

## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

---

**Title:** Councillors' Forum  
**Date:** Thursday 5 March 2015  
**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><b>First 100 Days</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Members to Councillors' Forum. He also welcomed Professor Tony Travers, Director of LSE London, a research centre at the London School of Economics, and Visiting Professor in the LSE's Government Department.</p> <p>Professor Travers discussed a number of issues regarding the potential outcome of the forthcoming Local and General Elections and their possible impact on the work of local government. Regarding the General Election he highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The conventional two party political system has changed and more political parties were involved in politics at a local and national level.</li><li>• Current polling suggested that the Labour and Conservative parties would receive a very similar number of seats in the General Election.</li><li>• There were a number of scenarios for national government following the General Election; an outright win for one party, a formal coalition agreement or a minority government with a 'confidence and supply' arrangement with one or more smaller parties.</li><li>• Should the future government push forward with English devolution plans there could be a situation where Labour may be the largest party, but the Conservatives would have a majority when voting for English laws.</li></ul> <p>Professor Travers also discussed the possible outcome of the elections for local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was likely to be more devolved powers for English city regions and potentially county regions.</li><li>• A future government may suggest a move towards proportional representation in local government if smaller parties are involved in a formal or informal coalition agreement.</li><li>• A comprehensive spending review would be likely to be published</li></ul>	

in June or July 2015, with the local government funding settlement following in December as usual.

The LGA Group Leaders discussed how the LGA's First 100 Days campaign had influenced their own parties' manifestos. The Group Leaders particularly focussed on how the national debate on devolution and decentralisation had resonated strongly with political parties. The LGA should continue to present a united front on devolution, and the First 100 Days campaign showed costed examples of policies which would benefit the whole local government sector.

In the discussion which followed Members made a number of comments around the relationship between MPs and local councillors, the local government grant settlement and the likelihood of continued austerity measures and council tax freezes following the General Election. The Chair thanked Professor Travers for his contribution to the meeting.

## **2 Chair's Update**

Members **noted** the Chair's report.

## **3 LGA Boards & Panel Chair's Reports**

Members **noted** the reports from each of the LGA Board Chairs.

- a) Children and Young People's Board - Councillor David Simmonds
- b) City Regions Board - Councillor Sir Richard Leese CBE
- c) Community Wellbeing Board - Councillor Izzi Seccombe
- d) Culture, Tourism and Sport Board - Councillor Ian Stephens
- e) Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board - Councillor Peter Box CBE
- f) Improvement and Innovation Board - Councillor Peter Fleming
- g) People and Places Board - Councillor David Hodge
- h) Resources Board - Councillor Claire Kober
- i) Safer & Stronger Communities Board - Councillor Ann Lucas OBE

#### 4 Digest of the last meeting

The minutes were **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 MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City 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 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
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge District Council
	Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr James Alexander	City of York 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 Barbara Janke	Bristol City Council	

Cllr Lisa Brett  
 Cllr Jeremy Hilton  
 Cllr Liz Green

Cllr Howard Sykes MBE  
 Cllr Heather Kidd  
 Cllr Jill Shortland OBE  
 Cllr Stan Collins  
 Cllr Norman Bradbury  
 Cllr Robert Dutton OBE  
 Cllr Izzi Seccombe  
 Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE  
 Cllr Glenda Vaughan-Powell

Bath & North East Somerset Council  
 Gloucestershire County Council  
 Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council  
 Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council  
 Shropshire Council  
 Somerset County Council  
 South Lakeland District Council  
 Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council  
 Wrexham County Borough Council  
 Warwickshire County Council  
 Gloucestershire County Council

Apologies

Cllr Nicolas Heslop  
 Cllr Phil Davies  
 Cllr Anthony Hunt  
 Cllr Robert Bucke  
 Cllr Sarah Hayward  
 Cllr Teresa O'Neill  
 Cllr Martin Tett  
 Cllr Robert Light  
 Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE  
 Cllr Ravi Govindia  
 Cllr Jonathan Owen  
 Cllr David Finch  
 Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE  
 Cllr Bryony Rudkin  
 Cllr Caitlin Bisknell  
 Cllr Graham Chapman  
 Cllr Clyde Loakes  
 Mayor Sir Steve Bullock  
 Mayor Jules Pipe  
 Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE  
 Cllr Nick Forbes  
 Lord Peter Smith  
 Cllr David Phillips  
 Cllr Sue Woodward  
 Cllr Keith Wakefield  
 Cllr Peter Box CBE  
 Cllr Lib Peck  
 Cllr Nicholas Crofts  
 Cllr John Merry CBE  
 Cllr Amy Cross  
 Cllr Richard Kemp CBE  
 Cllr Claire Hudson  
 Cllr Cathy Bakewell MBE  
 Cllr Chris Townsend  
 Cllr Deborah Crony  
 Cllr Mahroof Hussain  
 MBE  
 Cllr Judith Blake  
 Cllr Claire Kober  
 Cllr David Burbage MBE  
 Cllr Kevin Bentley

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council  
 Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council  
 Torfaen County Borough Council  
 Tendring District Council  
 Camden Council  
 Bexley Council  
 Buckinghamshire County Council  
 Kirklees Metropolitan Council  
 Suffolk County Council  
 Wandsworth London Borough Council  
 East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
 Essex County Council  
 Stevenage Borough Council  
 Suffolk County Council  
 High Peak Borough Council  
 Nottingham City Council  
 Waltham Forest London Borough Council  
 Lewisham London Borough Council  
 Hackney London Borough Council  
 Northumberland Council  
 Newcastle upon Tyne City Council  
 Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council  
 Swansea City and County Council  
 Staffordshire County Council  
 Leeds City Council  
 Wakefield Metropolitan District Council  
 Lambeth London Borough Council  
 Liverpool City Council  
 Salford City Council  
 Blackpool Council  
 Liverpool City Council  
 Mendip District Council  
 South Somerset District Council  
 Mole Valley District Council  
 North Dorset District Council  
 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
 Leeds City Council  
 Haringey Council  
 Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough  
 Colchester Borough Council

Cllr Nigel Ashton  
Cllr Steve Count  
Cllr Kenneth Meeson  
Cllr Roger Begy OBE  
Cllr Jane Scott OBE  
Cllr Elaine Atkinson  
Cllr Mike Eathorne-  
Gibbons  
Cllr Norman Murphy  
Alderman Sir David  
Wootton

North Somerset Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Rutland County Council  
Wiltshire Council  
Borough of Poole