in 'delayed transfers of care'. We are arguing that as we have been saying for some time, social care funding is unsustainable. "The LGA has long warned that the health and social care system is chronically underfunded. It is social care services that support elderly and vulnerable people to maintain their independence, live in their own community and stay out of hospital longer which is why investing in social care is a crucial part in alleviating the pressures on the health service. Investing extra money in the NHS whilst forcing councils to cut their social care budgets is simply a false economy and will not solve this ever-growing problem.
30. The current care system is in crisis and unless adult social care is urgently put on a sustainable footing the situation is set to get even worse over next two years, and undoubtedly continue to have a knock on effect on vital NHS services. We simply cannot wait any longer for this to be fixed.
31. The combined pressures of insufficient funding, growing demand, escalating costs and a 40 per cent cut to local government budgets across this parliament mean that despite councils' best efforts they are having to make tough decisions about the care services they can provide, potentially leaving the most vulnerable members of our communities at risk of losing essential care.
32. It's not enough to keep plastering over the cracks. Government needs to invest money in protecting a system which will be there to look after people in the future and not just in the immediate term. This will only be achieved through a determined effort from councils, the health service and government working together.
33. We need a care system that is fit for the 21st Century and it must be a shared ambition between councils and their health partners. If social care continues to be inadequately funded, this will tip some services into failure and leave the most vulnerable members of communities at risk of losing essential care."
34. Through Carolyn's attendance at the committee, and our media work, the LGA is providing much-needed balance to this important matter. In the context of major budget pressures facing adult social care (at a time of growing demand) we are being clear that things cannot go on as they are any longer; if adult social care remains underfunded then the NHS will remain under pressure. We are making sure that the Government – and our wider partners – understand that local government is part of

the solution, not part of the problem; investing scarce resources just in the NHS is a false economy which fails to see the system as a whole.

35. Over the coming weeks we will be working with ADASS, DH and DCLG to support the local areas that are most challenged by winter pressures.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

36. On 16 December the Minister of State for Care Services, Norman Lamb MP, replied to a joint LGA and ADASS letter to the Minister on the impact of changes to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards following the Supreme Court judgement in March 2014. The LGA and ADASS estimate that the additional cost to councils arising from DoLS is £98 million. We are calling on the Government to fund this new burden and work with the sector on immediate actions that can help alleviate some of the capacity pressures arising following the Supreme Court ruling. The Minister's letter helpfully recognised the challenges facing councils and the work being done to keep the system operating effectively. However, the Minister's reply did not address the sector's funding concerns. David Pearson, ADASS President, and I will be responding to the Minister seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the issues further.

Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care priorities for 2014-15.

37. An outline of the six priorities for the adult social care improvement programme was published at the NCAS conference. These are:
- 37.1 Local accounts.
 - 37.2 Identifying and sharing best practice.
 - 37.3 Commitment to demonstrating outcomes.
 - 37.4 Building confidence amongst stakeholders.
 - 37.5 Identifying and supporting authorities who are struggling.
 - 37.6 Clarifying the offer of support.
- Further detail can be found here:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11493/TEASC+Priorities+2014-15+FINALweb.pdf/8dc0f3df-de03-4f11-8daf-1a61b279288f>

Use of resources tool 2014 launched at NCAS

38. This self-assessment toolkit is an updated version of the toolkit produced in 2012 by TEASC. They are part of an ongoing initiative to support councils (including councillors) to make the best use of their resources, and to promote personalisation in a difficult and challenging context. Our aim is to share ideas about how to get better value for people and taxpayers – pooling evidence about what works. The toolkit was used by around 15 councils in 2013. We will

continue to refine it on the basis of feedback from councils, and as the evidence base grows. The final toolkit will be launched on the TEASC website shortly.

Public Health

39. On 17 December the Government published the public health funding settlement 2015/16. The Government confirmed that in 2015/16 local authorities will receive a ring-fenced grant of £2.79 billion, same as this year with no inflationary or pace of change increase. This is equivalent to a two per cent decrease in real terms. We are disappointed with the Department's decision not to protect real terms funding for 2015/16. Devolving public health was a positive step, however the LGA has consistently maintained that local government can only fulfil the new duties if it is adequately resourced to do so. Investing in prevention ultimately saves money for other parts of the public sector by reducing demand for hospital, health and social care services and would ultimately improve the public's health and wellbeing outcomes.
40. Government will allocate an additional £5 million towards a new Health Premium Incentive Scheme. Under the scheme, which will be piloted during 2015/16, local authorities will be rewarded for meeting one mandatory national public health target, related to improving drug and alcohol services, and one local target of their choice. We welcome proposals that recognise councils for making positive progress to improve health and reduce health inequalities. Although only a small budget has been allocated to the Health Premium Incentive Scheme, it's not clear whether the Health Premium is the best use of scarce resources for public health.
41. We have launched two other useful publications:
- 41.1 Tackling chlamydia: Local government's new public health role
http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/public-health/-/journal_content/56/10180/6820278/PUBLICATION
 - 41.2 Tackling poor oral health in children: Local government's public health role
http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/public-health/-/journal_content/56/10180/6778162/PUBLICATION

Contact officer:
Position:
Phone no:
E-mail:

Sally Burlington
Head of Programmes
020 7664 3099
Sally.burlington@local.gov.uk

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)

Libraries

1. CTS Lead Members met William Sieghart, Chair of the Independent Libraries Panel commissioned by the Culture and Communities Departments, on 14 October. The meeting was an opportunity to reinforce the locally-led nature of libraries and the need to build upon existing innovation. It was very encouraging that the LGA's views were clearly referenced in Mr. Sieghart's report, which was published on 18 December. Mr. Sieghart also recommended setting up a local government led Task Force, which is jointly accountable to LGA elected Members and Ministers, to take forward the recommendations. I have exchanged letters with the Culture Minister to confirm that we will work together to set up the Task Force.

Magna Carta and Culture, Tourism and Sport Board 2 December

2. Lord Bew, Co-Chair of the Speaker's Advisory Group on the 2015 Anniversaries hosted the Board at Portcullis House. This was an excellent opportunity to shape how Parliament will be working with councils to mark the Magna Carta 800 anniversary next year. The Board continues to give the highest priority to the anniversary with Cllr Peter Golds representing the LGA at the Magna Carta 800th Committee and Cllr Sparks, LGA Chair, updated councils on the latest plans in the 7 December edition of First magazine.
3. Members also agreed to work with the Environment, Housing, Economy and Transport Board to explore how to secure greater cross-Government recognition of the vital contribution of culture and the visitor economy to jobs and growth.

Culture

4. I was very pleased to have my introductory meeting with Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chairman of Arts Council England (ACE), on 29 October. We reinforced our shared commitment to supporting effective local political leadership, seeking out and sharing the latest innovation and making a compelling case about how culture can help councils to achieve wider community outcomes.
5. I was also delighted to speak at the LGA / ACE Culture Leadership Essentials Programme 4 -5 November, which was attended by 14 culture portfolio holders. A further 15 portfolio holders attended the December programme, which was addressed by Cllr Flick Rea, Deputy Chair.
6. Cllr David Burbage, Deputy Chair, represented the LGA at the ACE-funded Cultural Commissioning Programme's roundtable on health and social care on 14 October. The round table was chaired by Lord Bichard and Sir Peter Bazalgette was among the

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attendees. Cllr Burbage raised awareness about the role of elected councillors in the commissioning process.

Sport

7. I was very pleased to have my introductory meeting with Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, on 29 October. We reaffirmed shared priorities, including our joint Sport Leadership Essentials Programme, supporting links with health and securing greater recognition that investing in sport can save money upstream by preventing costly ill health.

Heritage

8. I was delighted to speak at English Heritage's conference for Heritage Champions on 12 November. My speech was an opportunity to highlight how heritage can be embedded across a council's priorities and I was joined by colleagues who shared case studies from Norfolk and Cheshire West and Chester.

CTS Conference

9. We are working very closely with Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council and Vice Chair of the CTS Board, to plan the annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 3 – 4 March in Durham. Of course, Magna Carta will be a key theme. Confirmed speakers include Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman the Magna Carta 800 Committee, Viscountess Penelope Cobham, Chairman of VisitEngland, Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of English Heritage, Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, Steve Cram MBE, Chancellor of Sunderland University and former athlete, Ufi Ibrahim, Chief Executive of the British Hospitality Association and Dr Justin Varney, Public Health England.

Upcoming Meetings

10. I am meeting Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, and attending the Libraries All Party Parliamentary Group on 14 January, and meeting Jeff James, Chief Executive and Keeper of The National Archives on 15 January, and will report back at the Forum.

Contact Officer: Helen Murray
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 0207 664 3266
E-mail: helen.murray@local.gov.uk

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Peter Box CBE (Chair)

Promoting our *First 100 Days* Housing Proposals

1. Over recent months, Board colleagues and I have been actively promoting the LGA's *First 100 Days* campaign through a number of speaking and engagement events.
2. On Friday 7 November 2014, I gave a keynote speech at the Northern Housing Consortium Conference, which was themed "*lead not plead*". I had the opportunity to talk to delegates about the LGA's proposals for devolution of housing and economic powers, in the context of the challenges facing the North of England.
3. Also in November, Councillor Mike Jones (Deputy Chairman of the Board) spoke at the Quality Housing Construction Conference on the *First 100 Days* and the local authority view of offsite construction techniques.
4. The LGA Chair, Councillor David Sparks OBE, had an introductory meeting with Emma Reynolds MP in early November to discuss the LGA's *First 100 Days* housing proposals and the Lyons Housing Review.

Housing

5. Board colleagues and I were pleased to welcome Sir Michael Lyons to our most recent meeting on 2 December 2014 for a discussion of his recent housing review. Sir Michael endorsed several LGA housing proposals and we await the publication of the Government's housing review with interest.
6. In December, we submitted a response to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on arrangements for pooling right to buy receipts with the Treasury. We argued that councils should have full control over receipts from the sale of homes under the right to buy.
7. Also in December, we responded to a consultation from DCLG on a "right to build" including proposals for encouraging the development of self-build housing. We were pleased to see that the consultation paper already recognised the good work that councils are already doing in this area. Our recommendations set out how central government could help councils to build on this work, for example by making sure that the cost of setting up a self-build register can be fully recouped through fees.

Sustainable Drainage Systems

8. The Government has announced that it plans to amend its approach to deliver sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) on new developments in response to lobbying by the Board regarding our concerns about the financial implications of the Government's proposals. This will include one consenting regime through the planning process and a removal of the requirement for local authorities to adopt and maintain SuDS.
9. Councillor Mike Jones wrote to Liz Truss MP earlier this month to press for clarity on the resources available to councils to prepare for and deliver the new arrangements. We continue to pursue our proposal for water companies to approve, adopt and maintain SuDS through the Infrastructure Bill.

Planning

10. Fellow Board Member Councillor Ed Turner recently met with Stephen Williams MP to discuss the implications of the Government's proposals to introduce a simplified set of standards for new homes at a national level. This focused on the transitional arrangements including: the impact of proposals on the status of existing local plans; the impact on the progress of emerging plans; and the overall resource implications for local government. Councillor Turner pressed for a light touch approach to transition which would minimise the resource burden on the local government sector.

Environment

11. In December, I met with the Deputy Chair of the Environment Agency, Robert Light. In doing so, I made the case for continued funding to support the LGA's Climate Local Programme, as well as highlighted the importance of longer-term investment scenarios for flood and coastal defences and linking the economic case for investment. Other areas covered included: councils' preparedness for winter weather; the key findings from the LGA's annual winter readiness survey; and lessons learnt from the Winter 2013/14 floods.

Winter Readiness

12. The LGA's annual winter readiness survey, which took place between September and November 2014, showed that councils were well prepared for the storms over Christmas and further extreme weather events expected in the following winter months. Findings showed that councils have topped up their salt supplies – after using less grit than usual during last year's mild winter – and are ready to use innovative technology to cope with the sub-zero conditions. Further information on the survey findings can be found here on the LGA website at: <http://tinyurl.com/n7stjfd>.

Highways Maintenance Funding Allocation 2015/16 - 2020/21

13. Following a short consultation period, on 23 December the Department for Transport (DfT) announced the allocation of local highways maintenance funding by authority for the 2015-2021 financial years. The announcement confirmed that from a total of £5.8 billion allocated for local roads maintenance for the 6 year period from 2015, £4.7 billion will be allocated on a needs base, £575 million will be used to create a competitive 'Challenge Fund' and the remaining £578 would be ringfenced for an 'incentives fund.'
14. The LGA has called for all of the £5.8 billion funding to be allocated on a needs basis. This would provide councils with valuable certainty of funding, enabling them to focus on making roads resilient, rather than on more expensive reactive repairs and costly bidding exercises for competitive funds. Our lobbying helped to ensure that the amounts ringfenced for the challenge and incentives funds were markedly lower than originally proposed, thereby providing more certainty for councils. Further information can be found on the LGA website here: <http://tinyurl.com/k8hfxdt>.

Contact officer:	Helen Murray / Ian Hughes
Position:	Heads of Programmes
Phone number:	020 7664 3266 / 0207 664 3101
E-mail:	helen.murray@local.gov.uk / ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

Improvement & Innovation Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

IMPROVEMENT

1. In November, I wrote a feature for *First* detailing the findings of the latest LGA-commissioned research into resident satisfaction and public trust. 68% of people were pleased with the way their council is running things, similar to when the polling was last conducted in July. Waste collection remains the most popular service – with 83% of respondents saying they were happy with it. Understandably satisfaction was lower in service areas where there have been significant funding pressures but the tireless work of councils to find innovative ways to manage the impact of cuts on local services explains the consistently high levels of satisfaction and trust in local government.
2. I have continued to discuss in the national press the challenge facing councils trying to repair our roads and of fixing the backlog of pothole repairs, after a series of severe winters and devastating floods. The LGA's call for greater roads maintenance funding ran in the Times and Telegraph and across online outlets. My comments about the work of councils in the face of severe weather were also covered in the media.

INNOVATION

3. Earlier this month, I chaired a workshop session at the Annual Local Government Finance Conference on the opportunities for Councils to increase their income generation capacity.

PRODUCTIVITY

4. I have written to Matthew Hancock MP, Minister at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to raise concerns over proposals to centralise procurement in the Small Businesses Bill.
5. Cllr Shirley Flint, Deputy Chair of the Innovation and Improvement Board, attended the pilot of the Commissioning Academy for Elected Members (CAEM) in November 2014. The CAEM has been jointly developed by the LGA and the Cabinet Office to enable councillors involved in the commissioning of services to develop skills and gain a better understanding of the key issues through peer to peer learning. The programme which is jointly delivered by the Cabinet Office and the LGA helps councillors to improve and develop the commissioning activity of their council and explore the importance of political leadership within the commissioning cycle.
6. I wrote to the Rt. Hon Francis Maud MP in November regarding LGA plans to pilot a Digital Academy (based on the successful Commissioning Academy model). By way of reply, Kris Hopkins MP was supportive of our plans and keen to begin a conversation to shape a Digital Academy to increase digital capability and impact local government transformation. We look forward to working closely with colleagues in the Cabinet Office and DCLG to develop this exciting new venture.

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

People & Places Board – report from Cllr David Hodge (Chairman)

Non-Metropolitan Commission

1. In November, the Independent Commission on Economic Growth and the Future of Public Services in Non-Metropolitan England published its interim report, 'How the Other Half Grows: the future of prosperity and public services in non-metropolitan England.' It sets out three clear messages for local and central government:
 - 1.1 Shire areas are today the spearhead of England's global competitiveness and that advantage needs to be enhanced with devolved decision-making;
 - 1.2 Shire areas have ground to make up in the way they take decisions and organise their public services;
 - 1.3 But a handful of shires are ready now for devolved decision-making about public services and tax; more will be in the future; and the country will benefit hugely from devolutionary deals for both cities and shires.
2. The Commission's Chair, Sir John Peace, attended the County Councils Network conference in November and took part in a panel discussion on 'Counties' Role in Ensuring the Recovery Delivers Sustained Prosperity For All'.
3. Also in November, Sir John met with the District Councils' Network to discuss the Commission's work. The discussion focused particularly on examples of cooperation between district and county councils.

District Councils' Network Assembly

4. I attended the District Councils' Network Assembly to run two sessions on the work of the People and Places Board and Non-Metropolitan Commission. The sessions were well attended and I received positive feedback on the Board's work.

Skills, Employment and Welfare Reform

5. The People and Places and City Regions Boards commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (Inclusion) to provide a series of reports which set out the future skills and employment challenges that will hit the desk of an incoming (or returning) minister. The first report, which was published in July, focused on place and looked at whether current employment and skills policy would deliver skills for future jobs in a range of cities. Interim findings from the second Inclusion report looking at the current national skills, employment and welfare system from the perspective of individuals was shared with Board members on the 15th January. A third and final report giving conclusions to the research papers will be delivered in March.

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6. I joined the Chairs of the City Regions and Children and Young People Boards to provide a joint foreword to a report the LGA commissioned from the National Institute of Economic Research (NIESR), published on the 12 January, which reviews the advantages of local delivery from council-led employment schemes supporting people towards work. It reveals that the local schemes support some of the most vulnerable groups in society.

International housing and good practice

7. The People and Places Board highlighted the potential to learn from housing activity outside England. A report was developed for the Board with international examples of housing activity under key themes of land release, housing finance, making best use of existing stock and building quickly. The report has been published on the LGA website:
http://www.local.gov.uk/housing/-/journal_content/56/10180/6716725/ARTICLE
8. New housing case studies from non-metropolitan areas have been added to the housing pages of the LGA website. The new look for the case study pages include an option to search for case studies from non-metropolitan and rural areas.
<http://www.local.gov.uk/housing>

Contact officer:

Carolyn Downs

Position:

LGA Chief Executive

Phone no:

020 7664 3213

E-mail:

carolyn.downs@local.gov.uk

Resources Board – report from Cllr Claire Kober (Chair)

1. It's been a busy few months since my last report, with key Government announcements such as the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and Local Government Finance Settlement, as well as plenty of internal activity including the LGA's Finance Conference and second meeting of the Board.

Local Government Finance

Autumn Statement

2. The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his 2014 Autumn Statement on 3 December. The LGA provided an on-the-day briefing on the key announcements relevant to local government, and has been following up with departmental officials on the detail. The Chancellor did not announce any further cuts in local government funding for 2015/16 in addition to those already announced, but the outlook remains tough with public spending in 2019/20 set to drop to 35.2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the lowest proportion for 80 years.

Local Government Finance Settlement

3. Following the announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015-16 on 18 December, the LGA issued an on-the-day briefing. Lead Members of the Board cleared the response which was submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 15 January. Areas particularly highlighted were: business rates appeals; local welfare support cuts; and local council tax support. The final settlement is expected in early February and the LGA will issue a briefing for the debate in Parliament.

Annual Finance Conference

4. On 6 January 2015, I chaired the LGA's annual Finance Conference, this year titled *Looking Ahead*. The event was a great success, with more than 100 delegates in attendance for keynote addresses from Cllr David Sparks OBE, Kris Hopkins MP, Right Hon Hilary Benn MP and Darra Sing (Chair of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance). There were opportunities to discuss the local government finance settlement for 2015/16, challenges and opportunities local government is facing in the next Parliament, and visions of how the sector could be funded in the future.

Council Tax Support: The story continues

5. The conference also saw the launch of our latest publication on council tax support, which received good press coverage both in the local government press and national media. Last year's interim report highlighted the £1 billion gap in funding and the lack of transparency in funding arrangements for local schemes. This latest report confirmed these findings and, based on a survey of finance directors we undertook in late 2014, analysed some of the impacts to date on councils and their residents, and the potential future impacts of continuing reductions. It calls on the next Government to fully fund council tax support, to make transparent the funding allocations for councils, and to allow councils more freedom in designing local schemes and over the council tax system in general.

Municipal Bonds Agency

6. Having met the objectives of mobilisation and following a promising start to the second equity raise, the December Executive agreed that the Municipal Bonds Agency should move into launch. This enables the Agency to become an independent entity with its own governance, and accountable for its success to its council and LGA shareholders. The process of recruiting the first Board of Directors, which will be composed of individuals with the skills and credibility to

ensure the Agency is successful, is now well underway. The first landmark in the launch phase will be an initial bond issue. The business case envisaged such an issue taking place at the end of the first quarter of this year or at the beginning of the second quarter.

EU Funding Update

7. The LGA and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Network have issued a joint letter to Her Majesty's Government (HMG) on the rationale for Limited Intermediate Body status on selection of projects as well as produced a detailed note on how those functions could be carried out (available here: <http://www.local.gov.uk/eu-policy-and-lobbying>).
8. Government have advised they are minded to continue to use the LGA/LEP Network - HMG agreed business process (which provides for a strategic role for local partners) as the basis for negotiation with the European Commission on local governance arrangements. However, HMG have so far not provided clear detail on the exact text they are using despite numerous requests from LGA and local partners.
9. The live running of the programme is now significantly delayed, with the bulk of commissioning not expected to start until mid-2015. Cllr Phillips (Deputy Chair) attended the most recent meeting of the National Growth Programme Board on 9 December as part of a local contingent of LGA and LEP Network representatives. At the meeting, which was attended by Lord Ahmed (DCLG Parliamentary under Secretary of State with responsibility for European programmes), LGA members continued to push for the primacy of local partners and their local sub-committees to remain intact to make decisions on the design, commissioning and procurement of activity.
10. On 12 December 2014, Cllr Sue Murphy (Lead Member for EU Funding) met with Lord Ahmed along with LEP representatives. The delegation pushed the Minister for a swift decision on whether there will be a requirement to re-procure Financial Instruments in the new programmes, as well as discussing the timescale for the programmes going live and Intermediate Body status within the context of the wider devolution agenda.

Welfare Reform

11. The LGA Chair, Cllr David Sparks OBE, chaired a conference on *Councils, Communities and Universal Credit* at local Government House on 12 January 2015. Over 100 local authority delegates attend the event, which featured a keynote address from Lord Freud MP, Minister for Welfare Reform. The conference was preceded by a private round table session between the Minister and Lead Members from the first tranche of councils to progress the national roll-out of Universal Credit in February.

Workforce

Senior Managers

12. An offer has been made that covers the two negotiating bodies that relates to Chief Executives and Chief Officers. It is 2 per cent on guaranteed FTE basic salaries of £99,999 or less (as at 31 December 2014) with effect from 1 January 2015. No offer has been made to those earning £100,000 or more. The offer covers the period to 31 March 2016. We are awaiting a formal response from the relevant union sides.

School teachers

13. The School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) has received a remit to consider what adjustments should be made to the salary and allowance ranges for classroom teachers, unqualified teachers and school leaders to reflect the average of up to 1 per cent pay award for public sector workers, to apply from September 2015. The LGA submitted a National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST) response and followed this up with oral evidence in December. The review body must report by February 2015.

Soulbury and Youth & Community Workers

14. At the time of writing, the details of pay offers to be made to both of these groups are under consideration. It is likely that offers will be made during January.

Fire Service

15. Adrian Thomas - who is leading the independent review into the conditions of service of chief fire officers and firefighters and the processes by which they are determined to consider whether they present barriers to reform, improvement and efficiency – attended the meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee in December and met with the National Employers' Chair on two occasions to date. The LGA submitted a response to the review, which is due to report back to DCLG in February.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

16. On 5 December 2014, the DCLG issued a consultation on some technical amendments to the LGPS. The LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2015 will amend both the LGPS 2013 Regulations and the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014. The consultation can be found here [technical-consultation-on-local-government-pension-scheme-rules](#)

LGPS Membership of the Public Sector Transfer Club

17. On 19 December 2014, the Local Government Pension Committee (LGPC) sent a letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander MP regarding the LGPS's membership of the Public Sector Transfer Club. The letter outlined that the committee would support the LGPS continuing to provide club transfers in respect of final salary benefits and therefore requested that it remain part of the transfer CLUB for that purpose only. We now await a response from HM Treasury, at which point the LGPC Secretariat will update employers and LGPS pension funds.

Retention and career development of qualified social workers

18. In October, the LGA launched a number of documents and resources on improving social work retention and subsequently held a workshop with the Public Service People Managers' Association (PPMA) to discuss further work. One element of this will be a guide for members that will distils the key questions and learning from the existing suite of materials, provides quick access to resources, identify priorities for action and suggest key questions for them to ask in their councils. The document is now in first draft form and will be published shortly.

Local Government Careers Guide

19. The LGA has launched a new career guide aimed at encouraging young people to think about a career in local government. The guide – which can be accessed here http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/workforce/-/journal_content/56/10180/6502605/ARTICLE - describes the important work that councils do within the places that young people live, work, learn, socialise and exercise and highlights the huge variety of interesting and meaningful jobs that councils have to offer.



Councillors' Forum

22 January 2014

Contact Officer: Michael Lockwood

Position: Executive Director of Local Government Finance and Policy

Phone no: 020 664 3109

E-mail: Michael.Lockwood@local.gov.uk

Safer & Stronger Communities Board – report from Councillor Ann Lucas OBE (Chair)

Rewiring Licensing

1. Rewiring Licensing was recognised in the Autumn Statement, with Government committing to the introduction of a simplified, single application process. Our media work welcomed this response to our proposals, but called on Government departments to go further. Cllr Tony Page, also presented Rewiring Licensing at a conference for the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health; highlighting the inclusion of its core aspects in the Autumn Statement.

Gambling / Betting Commission

2. Cllr Page set out our call for councils to have greater control over betting shops. This followed the Smith Commission proposal for additional powers on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals to be given to Scotland, as part of the wider devolution package.
3. Although we believe that the existing legislative framework in this area should be amended, we have been working closely with the betting shop industry through the LGA Betting Commission to discuss ways in which councils and firms can work together. A framework agreement agreed by the Commission was formally launched at our Annual Licensing Conference on 15 January.

Reducing the Strength

4. The LGA has published guidance for councils wishing to introduce a 'Reduce the Strength' campaign, which works with retailers to remove high strength alcohol from the shelves. A number of councils have developed schemes and, although locally successful, these schemes have faced significant legal challenge from the alcohol industry. This guidance sets out how councils can support participating retailers to stay on the right side of competition law.

Annual Licensing Conference

5. Cllr Joanna Spicer chaired the annual licensing conference on 15 January, with Cllr Tony Page providing an update on our successful Rewiring Licensing campaign, which was launched at last year's conference. In addition to launching the two new documents – the LGA's Reducing the Strength Guidance, and the LGA's Betting Framework – over 70 delegates heard about key issues facing licensing teams, including challenges to fee-setting, changes to deregulation of entertainment, and the Government's alcohol strategy. Best practice was shared from a number of councils, including Lambeth's community engagement, Manchester and Nottingham's alcohol strategy work, and public health engagement in licensing.

Annual Safer Communities Conference

6. I chaired the annual Safer Communities conference, which was themed around 'what works' in crime reduction. We heard from Professor Nick Tilley from UCL, and the Early Intervention Foundation on what has been rigorously assessed as reducing crime. There were other contributions from the College of Policing and Hertfordshire County Council on the role of public health in reducing crime, from Portsmouth City Council on their restructure of the way they deliver community safety services, and from Derbyshire County Council on tackling gangs and serious youth violence.

Inside Government conference on ASB

7. I gave a keynote speech at the Inside Government conference on tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and talked about the need for multi-agency approaches when it comes to reducing ASB, the need for close partnership working to make the best use of the new tools and powers available under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, the importance of pooling budgets between local agencies and intervening early to prevent people being drawn into a life of crime and disorder.

National Group on Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable Adults

8. The Board represented the LGA at the meeting of the Home Office's National Group on Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable Adults. The meeting considered the work being undertaken across government following publication of the Jay Report into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham. There was also a discussion of the National Group's work plan; including how there could be wider local government involvement through such organisations such as SOLACE, ADCS and ADASS. The importance of involving these bodies in the National Group's work was raised by the LGA.

Criminal Justice Council

9. In October Cllr Spicer attended the Criminal Justice Council, which is chaired by Lord Justice Gross. The Council discussed work in the criminal justice system to encourage early guilty pleas from defendants in particular in Magistrates' courts, whether the number of unrepresented defendants was increasing in Magistrates and Crown Courts, and the review by Sir Brian Leveson of criminal court practice and procedure to reduce the number of hearings and increase the use of technology. Cllr Spicer questioned whether councils had been consulted on the changes to procedures and the Ministry of Justice sought information on how frequently councils brought criminal cases in either the Magistrates or Crown Courts, which has now been supplied.

PCP event

10. The Board ran an event for police and crime panel members and the officers supporting them in November. The event heard from the Home Office about how they wished to engage with panels. Delegates also heard from the chairs of the West Midlands, South Yorkshire and Kent panels about their experiences with scrutiny of police and crime commissioners (PCCs) including around child sexual exploitation, and how two panels had dealt with issues arising from the death in office of a PCC and the resignation of a PCC. There were member and officer themed discussions around the support available to panels, the handling of complaints and whether panels needed additional powers. The discussions helped inform the LGA's response to the inquiry by the Committee on Standards in Public Life into police accountability, leadership and ethics.

FGM

11. At the start of December, Cllr Lisa Brett met Baroness Williams of Trafford, and Ministry of Justice officials to discuss the LGA's amendment to the Serious Crime Bill which would make it an offence to promote or encourage FGM. Also at the meeting were Baroness Meacher, who had tabled the LGA amendment to the Bill, and Mr Dexter Dias QC a human rights barrister with an interest in tackling FGM. Cllr Brett explained why the LGA had sought to move the amendment and outlined the social pressure that can be placed on parents to have their daughters cut, and how the amendment was designed to reduce some of this pressure. Baroness Williams and the Ministry of Justice officials indicated that if evidence could be provided that there were people in the UK promoting FGM, and from people in communities where FGM is practised of the benefit of the amendment then the government would consider the LGA's amendment further.

Anti-Social, Crime and Policing Act workshops

12. Cllr Anita Lower chaired two regional workshops for local authorities on the new tools and powers for tackling ASB, which came into effect on 20 October. The workshops provided delegates with an opportunity to hear about how different areas are using the new tools and powers, and then discuss how they might be used to tackle a range of issues that councils and their partners commonly come across. The events also highlighted some technical issues that councils are struggling with and which the LGA has taken up with the Home Office.

APCC National Partnership Summit

13. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners held their National Partnership Summit in mid-November. Cllr Lower was invited to speak at a session on the implementation of the community trigger. This new process for dealing with complaints about a lack of response from councils, the police and other partners to incidents of ASB was introduced as part of the changes resulting from the Anti-Social, Crime and Policing Act. Cllr Lower talked about the implementation of the trigger provision, some of the issues local areas had had to deal with in setting it up and the importance of police and local authority collaboration to tackle ASB.

Lyn Brown MP

14. On 25 November Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, and Cllr David Acton and Cllr Kay Hammond met with Lyn Brown MP, the shadow fire minister. They discussed Lyn Brown's advocacy of a national fire service to meet funding challenges as well as sector-led improvement; the progress of the sector in co-responding and collaboration; a statutory duty for flooding and pensions. Subsequently a letter from all lead members was sent to Lyn Brown providing further information.

Clive Betts MP

15. On 3 December Cllrs Hilton, Acton and Hammond held a very positive meeting with Clive Betts MP, Chairman of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, to discuss key issues facing the fire and rescue sector, including the Adrian Thomas review of firefighter terms and conditions and the sector's response to the Knight Review. Members highlighted the value that Fire and Rescue Authorities place in the peer review process and stressed the need for more local flexibilities to allow for closer working with other blue light services. In response, Clive expressed an interest in seeing examples of interoperability in action and getting a better understanding of the barriers to additional joint working which the LGA has now sent through.

Contact officer: Helen Murray
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 020 7664 3266
Email: helen.murray@local.gov.uk

LGA Audit Committee – report from Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE (Chair)

The LGA's Audit Committee last met on 18th November 2014. The following areas were covered in the meeting:

Internal Audit Programme 2014/15: Phase 1

1. TIAA - the LGA's internal auditors – reported on the first phase of the internal audit programme for 2014/15 covering Key Financial Controls; Facilities Management; Counter Fraud Health Check; Recommendation Follow Up. They confirmed that TIAA was satisfied with the LGA's Management Action Plan and progress made in implementing previous internal audit recommendations.

LGA Financial Statements: Progress report on implementing FRS 102

2. Members were provided with assurance that preparation to bring the LGA's accounting practices in line with the new financial reporting framework - coming into effect beginning on or after 1 January 2015 – is on track.

Second Quarter Performance Report: April - September 2014

3. Members received a report on the LGA's performance for the second quarter, covering: delivery of programmes; financial performance; and corporate health indicators.
4. The Audit Committee highlighted the importance of pursuing a commercial, outwardly focused approach to ensure the LGA remained financially viable without increasing subscriptions.

Quarterly Risk Report

5. The Committee reviewed the LGA's revised Risk Management Policy; the latest version of the LGA's Strategic Risk Register; and the risk register for the three projects currently designated as high risk.

Contact officer:	Helen Platts
Position:	Head of Finance and Business Management
Phone number:	020 7664 3358
E-mail:	helen.platts@local.gov.uk

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date:	Thursday 23 October 2014
Venue:	Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>English Devolution</p> <p>Cllr David Sparks welcomed Professor Colin Copus, Steve Reed MP, Heather Wheeler MP and Lord Purvis of Tweed to Councillors' Forum to discuss English Devolution.</p> <p>Professor Copus explained the format of the discussion and introduced the the devolution issue.</p> <p>Steve Reed MP discussed the fact that England is viewed as the 'last outpost of the British Empire' and remains massively over centralised while Scotland has been offered a form of 'devo max'.</p> <p>'English votes on English laws' is not the solution because it does not push power down far enough. Devolution must make power more accessible and usable because current public opinion shows that those who hold power currently are seen as remote and unaccountable. Power must be drawn closer to the people.</p> <p>Any new settlement should build on the current structure but not be limited to infrastructure. Devolved decision-making on health, education and welfare would mean that 'English votes on English laws' is not an issue. This approach should not stop at town halls. Following a principle of subsidiarity, power should be given to citizens and service providers should be accountable to communities. This model would allow for the shrinking of government departments, with central government doing less but doing it better.</p> <p>This approach can be summarised as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A constitutional principle of subsidiarity.2. Single pot negotiated deals with their own priorities3. Empowerment of citizens and service users <p>Heather Wheeler MP discussed the concept of Total Place as a model for English devolution. Central government and Ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government understand the importance of communities coming together to make decisions in this way.</p>	

Local Leader's Boards could utilise one budget to cascade down funds on the basis of local priorities. This is an example of trusting the people that people vote for, councillors, to shape services.

Regional government has been rejected but it is important that 'English votes on English laws' form part of the answer to the devolution question. Hopefully, by May 2015, all political parties involved will have agreed on a strategy to achieve this. If this is not the case, the Conservative party will include it in their manifesto for the general election.

Lord Purvis of Tweed observed that within the United Kingdom there has been organic federalism. Following the Smith Commission, there will be some form of a federal United Kingdom. This can be seen from relationships between the nations that have a statutory footing and dispute resolution.

A bottom up approach, where centralised legislation enables decisions to be made locally, requires two sets of core principles. One set of principles surrounds the narrative of what the United Kingdom is, while the other involves both legislative and fiscal devolution.

There is work to be done first, on enabling legislation for true fiscal devolution, before questions need to be answered about voting.

Members discussed:

- Fiscal devolution
- Fiscal relationships between the nations
- Tax powers in areas such as London
- The basket of taxes
- A constitutional convention
- The need for more than political decision making on this issue
- The role of town and parish councils in devolution

2 Chair's Update

Members noted the Chair's report.

3 LGA Boards Chairs' Reports

Members noted the updates from each of the LGA Board Chairs.

4 Digest of the last meeting

The note of the last meeting was agreed.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Sparks OBE	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Jim McMahon	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire County Council
	MBE	
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
	Sir William Lawrence Bt	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
	Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge District Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Ron Round JP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	CBE	
	Cllr Barbara Janke	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
	Cllr Norman Bradbury	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
	Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
	Cllr Glenda Vaughan-Powell	
	Cllr Norman Murphy	
	Cllr John Clarke	

Cllr Katie Hall
Cllr Tony Jackson
Cllr John Northcott
Cllr Colin Organ
Cllr Michael Payne
Cllr Chris Saint
Cllr Ian Stephens

Apologies

Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Cllr Geoffrey Theobald	Brighton & Hove City Council
OBE	
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Cllr Ravi Govindia	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Lord Peter Smith	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr James Alexander	City of York Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Cathy Bakewell MBE	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
Cllr Mahroof Hussain	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
MBE	
Cllr Claire Kober	Haringey Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough

Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Elaine Atkinson	Borough of Poole
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Mike Eathorne- Gibbons	
Cllr Keith House	

In Attendance

LGA location map

Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

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

Public transport

Local Government House 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

Cycling facilities

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

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House 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

