

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 10 June 2021
12.30 pm

Online via Zoom

To: Members of the Councillors' Forum
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Councillors' Forum
10 June 2021

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 10 June 2021** online via Zoom.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: labgp@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

LGA Contact:

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Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Social Media

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

Councillors' Forum – Membership 2020/21

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (36)	
Cllr James Jamieson (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Vice Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Marc Bayliss	Worcester City Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Nick Chard	Kent County Council
Cllr Janet Clowes	Cheshire East Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Day	Warwick District Council
Cllr Geoff Driver CBE	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Paul Middlebrough	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Cllr Andrew Proctor	Norfolk County Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr John Riley	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Linda Robinson	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
Cllr Katrina Wood	Buckinghamshire Council

Labour (35)	
Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Nick Forbes CBE (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Tom Beattie	Corby Borough Council
Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr Doina Cornell	Stroud District Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Georgia Gould	Camden Council
Cllr Paulette Hamilton	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Farah Hussain	Redbridge London Borough Council
Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Naushabah Khan	Medway Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Dhanisha Patel	Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Oliver Ryan	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Shama Tatler	Brent Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Andrew Western	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Bassetlaw District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	Brent Council
Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich Borough Council
Cllr Sian Timoney	Luton Borough Council
Cllr Alan Waters	Norwich City Council
Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council

Independent (10)	
Cllr Helen-Ann Smith	Ashfield District Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	North Kesteven District Council
Cllr Sue Baxter	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr Wayne Davies	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Rosemarie Harris	Powys County Council
Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Rouse	Malvern Hills District Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Paul Woodhead	Cannock Chase District Council

Liberal Democrat (11)	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
Cllr Mark Cory	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Adele Morris	Southwark Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 10 June 2021

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 22 July 2021, 12.30 pm, Venue TBC

Presentation on the Councillor's Climate Change Workbook

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

Local authorities have a crucial role to play in achieving the UK's 2050 Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions target, this workbook can help councillors achieve this.

This workbook has been designed as a distance learning aid for local councillors. It is intended to provide councillors with insight and assistance with the key skills which will help you to be most effective in your role. Some of the content may be of most use to more newly elected councillors, but nonetheless if you have been a councillor for some time, the workbook should serve as a useful reminder of some of the key skills, approaches and tactics that make for an effective ward councillor.

You can view the workbook in full online at:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/councillors-workbook-local-pathway-net-zero>

The presentation will also include some other elements of the LGA Sector Support climate change offer including the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool and the Leadership Essentials course.

Recommendation/s

That members note the presentation.

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Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities from 1 April – 11 June 2021

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

April	
1	Sector Led Improvement Parliamentary Briefing
16	Local Outbreak Plan Advisory Group
21	SofS BEIS
22	SofS DHSC
29	Local Outbreak Plan Advisory Group
May	
4	Vicky Ford MP, Minister for Children
12	Damian Green MP, Lord Filkin
19	Local Outbreak Plan Advisory Group
25	Helen Whately MP, Minister for Care
26	Baroness Grey-Thompson
June	
1	Parliamentary briefing call on the environment bill
3	UK Forum
4	Local Outbreak Plan Advisory Board
9	Theresa May MP
9	Anthony Browne MP
11	National Newly Elected Members Event

Meetings with organisations and individuals

April	
1	Briefing with Dido Harding, Head NHS Test & Trace
13	Brendan Cox, Together Campaign
16	UK-France Summit Steering Group
27	Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader Westminster Council
27	Introductory meeting Dr Jenny Harries, Ian Peters HSA
30	Tim Leunig, Advisor to the Treasury
May	
10	Population Health Stakeholder Advisory Group
11	Sir Peter Gregson, Cranfield University
18	Kerslake Commission on Covid 19 and Rough Sleeping
25	Chris Beales, Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church & Community
June	
1	Alex Morton, Centre for Policy Studies

Events and speaking engagements

April	
9	Cumbria Leaders Board
May	
17	Invitation to speak at Net Zero APPG 'Delivering Net Zero Cities & Regions'

Children & Young People Board – Report from Cllr Antoinette Bramble (Chair)

New reports

1. We have published the following reports since the last meeting:
 - 1.1 We have published [research looking at the response of local education and children's services departments to the Covid-19 pandemic](#). The research looked at council's initial response to the lockdown, adapting to the lockdown, the 'new normal' and; the return to lockdown, before identifying a number opportunities that have arisen from the pandemic period.

Children's Improvement Board

2. Baroness Blake chaired the meeting of the LGA/ADCS/Solace/DfE/Ofsted Children's Improvement Board that took place on the 23rd March. Discussions focussed on effective local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the interaction with Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances, the Government's ongoing SEND review, the future of SEND area inspections and; the work of the East Midlands Regional Improvement and Innovation alliance.

Children's social care

3. On 28 April Baroness Blake attended the first meeting of the Design Group of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. The Group is providing support and challenge to the review team, and at this meeting considered the evidence gathered to date and next steps in the review process. We continue to emphasise the importance of considering support to children and families in a holistic way, and the need for sufficient funding for all elements of children's services.
4. Councillor Susie Charles attended the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board on 6 May to discuss a range of issues, including adoption delays, challenges faced by special guardians and racial disparity in adoption.
5. We have submitted evidence to the Competition and Markets Authority "market study" of children's social care placements. In particular, we raised concerns around a lack of placements for children with complex or challenging needs, the impact and lack of oversight of private equity involvement in the children's social care "market", and the challenges in developing new provision.
6. Our evidence to the Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into child poverty emphasised the need for a cross-Government approach, and highlighted our Work Local, Reshaping Financial Support and Child Centred Recovery initiatives as key opportunities to tackle child poverty.
7. We have also submitted evidence to the Public Services Committee on the role of public services in addressing child vulnerability. This wide-ranging submission incorporated a range

of issues, including the shift in funding from preventative to acute services, challenges caused by limited join-up across government departments, the role of the voluntary and community sector and statutory partners working with councils, and the need to understand and tackle differing levels of poverty and economic disadvantage around the country. Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Deputy Chair, gave verbal evidence to the Committee, alongside Jenny Coles, former President of ADCS.

8. Baroness Blake also gave evidence at the House of Lords Select Committee on Covid-19 and the long-term impact of the pandemic on parents and families. The LGA raised the impact of historic underfunding of the system, the importance of early intervention and the impact that Covid-19 has had on services and what we anticipate the impact might be as we start to return to normality.

Youth Justice

9. On 22 March Baroness Blake wrote to the new Minister for Youth Justice, Alex Chalk MP to call attention to the excellent work done by youth offending teams (YOTs) and to ensure they continue to have the resources required. She also called for a review into an increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility, highlighting the children and young people board's position that it should be increased to 14.

Children's mental health

10. Baroness Blake chaired a webinar on whole household approaches to mental health, this was to showcase good practice that has been pulled together by the Centre for Mental Health, commissioned by the children and young people board and the community wellbeing board. The webinar was joined by the Centre for Mental Health, a range of local authorities, representatives from Leaders Unlocked and Cllr. Ian Hudspeth. The webinar received good feedback and a report will shortly be produced collating all the council good practice.

Youth employment and skills

11. We launched our [Education to Employment: supporting youth participation](#) report at [The role of local government in supporting a jobs and skills recovery](#) webinar in May. It captures what works in overcoming barriers to youth participation and showcase the innovative approaches by the areas involved. Further policy work is planned based on its findings and recommendations.
12. The [House of Lords Youth Unemployment Committee](#) launched a new inquiry in late March to consider what measures should be taken to protect and create jobs for young people and the LGA has made a submission. It will focus on how the labour market may change due to current events such as COVID-19, Brexit, and technological developments in the years ahead. We have used this as an opportunity to reiterate our recovery asks for young people.

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

Devolution

1. In the run-up to the Queen's Speech, we [published research](#) showing 58 per cent of MPs and 80 per cent of peers agree that councils should be given greater powers and funding to drive employment and training schemes in their areas.
2. The LGA [responded](#) to the House of Lords Public Services Committee report on Levelling Up, saying bringing greater resources and powers over key responsibilities, such as skills, transport and housing, closer to communities is the best way to ensure we have a recovery that works for everyone.
3. We responded to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry into jobs, growth and productivity after coronavirus, setting out the important convening role played by local government in the many aspects of the local economy.
4. Following confirmation that the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper has been superseded by the Levelling Up White Paper, the Board is discussing how to ensure that the sector's devolution priorities and the opportunities for urban areas and combined authorities can best be included within this new agenda.
5. Following the successful launch of its report in March, the Devolution APPG held its Annual General Meeting in May and agreed a new work programme.

Employment & Skills

6. On 25 March, we brought together Whitehall leads with councils to engage on, and shape, Plan for Jobs related activity, and ran a workshop with the sector and the National Audit Office on its inquiry into the workings of DWP during Covid-19.
7. We responded to the [DfE's flexi-apprenticeship consultation](#), noting councils' important convening work during the pandemic, setting out the case for recovery interventions to be locally tailored, and pointing out councils' key role in ensuring interventions are coordinated nationally and locally.
8. We launched a new [Local employment and skills recovery learning hub](#) at a [webinar](#) on 20 May with 208 delegates. The hub contains *Top tips on five themes to boost a local jobs and skills* and thirteen case studies highlighting practical local government action to coordinate jobs and skills during the pandemic and a report capturing lessons for the future.

9. We also launched a [report](#) capturing action learning to support local authorities identify barriers and challenges in fulfilling their statutory duties for young people and identify solutions.
10. We [briefed](#) for the 15 April Westminster Hall debate on the Education Committee's report on adult skills and lifelong learning; making the case for the role of local government.
11. We continue to work with sector to set out the implications of the Government's Adult Education Budget funding rule change on councils' adult and community learning provision.
12. We responded to the House of Lords Youth Unemployment Committee's inquiry into measures taken to protect and create jobs for young people, reiterating our asks for young people in the recovery.

EU Funding & UKSPF

13. Following the launch of the UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus, officers are speaking to a number of lead authorities to seek feedback on the CRF process and any learning that might be made available for the design of the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Digital Connectivity

14. We promoted to councils a request by the Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan for their support to help students access education online by adding the 'eduroam' network to their existing public Wi-Fi network, at no extra charge.

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Culture Tourism & Sport Board – Report from Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)

Sport

1. On 17 March we met with the Minister for Sport to discuss the challenges facing public leisure centres and to set out the significance of the council contribution to both grassroots and elite sport in this country.
2. Provision of public sport remains in a perilous state in this country, notwithstanding the welcome reopening of most facilities. We continue to campaign with partners for a further investment through the National Leisure Recovery Fund. And because we know some providers will probably not survive, sadly, we have published a guide to support councils if they need to rapidly insource their services to ensure their preservation for the community.
3. We have also worked closely with Sport England on the development of the Moving Communities platform. While this has been developed as the evaluation and monitoring tool for the National Leisure Recovery Fund, it offers far greater potential and significantly enhances our evidence base for the unique contribution that public leisure brings in our communities, calculating the social impact on education, reduced crime rates and enhanced wellbeing from visits to our leisure centres. All councils should now have received your first reports – I do hope that you've found them useful. Let us know how you are using them.
4. Finally, we are developing a research paper on the future of public leisure, summarising the state of play and identifying opportunities for future delivery. It will offer a blueprint for councils looking to focus and enhance their delivery of sport and physical activity services, in light of the challenges we all face.

Culture and heritage

5. On 24 March, we met with Neil Mendoza, the Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and held a constructive conversation about what culture can do to help level up areas, and identified a need to work closely together to ensure councils can develop strong bids for the levelling up and UK shared prosperity funds.
6. We are also in discussion with the National Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England about the support they provide to councils, and will shortly be running some regional workshops to support you to access their funding and advice and identify what training needs could be addressed through a joint programme with the LGA. If you have ideas, please let us know.

Events and parkrun

7. More recently we have been working with the events industry to support large scale events return safely. On 4 June, I chaired a webinar on the mass events pilots attended by 658 delegates, sharing learning from Liverpool, Gateshead and Doncaster councils, as well as the Chief Operating Officer of Parkrun. We have been working closely with parkrun and I am delighted that most of their parkruns will be able to resume on 26 June.

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

Sector support programme

1. We presented the Improvement and Innovation Board with our end of year report for sector-led improvement offer in 2020/21. The report (to be published on the LGA website in June 2021) captures programme highlights from across all areas of activity – focusing in particular on the COVID-19 refocused support offer, which provided councils with tools and resources to respond to COVID-19 and associated challenges. Examples include:
 - 1.1 The delivery of 300 remote based peer improvement programmes to 250 councils (almost three quarters of all English councils), including to assist with COVID-19, recovery and renewal and the rough sleeping response
 - 1.2 Our new [Rough Sleeping Peer Support offer](#), which was accessed by 222 councils in receipt of Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding or other rough sleeping funding
 - 1.3 More than 630 councillors received COVID-19 related development through participation in member development programmes
 - 1.4 Attendance at LGA virtual events reached near 10,000 virtual visits.
 - 1.5 Hundreds of examples of council led good practice were published on the LGA website, in particular, [to support the COVID-19 response](#).
 - 1.6 During the height of the pandemic, we engaged with or provided support and information to every council
 - 1.7 We set up a Remote Council Meetings Hub [\(updated as the Online and hybrid meetings hub\)](#), comprising a central pool of information, advice, and guidance from partners. This hub received more than 56, 000 views and was among the most popular pages on the LGA website
 - 1.8 We launched a [carbon accounting tool](#), in collaboration with Local Partnerships, which has been downloaded by near 200 councils and endorsed by the Committee for Climate Change (whose role it is to advise and report on progress made on emissions targets and to the UK Parliament).

2. Following recent discussions with MHCLG, it is welcome news that our sector support offer for councils in 2021/22 has been agreed. Our new [sector support summary](#) outlines the range of tools and resource councils can access, including support around financial resilience and economic recovery, training and capacity building opportunities, and support to build safer and more sustainable communities. This updated offer is designed to meet councils' improvement needs and provide support to address key challenges, such as issues relating to COVID-19 and climate change.

3. With social distancing measures easing, we look forward to restarting more elements of face to face support, including our Corporate Peer Challenge programme; while continuing to make use of remote and blended support where councils find this flexibility helpful.
4. A first milestone for the year achieved as part of the new sector offer was the launch of our [Equalities, diversity and inclusion \(EDI\) hub](#), which brings together the range of support and resources we offer in this area including: equalities peer support, leadership and workforce support, community cohesion resources and a range of EDI case studies. Councils that have progressed EDI standards in their own organisations are encouraged to email research@local.gov.uk to contribute further examples to the case study page.

Climate Change

Webinar: Creating meaningful engagement with communities on climate change

5. The LGA, in partnership with the Design Council, organised a webinar on scaled design approaches across the public sector, which stimulated new thinking on collective climate change matters. Cllr Neil Prior, Deputy Chair of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board, chaired the event with over 180 attendees. He also launched a [climate change communications](#) guide and reminded colleagues of the [behaviour change and the environment guide](#).
6. The various initiatives and approaches presented demonstrated the importance of engaging with residents, communities, organisations and wider stakeholders to build momentum and raise awareness of collective efforts. [Slides](#) and a [Blog](#) were also published to help carry forward knowledge from the session.

Webinar: Scope 3 greenhouse gas accounting guidance for social care

7. In May, Councillor Andrew Cooper chaired an [event](#) with over 80 attendees. He launched guidance for local authorities on measuring and managing [Scope 3 greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions](#). The guide offers sector-specific guidance for social care services Scope 3 GHG emissions, covering all the main aspects of social care spend and applicable to both outsourced and in-house services. It covers how to get started and make the most impact in your Scope 3 greenhouse gas accounting, giving practical ways to work with social care providers. The [Greenhouse Gas Accounting toolkit](#) has also been updated to incorporate wider Scope 3 reporting.

Cyber Security and Digital

Digital Connectivity Webinar – Wednesday 16th June 2021, 14:00-15:30pm

8. This webinar, to be held next month, will showcase innovative work that councils are doing to deliver digital connectivity provision for their local place, through superfast and gigabit broadband in addition to the mobile rollout and the emerging possibilities of 5G. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from these examples and hear

from leading sector representatives in the digital space. Further details and the link to sign up can be found [here](#)

Councillor Introduction to...Digital and Data Training Series - Resource Hub

9. In March, the LGA concluded the Councillor Introduction to Digital and Data Training series. The sessions explored how councillors could harness technology and data to help deal with COVID-19 pressures and to support residents, businesses, and local communities through digital enablement. After each session, councillors received resource packs containing case studies, presentations, and Q&A notes. To access all resource packs, please click [here](#).

WIG Organisational Raid

10. The Whitehall & Industry Group (WIG) is a collaborative group, involving government, industry and the not-for-profit sector. WIG have approached the LGA to host an Organisational Raid – facilitated sessions, where 2 organisations (or more) learn from each other on how they tackle a particular challenge. This will involve colleagues from across the sector who play leading roles in transformation, IT and digital. Any interested parties should contact tom.denman@local.gov.uk

LG inform reports

Remote Council meetings

11. During the coronavirus emergency, councils have innovated new ways of working to meet social distancing guidelines and keep members, staff and the public safe. Holding public meetings remotely has been central to the approach. On 29 March 2021, the LGA published [a report on English councils and attitudes to remote meetings](#). This method of delivery for meetings has now been overruled by the High Court and we are encouraging councils to provide opinions to the MHCLG Call for Evidence on remote council meetings [here](#).

The Cyber Threat to Local Government

12. In March 2021, ICAEW published an [article](#) focusing on the cyber threat to local government, with contributions from Improvement and Innovation Board Chair, Cllr Peter Fleming. This article covers the prominence of existing ransomware groups, mitigation of cyber-attacks and managing any potential risks. Cllr Fleming wrote that 'Every senior manager and leader needs to understand cybersecurity.'

Leadership and Localism

Future Leaders

13. On 25 March, Cllr Fleming led a session with the LGAs Future Leaders. This session focussed on a leader's perspective on clear, concise and successful communication.

Social Media

14. In March 2021, Cllr Peter Fleming also ran social media training with Central Bedfordshire Council.

Leadership Academy

15. Work was completed in developing all the Leadership Academy virtual modules to enable us to provide the space to deliver and complete all of the 2020-2021 Leadership Academy programmes with 81 members completing.

Leadership Essentials

16. We successfully converted all of our Leadership Essentials programmes to run virtually, including Audit Committee; Finance; Effective Scrutiny, Effective Cabinet Member, Children Services and others. A total of 377 members attended these virtual programmes.

LGA Leaders Programme

17. The Leaders programme was completed, with Cllr Izzi Seccombe of Warwickshire County Council speaking about her experiences of collaborating effectively across a variety of situations. Lord Gary Porter spoke on emerging central Government demands in policy and financial terms.

New Councillor Hub

18. The LGA has developed a New Councillor hub to provide newly elected members with all the essential information they need and complement the induction support councils have in place. It replaces our annual Councillors' Guide and, amongst other things, covers: the councillor's role; how local government is organised; the model code of conduct and standards; and decision making. It includes information on the offers and services available through the LGA with links to: the political groups at the LGA; regional teams; information on our support and development offers. The Hub is a live and evolving resource which will be updated and provide information and links relevant to new members, and can be accessed via <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/councillor-development/new-councillor-hub>.

LGA National Events: Welcome to Newly Elected Councillors

19. Following the recent elections the LGA are now pleased to invite all newly elected councillors to attend one of our virtual national welcome events, hosted via zoom. This will be a great opportunity for new councillors to explore what their role means; learn about challenges facing councils; and meet colleagues from other councils. The session will cover a range of national and regional issues of interest, along with an opportunity to meet experienced councillors and hear more about the LGA's support for members.
20. The virtual events are free of charge and will run for 90 mins on **11th June (2pm)**, **22nd June (10am)** and **28th June (5:30pm)** and delegates can choose to attend one of these sessions to suit their availability. The sessions will be hosted by the LGA and will complement council's own induction programmes. Delegates can register via the [LGA's Events page](#).

E-Learning

21. Self-registration is now available on [the new e-learning platform](#). Councillors can register to the new platform, which is designed to provide a more up to date learning experience. Our new platform helps to create a bespoke learning programme, where you can choose the modules most relevant to your needs. Modules include deepening knowledge of local government, the essential leadership skills needed to work effectively with communities and much more. For more information, please visit the [website](#) or email: elearning@local.gov.uk

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People & Places Board – Report from Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chairman)

Devolution

1. In the run-up to the Queen's Speech, we [published research](#) showing 58 per cent of MPs and 80 per cent of peers agree that councils should be given greater powers and funding to drive employment and training schemes in their areas.
2. The LGA [responded](#) to the House of Lords Public Services Committee report on Levelling Up, saying bringing greater resources and powers over key responsibilities, such as skills, transport and housing, closer to communities is the best way to ensure we have a recovery that works for everyone.
3. We responded to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry into jobs, growth and productivity after coronavirus, setting out the important convening role played by local government in the many aspects of the local economy.
4. Following confirmation that the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper has been superseded by the Levelling Up White Paper, the Board is discussing how to ensure that the sector's devolution priorities and the opportunities for rural and non-metropolitan areas can best be included within this new agenda.
5. Following the successful launch of its report in March, the Devolution APPG held its Annual General Meeting in May and agreed a new work programme.

Employment & Skills

6. On 25 March, we brought together Whitehall leads with councils to engage on, and shape, Plan for Jobs related activity, and ran a workshop with the sector and the National Audit Office on its inquiry into the workings of DWP during Covid-19.
7. We responded to the [DfE's flexi-apprenticeship consultation](#), noting councils' important convening work during the pandemic, setting out the case for recovery interventions to be locally tailored, and pointing out councils' key role in ensuring interventions are coordinated nationally and locally.
8. We launched a new [Local employment and skills recovery learning hub](#) at a [webinar](#) on 20 May with 208 delegates. The hub contains *Top tips on five themes to boost a local jobs and skills* and thirteen case studies highlighting practical local government action to coordinate jobs and skills during the pandemic and a report capturing lessons for the future.

9. We also launched a [report](#) capturing action learning to support local authorities identify barriers and challenges in fulfilling their statutory duties for young people and identify solutions.
10. We [briefed](#) for the 15 April Westminster Hall debate on the Education Committee's report on adult skills and lifelong learning; making the case for the role of local government.
11. We continue to work with sector to set out the implications of the Government's Adult Education Budget funding rule change on councils' adult and community learning provision.
12. We responded to the House of Lords Youth Unemployment Committee's inquiry into measures taken to protect and create jobs for young people, reiterating our asks for young people in the recovery.

EU Funding & UKSPF

13. Following the launch of the UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus, officers are speaking to a number of lead authorities to seek feedback on the CRF process and any learning that might be made available for the design of the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Digital Connectivity

14. We promoted to councils a request by the Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan for their support to help students access education online by adding the 'eduroam' network to their existing public Wi-Fi network, at no extra charge.

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Resources Board – Report from Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (Chair)

Local Government Finance

Queens Speech

1. On 11 May, the Queen [set out](#) the Government's agenda for the next Parliamentary session.
2. Key legislation includes new Bills for planning, the environment, skills and post-16 education, health and care, and building safety, as well as plans for a levelling up White Paper and Adult Social Care reform. The LGA produced an [On the Day Briefing](#).

Public Health Grant

3. [Public health grant allocations for 2021/22](#) were published on 16 March. The grant is £3.24 billion (up £45 million or 1.4% since 2020/21). The LGA [responded](#) to the public health grant announcement and provided a [briefing](#).

Business Rates

4. An [interim report](#) for the Business Rates Review was published on 23 March – the final report is expected in Autumn 2021.
5. The Government announced at the 2021 Budget that the reliefs for retail, leisure and hospitality and nurseries, which were 100 per cent for 2020/21, would be extended for the first three months of 2021/22 at the same level. From 1 July 2021 they will be granted up to 66 per cent with caps, the higher level being given to businesses required to close on 5 January 2021. Councils will be fully compensated for these reliefs.
6. Following a consultation, the Government announced that it will legislate to change the criteria for determining whether a holiday let is valued for business rates. This is something that we lobbied for in order to reduce business rates avoidance. Further details are expected to be published shortly.
7. The Government has also introduced legislation to rule out claims for material change of circumstance due to COVID-19 and associated measures.

Capitalisation

8. Resources Board lead members cleared responses to the CIPFA consultations on the [Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities](#) and the [Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes](#).

COVID-19

9. The LGA continues to receive access to data from the monthly returns submitted to MHCLG on the financial challenges arising from COVID-19, which based on the April data amounts to £9.5 billion of in-year pressures for 2020/21 (cost pressures and non-tax income losses), with a further £2.2 billion of local tax income losses, impacting budgets in 2021/22. This is prior to considering mitigating factors and Government support provided so far.

10. For the first quarter of 2021/22 (April 2021 to July 2021) councils are projecting an additional £2.2 billion of in-year financial pressures (consisting of £1.6 billion of cost pressures and £0.6 billion of non-tax income losses).
11. On 11 March, the LGA [responded](#) to the Public Accounts Committee's [call for evidence](#) on the evolving financial pressures on local government and support provided by central government in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. Councils have continued to distribute grants to businesses affected by COVID-19 measures. To date councils have now paid out around £20 billion to businesses for all grants.

Audit Issues

13. In March the National Audit Office published a [report on the timeliness of local auditor reporting on local government](#). Resources Board Lead members cleared a written submission to the subsequent [inquiry on this by the Public Accounts Committee](#).
14. Lead members cleared a [response](#) to a consultation from MHCLG on [proposed changes to the timetable for setting audit fees](#) to enable more up to date information to be taken into account when the annual fees are set.
15. The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy are undertaking a [consultation on proposals for a major overhaul of the UK audit regime](#). The LGA will respond to the consultation.
16. MHCLG have now laid [regulations moving the audit deadline](#) to 30 September for two years. In addition, MHCLG consulted on proposals for [allocating £15 million of additional funding](#) to cover expected additional audit fees which was announced in December as part of the [Government's response to the Redmond review. In May MHCLG published an update to their response to the Redmond review](#).

Workforce

Local Government Pay 2021

17. In February, the NJC unions (UNISON, GMB and Unite) lodged pay and T&Cs claims for local government ('Green Book') staff for 2021 which sought a 10% pay award and a range of improved terms and conditions.
18. Councils were consulted in March at the usual round of [virtual] regional pay consultation briefings. On 14 May, the National Employers made a pay offer in respect of staff covered by the local government services ('Green Book') NJC. This offer included:
 - 18.1 With effect from 1 April 2021, an increase of 1.50 per cent on all NJC pay points 1 and above;
 - 18.2 Completion of the outstanding work of the joint Term-Time Only review group
19. The employers have also proposed that the NJC begins immediate exploratory discussions on three other elements of the claim, as follows:
 - 19.1 A national minimum agreement on homeworking policies for all councils
 - 19.2 An agreement on a best practice national programme of mental health support for all local authorities and school staff
 - 19.3 A joint review of the provisions in the Green Book for maternity / paternity / shared parental / adoption leave

20. However, there was no support from councils for the offer to include the three other elements of the unions' claim, which were therefore rejected.
21. The NJC Trade Unions wrote to the National Employers on 21 May 2021 to reject the 1.5 per cent pay offer and have requested urgent talks. The employers will consider the unions' letter and respond in due course.

Police Staff Pay 2021

22. The Trade Union side has submitted a one year pay claim for a headline increase of three per cent or £1,000 on all pay points and allowances. In addition, the claim includes a review of leave provisions and a review of incremental steps on the pay spine.

Fire Pay 2021 & Core Code of Ethics

23. A claim has been received for firefighters seeking an increase of more than £4,000 to 'restore real wages loss over more than a decade of austerity'. Any pay award would be effective from 1 July.
24. A claim has now also been received for senior uniformed managers seeking 'an unconditional pay increase for all Brigade Managers, with effect from 1st January 2021, that is commensurate with other fire and rescue staff in the UK'.
25. The Core Code of Ethics and supporting guidance is now completed and was launched on 18 May. It has been developed in partnership with National Fire Chiefs Council and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

Teachers' Pay 2021

26. The Government's public sector pay pause means that the vast majority of teachers will not receive a cost of living pay award in 2021, apart from the proposed increase of £250 for unqualified teachers (UQTs) earning less than £24k (FTE). Officers attended an oral evidence session in March to answer questions posed by the School Teachers Review Body (STRB) on the National Employers (NEOST) written evidence submitted in February 2021. Government is expected to respond to the STRB report and publish the draft statutory teachers' pay and conditions document in early July.

Soulbury Pay Review

27. Following a consultation, the National Employers have decided to reject proposals from the staff associations on a review of Soulbury pay spines.

Exit payments

28. MHCLG have requested annual exit pay data back to 2014/15. The request was significantly amended following engagement with the department by LGA officers but remains a challenge for councils given the short turnaround time of around three weeks. We also understand that MHCLG are considering issuing guidance in relation to 'special' severance payments made by councils. Both are indications of the government's intention to bring back exit cap legislation in this year.

Social Care - Making vaccination a condition of deployment in older adult care homes

29. Government issued a consultation in April 2021 seeking views on proposals to make COVID vaccination a condition of deployment for care home staff. The consultation sought views on the proposal, any potential impact it could have on staffing and safety, how it could be implemented and who could be exempt.

30. The LGA submitted a response to the consultation on 20 May 2021 following clearance from all lead members on the Community Wellbeing and Resources Boards. Our response highlighted several issues including the importance of continuing current efforts to maximise voluntary take up of the vaccine, taking a targeted approach may be more proportionate in areas where take-up rates remain lower than the 80 per cent target and highlighting the entrenched absence of parity of esteem between the NHS workforce and the care workforce. You can read the full response on the [LGA website here](#).

Social Care – Workforce Strategy

31. The LGA Workforce Team is part of the drafting group for a Social Care Workforce Strategy that is being led by Skills for Care. The group involves a range of organisations that came together to prepare a joint statement on social care for last year's spending review, including ADASS, CQC, Age UK and Social Care Future. The strategy will be built around the workforce priority headings in the joint statement and will be finalised by late spring to help influence the promised Government reform agenda.

Social Work Healthcheck

32. The National Healthcheck report for social work is now available on our website and 133 councils will receive their bespoke reports by the end of May.

Return to Work Programmes (Social Work, Legal, Planning, ICT)

33. Returners have now completed their training programmes and graduation ceremonies took place in April. 66 councils and over 300 candidates are now in contact with one another.

Environmental Health Together

34. This platform went live at the end of October 2020 and attracted 224 qualified Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) and 122 councils subscribed. Councils can use this resource for free to help support Environmental Health teams. The success of the project meant it is being extended into 2021.

Social Work Together

35. Over 1,000 qualified social workers were registered, with 108 councils subscribed. Councils can use this resource free of charge to help support their Social Work teams and avoid agency costs by employing directly.

Apprenticeships – Incentives and Flexi Apprenticeships Consultation V

36. Following lobbying from the LGA, we were pleased to see the Government announce an extension to the duration of and an increase in the value of the Apprenticeship Incentives first announced last Summer. The incentives can be claimed by employers for hiring new apprentices and are now worth £3,000 per new apprentice between 1 April and 30 September 2021. We are continuing to urge Government to extend the incentives to at least 31 March 2021 to help ensure that no opportunities for apprenticeship starts are missed during the recovery.

37. The Government launched a consultation on their new Flexi-Apprenticeship policy in April. Flexi-Apprenticeships and Portable Apprenticeships are being introduced to help support apprenticeships in sectors where there are large numbers of time-limited job roles that do not last the minimum twelve months an apprenticeship must last, such as construction or the creative industries. There are potential opportunities to use this policy in local government and with our partners as well, such as small primary school sharing an apprentice between them or developing rotational apprentices in social care with the NHS. The LGA plans to respond to the consultation and a draft was in production at time of writing.

EU Funding

38. As the European Structural and Investment Fund Programme ends in 2023, the LGA's objective is to ensure the fund is fully spent. There has been significant improvement in spending European Social Fund, which means it is more likely that the fund will be fully realised.
39. £56 million of the European Regional Development Fund has been allocated to the [Welcome Back Fund](#), to support councils reopen their High Streets safely. The LGA has been essential in ensuring that MHCLG engage with districts councils to make the fund a success.

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Safer and Stronger Communities Board – Report from Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Chair)

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

1. On 18 May, I gave [oral evidence](#) to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee for the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#). During the session, I emphasised the importance of taking a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime, investing in prevention and early intervention, as well as identifying the risk factors and drivers of youth violence. I highlighted our LGA ask for the Government to extend funding for Violence Reduction Units (VRU) to all areas and commit to funding VRUs for five years. MPs also raised questions about unauthorised encampments, youth custody, Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews, and the right to protest. We will be submitting written evidence to the Committee shortly, which will be published on the Committee website in the coming weeks. The Bill is expected to progress through House of Commons Committee Stage, until 24 June 2021, before moving to Report Stage.

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Abuse

2. On 24 May, I spoke at the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Abuse, following the Domestic Abuse Act receiving Royal Assent. During the session, I spoke about the new statutory duty placed on local authorities to deliver accommodation-based support and services for domestic abuse victims and children, and I highlighted some of the progress that has been made to set-up Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards and conduct needs assessments. I also welcomed the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's commitment to reviewing the need for community-based services and make provision for this vital support for domestic abuse victims. We continue to work with the Commissioner, the Government and councils to help implement the provisions outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act and help to improve the response to domestic abuse overall.

Fire Inclusion and Diversity Champions Network

3. In March, the Network held the second session of its two-part meeting series on 'Racial Equality in the Fire and Rescue Sector'. Facilitated by Kemi Labinjo, Barrister and Director Amber and Greene, Members participated in several interactive learning activities that focused on anti-racism in practice. The LGA is in the process of developing an annual plan for the Champions Network, which will guide the EDI learning and development activity in 2021/22.

Fire Commission

4. The LGA held an additional Fire Commission meeting on 26 March to discuss Phase 1 of the Government's Police and Crime Commissioner Review, in particular the announcements regarding fire governance and reform. The Fire Minister, Lord Greenhalgh, attended the meeting to outline the Government's proposals.

Strategic Resilience Board

5. In April the Home Office held their Strategic Resilience Board, with discussions on industrial relations and Covid.

HMICFRS External Reference Group – fire inspection

6. Cllr Rebecca Knox from the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the Inspectorate's Fire External Reference Group on 6 May. A range of issues were discussed including the second round of inspections, equality, diversity and inclusion and monitoring.

Fire Services Management Committee

7. On 21 May the LGA Held it's Fire Services Management Committee. Issues on the agenda included building safety, HMICFRS and their approach to Equality, Inclusion and Diversity.as well as updates on standards, workforce and the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme.

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Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 11 March 2021
Venue: Online via Zoom

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>Chairman's Welcome</p> <p>Cllr James Jamieson (The Chairman) welcomed members to the meeting and gave a brief reminder best practice in remote meetings.</p>	
2	<p>Digest of the last meeting held on 21st January 2021</p> <p>The Chairman asked members to agree the digest of the previous meeting as an accurate record.</p> <p>Decision The members of the Councillor's Forum agreed the digest of the meeting on Thursday 22nd October 2020 as an accurate record.</p>	
3	<p>Panel Discussion - Impact of COVID-19</p> <p>The Chairman introduced the discussion noting that the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in issues cutting across the remits of multiple LGA policy boards, creating complex challenges for local authorities.</p> <p>The Chair's of several boards were invited to discuss these issues, starting with Cllr Judith Blake (Chair, LGA Children & Young People Board). Judith noted the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The re-opening of schools on w/c 8/3/21 presented a major challenge to local authorities particularly regarding attainment, socialisation, mental health and social inequalities. Education recovery was a growing priority, with the need to ensure sport, welfare and mental health were considered alongside attainment.- Children from low income households were more heavily impacted by the pandemic, with additional educational and financial support. The recovery process would need to consider housing, access to green spaces and ability to play/socialise.- Local authorities had illustrated the importance of the role in the	

education system and supporting schools. Judith encouraged the sector to focus on delivering for children.

The Chairman next invited Cllr Ian Hudspeth (Chairman, LGA Community Wellbeing Board) to speak. Ian noted the following points;

- The Pandemic created a new relationship with the Government, with new ways of working and reporting required to deliver results. Local Government played a key role in the delivery of contain frameworks and local testing. Adequate funding to enable local authorities to fulfil their role was emphasised.
- Testing was outlined as an area of significant cross cutting work. Surge testing illustrated the importance of local knowledge in delivering hyper-localised efforts. Asymptomatic workplace testing was also being expanded in collaboration with businesses.
- The vaccination programme required cross sector cooperation.
- Supporting and protecting vulnerable people had seen collaboration across departments and branches of local government, with partners, voluntary bodies and communities. Moving forward the reintegration of individuals who had been shielding long term would require a similar effort.

The Chairman invited Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair, Culture, Tourism & Sport Board) to discuss relevant issues. Gerald noted the following points;

- Sport was noted a key issue moving out of lockdown, especially with the growing obesity and mental health crises. The need to maintain and develop modern sporting facilities for continue community access, especially in low income areas.
- Welcomed the £100m National Leisure Recovery Fund but highlighted concerns that leisure provision was under threat. A risk existed that leisure providers could collapse or withdraw due to additional costs, having knock on effects community services.
- Welcomed the dedicated funding for arts and culture, through the Culture Recovery Fund.
- Libraries in many cases continued to remain open and provide services, vital to support an extended re-opening especially for children and the elderly.
- Emphasised that nationwide local government is a major investor in sport, the arts and tourism, often more so than Sport England, Visit England and the Arts Council. Vital that Government should recognise this and include local government in recovery planning.

Cllr Richard Watts (Chair, Resources Board) was invited to speak. Richard noted the following points;

- Funding has been the core issue, with the pandemic costing local government circa £10.2Bn in 2020/21. Consisting of £7.3Bn in spending and £3Bn lost in non-tax income. Figures for losses on

council tax and sales, fees & charges won't be clear until 2021/22.

- The Government put forward substantial packages unringfenced and specific grant-based funding, as well a promise to compensate authorities for 75% of council tax and business rates income. However, support was not available for commercial losses. The LGA was pushing for full compensation of council's costs, to make up the estimated £2.6Bn shortfall.
- Looking ahead, welcomed £1.5Bn grant funding and council tax support for 2021/22, though foresaw a £2.5Bn shortfall.
- A sustainable settlement for adult social care was vital, given that it could account for 60-70% of upper tier authorities' spending.
- Final figures for Public Health funding were needed to enable local teams to support vaccination efforts, particularly for harder to reach or hesitant communities.
- For low income households, the Universal Credit uplift and Self-Isolation payments were welcomed, but questions remained over scale of funding and long-term application.
- Programmes were launched to reintegrate experienced Environmental Health, Planning and ICT staff to workforces.
- EU successor funding work has seen £51Mn of ERDF reserves dedicated to re-opening high streets and the European Social Fund money being used to close the digital divide.

Finally the Chairman called Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Chair, Safer & Stronger Communities Board) to speak. Nesil noted the following;

- Compliance and enforcement were highlighted. Public and environmental health teams played key roles in closing/opening business, health & safety in the workplace, supporting social distancing and supporting the Test & Trace programme. Funding had been secured to support this work.
- Death management was also noted as significant area of activity. Regional coordination was used to manage pressures and mitigate capacity issues. Greater resilience was built ahead of the second wave of infections. The LGA continued to lobby on key issues.
- Finally, authorities had worked closely with the Police on crime and anti-social behaviour. The increased risk of domestic violence and abuse had necessitated effective police partnerships.

In the subsequent discussion the following points were raised:

- A question arose on how to secure greater NHS engagement on reaching the outstanding 15% of the most vulnerable groups who had not yet been vaccinated. Ian responded noting that the NHS had been very guarded about data sharing throughout the pandemic but that work is ongoing. The Chairman added that the Local Outbreak Planning Advisory Board has been stressing the

need for data sharing.

- An observation was made on an apparent breakdown of social distancing in schools and by parents collecting children. Judith responded explaining that evidence of such was being seen across the country, regular testing in secondary schools was creating a sense of complacency. Noted that locally, Leeds City Council was preparing information packs to highlight the continued importance of social distancing measures.

4 Chairman's Update

The Chairman presented the update, noting it summarised his activity since the previous meeting. Noted that recent work had been focused on COVID response, Health & Care Bill, the 2021 Local Elections and the continued use of remote meetings.

5 LGA Board Chair Reports

The Chairman invited the following Board Chair's to present their written reports;

a. Children & Young People Board – Cllr Judith Blake CBE

Judith drew attention to Independent Review of Children's Social Care and encouraged all authorities with the consultation. Judith also announced that she would be stepping down as Chair of the Children & Young People Board, thanking LGA officers and colleagues for their work and cooperation.

b. Community Wellbeing Board - Cllr Ian Hudspeth

Ian added that a range of specific concerns were being raised around Integrated Care Systems and coterminous boundaries.

c. Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board – Cllr David Renard

In his update Cllr David Renard (Chairman, Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board) noted the following;

- A Government consultation on future home standards was underway. The LGA was lobbying on specific funding for modernising and refitting homes to sustainable standards. Work continued on building standards and cladding.
- On planning reform a White Paper was expected in Autumn 2021.
- LGA webinars were planned on Social Housing White Paper and on invigorating high streets.
- Expressed concerns that if specific funding is discontinued councils won't be able prevent increasing numbers presenting as

homeless from rough sleeping.

- Greater emphasis will be placed on climate change work in the build up to COP26.
- David noted that he wrote to the DfT regarding the reduced 2021/22 highways maintenance settlement.

d. People & Places Board – Cllr Kevin Bentley

In his update Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chairman, People & Places Board) noted the following:

- Lobbying continued on improved digital services and skills training in often deprived rural and coastal areas.
- The Government announced the locations of the ten Freeports.
- Evidence was published to the Environment Audit Select Committee on green jobs.
- The pilot scheme for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was announced in the Spring Budget. Lobbying from across the LGA for local government to administer the fund was successful.

6 Presentation from The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

The Chairman welcomed the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP (Secretary of State for Health & Social Care) to give a speech. The Minister noted the following points in his speech:

- Thanked the LGA for its input on the Health & Care Bill White Paper. A collaborative effort developed over two years; the Paper was focused on ensuring health services are effectively structured including those provided by local authorities.
- In the current system there is a disconnect arising from accountability for services at local and national levels. The White Paper aims maintain accountability while reducing bureaucracy, improving cooperation and increasing service levels.
- The Minister explained that while concerns around the timing of the Bill were noted, it is critical to do preparatory and Parliamentary work to allow implementation in 2022/23.
- Enacting the correct structures for Integrated Care Systems (ICS) in a population health management model was a key element to ensure resources were leading to community health outcomes. Such necessitated collaboration to plan jointly and align budgets.
- The Bill made provisions for greater transparency on social care to inform policy making and response to align the split accountabilities at local and national levels. A range of Public Health reforms including moving fluoridation to a national accountability and actions on tackling obesity were also included.

- Intended that the Bill would interlink with and support other reforms to public health, social care and mental health provisions to ultimately deliver improved public services.

In the subsequent discussion the following points were raised:

- A question arose on prospects for a long-term adult social care funding settlement. The Minister responded that the settlement is a complex issue and cannot solely be funding focused.
- A concern was noted that the Bill could legislate against local care funds. The Minister explained that there was to integrate local programmes not undermine them.
- Specific concerns were noted with some proposed ICS boundaries, particularly on how ensuring they meet local circumstances, need and authority boundaries. Matt explained boundaries need to consider and work with local authority boundaries in order to deliver the best standard of care possible. He added that work continues a number of proposed boundaries in order to find the most suitable model.
- A concern was expressed with the proposals from an accountability perspective as it was felt that local government would not be an equal partner under the reorganisation. The Minister responded that the intention was to create a structure joined up different strands of work as effectively as possible.
- A question arose on the role of local Public Health teams under proposals, given the key role they had played in the pandemic response. Matt stressed that the role of public health would be strengthened and the delivery partnerships built on a local and national levels would be further enhanced.
- In response to a query on how the Levelling-Up agenda had been considered in the White Paper, Matt explained that the Fund was in the remit of MHCLG but in a health perspective the aim was to reduce inequalities and enabling people to lead healthier lives.
- An explanation was requested of the role Health & Wellbeing Boards would have in the new structure. The Minister responded that the Boards would play a strategic planning role, with ICS responsible for delivery.

The Chairman thanked the Minister for attending the meeting, and for the good progress of the vaccination programme.

7 Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked members for attending. He also wished all members standing for election luck and thanked any members stepping down for their work.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton	Lincolnshire County Council
	MBE	
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Nick Chard	Kent County Council
	Cllr Andrew Day	Warwick District Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Paul Middlebrough	Worcestershire County Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Linda Robinson	Wychavon District Council
	Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
	Cllr Katrina Wood	Buckinghamshire Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes CBE	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Paulette Hamilton	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Oliver Ryan	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Shama Tatler	Brent Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council	
Cllr Andrew Western	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-	Portsmouth City Council	

Jackson CBE
Cllr Colin Mann
Cllr Paul Woodhead

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cannock Chase District Council