

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 21 October 2021
12.30 pm

Bevin Hall, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square,
London, SW1P 3HZ

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

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

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

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Councillors' Forum
21 October 2021

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 21 October 2021**
Bevin Hall, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

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

11.00am	Conservative	Westminster Suite (8 th floor)
11.00am	Labour	Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Independent	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Rathbone Room 1&2 (7 th floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm in The Terrace Lounge (7th Floor).

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Political Group meetings:

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

Apologies:

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: 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

Location:

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

LGA Contact:

Jonathan Bryant
jonathan.bryant@local.gov.uk

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 2021/2022

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (39)	
Cllr James Jamieson OBE (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Vice Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset County Council
Cllr Linda Robinson	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Joanne Laban	Enfield London Borough
Cllr Nicholas Jones	Bury Metropolitan Borough
Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council
Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Richard Wenham	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Mohan Iyengar	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Nick Chard	Kent County Council
Cllr Alan White	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Proctor	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Antony Mullen	Sunderland City
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland District Council
Cllr Emily Barley	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough
Cllr Olivia Lyons	Cannock Chase District Council
Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
Substitutes	
Labour (36)	

Cllr Nick Forbes CBE (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Jas Athwal	Redbridge London Borough
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Oliver Ryan	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Borough Council
Cllr Georgia Gould	Camden Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Paulette Hamilton	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Andrew Western	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
Cllr Carl Johnson	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Damien Greenhalgh	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Rachel Sutton	Exeter City Council
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Islington London Borough
Cllr Naushabah Khan	Medway Council
Cllr Dhanisha Patel	Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr Andrew Morgan	Rhondda Cynon Taff
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Doina Cornell	Stroud District Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Shama Tatler	Brent Council
Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Substitutes	
Independent (11)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	North Kesteven District Council
Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell District Council
Cllr Paul Woodhead	Cannock Chase District Council
Cllr Sue Baxter	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr Rosemarie Harris	Powys County Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Helen-Ann Smith	Ashfield District Council
Cllr Sarah Rouse	Malvern Hills District Council
Cllr Mike Haines	Teignbridge District Council

Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
<i>Substitutes</i>	
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Joe Harris (Vice-Chair)	Cotswold District Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
<i>Substitutes</i>	

Agenda

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12.30 pm

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Item	Page
1. Chairman's Welcome	
2. The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP - Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	1 - 2
3. Digest of the last meeting held on 22 July 2021	3 - 10
4. Chairman's Update	11 - 12
5. LGA Board Chair Reports	
a) Children and Young People Board - Cllr Antoinette Bramble	13 - 14
b) City Regions Board - Mayor Marvin Rees	15 - 16
c) Community Wellbeing Board - Cllr David Fothergill	17 - 18
d) Culture, Tourism and Sport Board - Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	19 - 22
e) Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board - Cllr David Renard	23 - 28
f) Improvement and Innovation Board - Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	29 - 32
g) People and Places Board - Cllr Kevin Bentley	33 - 34

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| h) | Resources Board - Cllr Shaun Davies | 35 - 40 |
| i) | Safer and Stronger Communities Board - Cllr
Nesil Caliskan | 41 - 43 |

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Page

6. Update on Cyber Security

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 27 January 2022, 12.30 pm, Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP



Biography

The Rt Hon Michael Gove was appointed Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 15 September 2021.

He was previously Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster from July 2019 to September 2021. He was also Minister for the Cabinet Office from February 2020 to September 2021. He was Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from June 2017 to July 2019. He was elected Conservative MP for Surrey Heath in 2005.

Education

Michael was educated at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University.

Political career

Michael was Shadow Minister for Housing from 2005 to 2007 and Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from 2007 to 2010.

He served as Secretary of State for Education from May 2010 until July 2014. From July 2014 to May 2015, he served as Government Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury. Michael also served as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice from May 2015 until 14 July 2016.

Career outside politics

Michael became a journalist after leaving university, working as a reporter for The Press and Journal in Aberdeen, a researcher and reporter at Scottish Television and a reporter for BBC Television. He was later Assistant Editor of The Times.

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 22 July 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>Discussion on Social Care</p> <p>The Chairman invited Cllr David Fothergill (Chairman - Economy, Environment, Housing & Transport Board) to introduce the discussion.</p> <p>David noted that adult & children's social care is a major challenge for authorities with long running policy and funding issues. He then invited Stephen Chandler (President – Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) to present on the ADASS Spring Survey. Stephen noted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The survey focused a range of issues facing Director's of Adult Services (DAS). - The COVID-19 pandemic continued to drive demand for services above expectations. - Over 2021/22 local authorities were forecast to spend £16 billion on adult social care, accounting for 36.9% of total expenditure nationwide. There was a £1.15 billion funding gap in 2020/21, exacerbated by a circa £200 million shortfall. - The one-off short term funding to cover COVID-19 services had masked existing and long-term funding problems in 2020/21. Councils were also relying heavily on reserves and the Social Care Precept to meet funding needs. - The demographics of adults accessing support had changed with increased spending on adults of working age. DAS were also seeing increased work on homelessness and domestic violence cases. 	



- The survey measured the confidence of DAS in delivering services in the year ahead:
 - o 21% were fully confident of meeting their statutory duties
 - o 79% had no or partial confidence on their budgets meeting statutory duties
 - o 40% were most concerned on their ability to provide care and support for work age adults, while 3% worried most about services for older people.
- Based on responses there were significant waiting times for adult services. Over 75,000 were waiting for a care assessment or review, with a further 159,000 reviews overdue for existing service users. 19,000 who had been assessed were waiting to access support.
- Prevention was noted as an area for more work and investment, with 73% of DAS highlighting prevention as a means for delivering longer-term savings.
- To meet existing and future demand ADASS was called on the Government to; publish plans for funding reform, provide sustainable funding and implement a long-term adult social care plan.

David thanked Stephen for his presentation, and moved on to discuss LGA policy and activity on adult social care matters:

- The Government's social care reform proposals were due to be announced in coming months. Combined with lobbying for a multi-year settlement in the Spending Review, the social care agenda was expected to be busy.
- The LGA was calling for funding gaps and COVID-19 expenses to be fully met. Work was ongoing across multiple channels to deliver system reform that; addressed unmet need, developed a new deal for the workforce, improved quality & provision, secured sustainable funding and protects from catastrophic costs.
- Engagement with ministers and the Department for Health & Social Care was taking place across a variety of channels. This included regular meetings Ministerial Local Government Engagement Group chaired by the Minister for Care (Helen Whately MP).

David invited Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Chair – Children & Young People Board) to discuss issues around children's social care and LGA activity. Anntoinette noted the following points:

- The LGA's Child Centered Recovery report was forming the core of lobbying on attempts to deliver secure a cross party, child focused recovery. LGA Vice-President David Simmonds MP led a Westminster Hall debate on developing a cross-Government strategy

to improve outcomes for children on 14/7/21.

- The CYP Board and officers were engaging with the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, where the LGA is making calls to improve investment in Family Help and increase support for families. The LGA response to the Case for Change was due in August 2021.
- The LGA published a joint response with the Association of Directors of Children's Services to the Government's consultation on standards for unregulated care settings.
- The Department for Education are assessing a capital programme to support councils to develop or expand children's homes.
- Work continued on the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and ensuring local authorities cooperated on providing care.
- The publication of the SEND Review was expected in Summer 2021. The LGA continued to push the Government to recognise the challenges experienced by councils, and to ensure sufficient funding.

In the subsequent discussion members raised the following points:

- A question arose on the role of the Social Care Precept in long term funding plans. David noted that the LGA is pushing for an effective long-term solution to social care funding. He added that the Precept was a short-term fix which had been unfair on some areas.
- Members noted increasing levels of demand for SEND support which should be addressed in the ongoing Review. Concerns were also noted on access to specialist and medical services, whilst balancing such against community-based services. Anntoinette responded explaining that the LGA had called for a flexible framework between early intervention and long term support at all stages of development. On accessing specialist services Anntoinette recommended building close links with CCG's to tap into further resource.
- It was suggested that the High Needs Formula should be updated to meet current service needs. Anntoinette agreed on this point.
- A view was expressed on awarding a fair pay settlement to care staff in line with NHS staff given their work during the COVID pandemic. Stephen explained that any pay award must be sustainable in the long term, but that councils should be more public in thanking staff. He added that, work was need to promote social care as a career option with good pay and progression outlooks. Anntoinette echoed these points for children's social care staff.
- Concerns were expressed with uptake levels of Early Intervention, with many families refusing support. Anntoinette responded that

further work was needed and encouraged authorities to partner with local partners and charities to build trust.

- A concern was noted on the Health & Care Bill and the potential for greater medicalisation of social care services. David explained he believed the Bill gave welcome flexibility and local leadership. Cooperation with the NHS would be vital to deliver services.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their time.

Decision

The members of Councillor's Forum noted the discussion and points raised.

3 Chairman's Update

The Chairman presented the update, noting it summarised his activity since the previous meeting which included:

- Lobbying ahead of the second reading of the Health & Care Bill.
- The Planning Bill had been delayed until Autumn 2021.
- Working to encourage take-up of National Transfer Scheme. Where the DfE and Home Office had largely met local government's calls, it was important receiving authorities received assistance.

In the subsequent discussion members raised the following points:

- Members emphasised the importance of more flexible working arrangements for local councils and their committees. The disruption being caused by self-isolation was impacting the decision-making process. The Chairman explained that the LGA has consistently pushed for more hybrid and virtual meeting options to be extended to local authorities.

Decision

The members of the Councillor's Forum noted the report.

4 LGA Board Chair Reports

The Chairman invited the following Board Chair's to discuss their reports:

a. Children & Young People Board – Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Chair)

In the update, Anntoinette noted the following points:

- The most recent Board meeting, members heard from the following speakers:
 - o Hackney Borough Council on its diverse curriculum and discussing the contribution of black people in British history.
 - o Dame Rachel De Souza (Children's Commissioner for England) on

the Big Ask survey conducted on school age children in England.

- Noted that several sessions had been held at LGA Annual Conference.
- The LGA launched “A whole household approach to young people’s mental health” which provides advice and resources to councillor’s around improving young people’s mental health.
- A joint meeting of lead members from the CYP and CWB Boards was held with Andrea Leadsom MP on the Best Start for Life review.
- Also heard from the Children’s Commissioner and the Big Ask work currently underway.

In the subsequent discussion members raised the following points:

- Concerns were raised at the engagement rates with the National Transfer Scheme. It was felt that other local authorities needed to engage with the programme and take pressure of receiving authorities to provide suitable accommodation for UAS children.

b. Community Wellbeing Board – Cllr David Fothergill (Chairman)

In the update, David noted the following points:

- Noted thanks to Ian Hudspeth as his predecessor as Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board.
- The Board conducted a hybrid meeting on 15/7/21.
- The Board continued to work on the Health & Social Care Bill, with a focus on giving greater local leadership and improving wellbeing nationwide.
- Drew attention to a number of sessions the Board had conducted at LGA Annual Conference, particularly the plenary session with Professor Chris Whitty (Chief Medical Adviser).
- Additional work was ongoing on the Autism Strategy, Suicide Prevention and Drugs Misuse.

In the subsequent discussion members made the following points:

- It was suggested that a discussion be undertaken on the potential impact of the NHS Pay increase being drawn from existing funds and impact on local authority linked services.

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

In the update, David noted the following points:

- The publication of the Planning Bill was expected in Autumn 2021.

The MGLCG consultation received some 44,000 submission. Cllr Adele Morris led a session discussing the topic of reform in detail.

- The Board held a special meeting to discuss the Government's waste management proposals. Responses were submitted to a range of consultation papers.
- Work was taking place across the LGA on the role of local government at COP26. Several session proposals had been submitted for inclusion in the Government controlled zone.
- The Future Foundations campaign and online hub had been launched to highlight positive stories and good practice on council housing. The hub provides content for lobbying and housing campaigns.
- The LGA planned to publish a paper outlining the ambitions and role of local government in delivering further EV charging capacity.

In the subsequent discussion members raised the following points:

- Members questioned whether the role of hydrogen fuel cells in transport had been considered alongside EV charging. David responded that hydrogen had been raised in discussions with the Government and he personally believed it should be higher on the agenda. He also noted there were some concerns with industry capacity and investment.
- It was also suggested that more consideration should be given to the use of Geothermal energy production.

d. People & Places Board – Cllr Morris Bright (Vice-Chairman)

In the update, Morris noted the following points:

- Devolution had been a recent priority with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government stating devolution is a priority moving forward. The LGA supported APPG on Devolution published a paper on *Levelling Up Devo*.
- Research had been commissioned into the strengthening recovery and renewal in coastal areas.
- The LGA was due to publish research on strengthening the COVID recovery and resilience in rural areas in July 2021.
- Lobbying continued on the Government's Adult Education Budget funding rule change and the impact on councils' adult and community learning provision.
- 30 bids were submitted for Freeport status. The LGA was lobbying Government on proposals to ensure areas with unsuccessful bids were not left behind economically relative to successful bidders.

Decision

The members of the Councillor's Forum noted the written reports and verbal updates.

5 Digest of the last meeting held on 10th June 2021

Decision

The digest of the meeting on 10th June 2021 was accepted as accurate.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	North Kesteven District Council
	Cllr Joe Harris	
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 Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Cllr Janet Clowes	Cheshire East Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
	Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes CBE	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth 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	
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council	
Cllr Dhanisha Patel	Bridgend County Borough Council	



Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Cllr Andrew Western	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Gerald Vernon- Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Rosemarie Harris	Powys County Council
Cllr Paul Woodhead	Cannock Chase District Council
Cllr David Fothergill	

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities from 26 July – 22 October 2021

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

July	
29	Bob Seely MP
August	
4	Eddie Hughes MP
4	Patrick Farrington, Leader Staffordshire Borough Council
4	Alan White, Leader Staffordshire County Council
4	Olivia Lyons, Leader Cannock Chase District Council
5	Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader and Rob Bridge, CEO North Northamptonshire
6	Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader Wandsworth Council
6	Cllr Kieron Williams Leader Southwark Council
9	Alok Sharma MP - UK Mayors and Regional Advisory meeting
12	Oliver Hemsley, Leader Rutland County Council
12	Neil O'Brien MP
12	Chris Poulter, Leader Derby County Council
12	Cllr David Mellen, Leader Nottingham City Council
12	Ben Bradley MP
16	Local Outbreak Plan Advisory Board
17	Luke Hall MP
17	Cllr Claire Holland, Leader Lambeth Council
17	SofS Sajid Javid MP
18	Stephen Barclay MP
18	
September	
7	Helen Whately MP
10	Ben Houchin, Mayor Tees Valley
10	Cllr Glen Sanderson, Leader and Cllr Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader Northumberland CC
10	Cllr Amanda Hopwood, Leader/Cllr Richard Bell, Deputy Leader/Cllrs Alan Shield and John Shuttleworth, Durham CC
14	Report launch – Future of public sport and leisure
14	Select Committee evidence - Afghan resettlement scheme
15	Chris Pincher MP
15	Nicola Richards MP
16	Cllr James Lewis, Leader Leeds CC
16	SofS Michael Gove MP
16	Cllr Emily Barley, Rotherham Council
16	Cllr Stephen Houghton, Leader Barnsley Council
22	Andrea Leadsom MP
22	Gary Sambrook MP
22	Devolution All Party Parliamentary Group
23	David Rutley MP
24	Local Outbreak Plan Advisory Group

October	
1	Maggie Throup MP
15	Local Outbreak Plan Advisory Group
19	Clive Betts MP
19	Lee Rowley MP
20	Kemi Badenoch MP

Meetings with organisations and individuals

July	
27	Edel Harris, CEO Mencap
August	
6	Stephen Chandler, President ADASS
6	Marc Jones, Chair Association of Police & Crime Commissioners
7	Evidence Session – Health & Care Bill Public Committee
11	Ian Copeman, Housing Learning & Improvement Network
13	Kerslake Commission
18	Sue Baxter, Chairman National Association of Local Councils
19	Sam Monaghan, CEx Methodist Homes for the Aged
September	
6	Maggie Rae, Faculty of Public Health
6	Anne Longfield, Chair Commission on Young Lives
7	Charlotte Ramsden, President ADCS
13	Kerslake Commission
14	Zulfi Karim, President of the Council for Mosques in Bradford
21	Sarah Newton, Chair HSE

Events and speaking engagements

September	
8	North West Regional Leaders Board
14	Report launch - Future of public sport and leisure
15	South East Councils AGM
16	SHiP Conference Leeds
17	MJ Achievement Awards
23	Launch event for the final report of the Kerslake Commission
24	Commonwealth Housing – Exempt Accommodation webinar
28	West Midlands Leaders Meeting
October	
3-5	Conservative Party Conference
19	East of England APPG and EELGA Parliamentary Reception
20	Department for Education ministerial reception
21-22	DCN Annual Conference

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

Children's Leadership Essentials

1. On the 23rd and 24th September I led our first in-person Children's Leadership Essentials course since early 2020. Lead Members for Children's Services and Children's Scrutiny leads had the opportunity to discuss topics including the shape of an effective Lead Member/Director of Children's Services relationship, the evolving council role in education, effective use of data, multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the SEND review.

Independent review of children's social care

2. We have responded to the "[Case for Change](#)" report published by the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. In [our response](#), we covered a range of issues that we felt had not been fully considered by the review, including the context in which children's social care works, the influence of inspection and the role of schools in supporting children. We also made clear our view that separating family help from child protection would not lead to better outcomes for children, emphasising the fact that balancing these functions is a core skill of children's social workers, with help and protection operating on a continuum according to changing needs.
3. On 1 October, our representative on the review's Design Group, Baroness Blake of Leeds, attended a meeting with the review team to discuss the ways in which councils support kinship carers and how this can be developed. In the meeting, Baroness Blake drew on her experiences at Leeds City Council as it reformed its approach, and also highlighted challenges faced by councils in meeting the needs of kinship carers, including working with the family court and demands on children's social care funding.

Secure children's homes

4. On 4 October, I wrote to Will Quince MP, Minister for Children and Families, to outline the Board's concerns around sufficiency of placements for children in secure children's homes. We, along with colleagues in ADCS and others in the sector, have been raising this issue for some years and the introduction of a ban on the use of unregulated placements for under 16s, while supported by councils, has exacerbated the challenges. As I made clear in my letter, we must do better by the young people who need this kind of support. I have asked for information on the Government's work to improve sufficiency and will continue to raise the profile of this issue, which cannot wait for the publication of the Care Review for a resolution.

Children and Young People Board

5. I was pleased to welcome Dame Andrea Leadsom MP to our Board meeting on 14 September to provide an update on the Start for Life Review. Dame Andrea gave an update the review's proposals which members welcomed, alongside the progress that has been made to date with the digitalisation of health information. Members also raised the challenges around funding for the proposals, the need for a partnership response and the importance of social determinants to improve health and wellbeing.
6. We were also joined by Ian Dean, Director of the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), and his colleagues. The team provided an important overview of the Centre's work to improve research and practice in this area, including a discussion on the Centre's latest "[scale and nature of CSA](#)" report and the ways in which the Centre can support councils in their work to protect children and tackle all forms of CSA.

Contextual Safeguarding

7. On 4 October, nearly 300 councillors and officers joined me for a [webinar about contextual safeguarding](#). On the webinar, I was pleased to speak alongside Dr Carlene Firmin who developed the contextual safeguarding approach, Becky Lewis, Strategic Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager at Bristol City Council, and Carly Buchecker, System and Practice Lead at the London Borough of Hackney. We outlined the ways in which the approach focuses on the context in which harm can occur, drawing in partners from across the council and the community to develop safe spaces for teenagers. I was pleased to chair a busy question and answer session after the presentations, with attendees keen to consistently improve the ways our services can keep children and young people safe.

Contact officer: Ian Keating
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 02076643032
Email: Ian.Keating@local.gov.uk

City Regions Board – Report from Mayor Marvin Rees (Chair)

Employment and skills

1. The Skills for Jobs [White paper](#) introduced earlier this year proposed a range of reforms which give new employer representation bodies (e.g. Chambers of Commerce) a lead role in setting out the technical skills provision needed for their local areas. To deliver the reforms, the Government brought forward legislation and two consultations.
2. The Skills and post-16 Education Bill, introduced to Parliament in May, designates new employer representative bodies (ERBs), seeks to make it a legal requirement that ERBs and colleges collaborate to develop Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs), introduces new Secretary of State powers to intervene when colleges fail to deliver, and puts in place provisions for a new Lifelong Learning Entitlement. Our latest briefing to influence the Bill's passage through the Lords can be viewed [here](#).
3. Last week the LGA responded to a DfE further education funding and accountability systems [consultation](#). In it we said that the Government should not merge Community Learning into the National Skills Fund, or if it is, it must be ringfenced so that this provision is protected. Any amalgamation risks losing significant community capacity, especially at a time when local authorities and their partners are already experiencing a tailing off European Social Fund, coupled with delays in replacing ESF with an uncertain quantum of Shared Prosperity Fund.
4. We also call for adult skills funding (Level 2 and below) to be at least restored to 2010 levels and devolved to all local and combined authorities, that the complementary role of councils' adult education provision is understood, resourced and recognised in proposals to reform the FE system, and that councils should have a new 'Community Skills Lead' role with strategic responsibility for adult education planning and work with the proposed ERBs and the provider base to align provision and ensure progression routes. The LGA also responded to the DfE National Skills Fund. Both responses will be available on our [website](#).

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Community Renewal Fund

5. As part of our lobbying for a localised, place-based replacement for EU funding – the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), the LGA has secured an officer level taskforce including the other home nation local government associations, including the Welsh LGA. The Chairs of the People & Places and City Regions Boards agreed that the different levels of English local government should be represented by council representatives for Core Cities, CCN, DCN, Key Cities and London Councils. Three meetings have been held before the spending review where representatives raised a number of key points, including the need for there to be a political level taskforce, the case for a fully devolved fund with the removal of departmental silos and the urgent need for the Government to

announce the successful programmes of the Community Renewal Fund – the pilot programme for the SPF. We are likely to hear further detail of the SPF at the Spending Review and will continue to press for the need for the SPF to be co-designed on a political and officer level.

6. We have urged the Government to announce the successful programmes for the Community Renewal Fund, the pilot programme for the SPF. We tabled parliamentary questions and raised councils' concerns through the Growth Programme Board and the SPF taskforce (above). The Boards have agreed to capture learning from the Community Renewal Fund to support local government with the introduction of the SPF. This work will start when the delivery of the CRF programmes have commenced.

Devolution

7. On 29 July the Board oversaw the publication of a new guide to help councils navigate devolution deals [Devolution deal to delivery | Local Government Association](#). This sits alongside the LGA's refreshed devolution hub, which provides a wide range of devolution related resources.
8. The Devolution APPG, which is supported by the Local Government Association has continued to take forward its agreed work programme. On 22 September the Group held its second meeting, focused on the role constitutional reform might play in securing further devolution.

Urban Issues

9. On 10 September the LGA published [A vision for urban growth and recovery | Local Government Association](#), which analyses the consequences of COVID-19 for urban economies makes the case for a step-change in policy and funding interventions.

Local Growth

10. The City Regions Board has agreed to jointly sponsor and attend the Business in the Community Place Task Force looking at the role of business in place-led regeneration. Cllr Abi Brown will represent this Board and the Task Force will report back in April 2022.
11. On 7 September the LGA published [Councils support local businesses to take advantage of international trade opportunities](#).

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Email: Rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Board – Report from Cllr David Fothergill (Chairman)

Public Health

1. I spoke at the British Medical Association webinar earlier this month on working together to address health inequalities. In my speech I highlighted the important contribution councils can make to reducing health inequalities and in improving the health of the public through the many services we deliver, in particular our early years services, education, housing, employment and welfare, social care, leisure and public amenities, and environmental health and trading standards teams.
2. The Board jointly hosted with the Coastal SIG a webinar on Health in Coastal Communities earlier this month. This followed on from the Chief Medical Officer's recent report on the health in coastal communities which identified that the health challenges of coastal towns, cities and other communities are serious, and their drivers are more similar than their nearest inland neighbour. This means a national strategy to address the repeated problems of health in coastal communities is needed in addition to local action. In the webinar at which I spoke we highlighted the need to tackle the health problems of coastal communities vigorously and systematically to ensure we address the possibility of a long tail of preventable ill health which will get worse as current populations age. It also set out the significant strengths in coastal communities along with many exemplary and impressive examples of local work taking place to support the health of local citizens.
3. At the end of September the LGA hosted a webinar to discuss the recommendations of Dame Carol Black's Independent Review into Drug and Alcohol treatment and recovery services, and alongside it we published [Must Know: Treatment and recovery for people with drug or alcohol problems](#). The purpose of this guide, developed in partnership with Public Health England (PHE), is to raise awareness about drug and alcohol related harms and empower councillors by providing an introduction to treatment and recovery services, key considerations, signposting to useful resources, as well as any questions you need to ask to support effective decision making.

Health Integration

4. At the start of October I spoke at the webinar jointly hosted by the LGA's Care and Health Improvement Programme with the NHS Confederation and NHS Providers on Integrated Care Partnerships in which I set out the LGA's and local government's key messages on Integrated Care Partnerships as part of a panel discussion.

Suicide Prevention

5. In September, Cllr Rosi Sexton attended the National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group. Cllr Sexton emphasised that we all need to remain vigilant about the potential impact of the pandemic on suicide rates in the medium to long-term, especially

as the economic consequences continue to be felt, and continue to support groups at highest risk.

Better Ageing

6. We hosted a webinar with Centre for Ageing Better which I chaired that discussed the findings of the [Good Home Inquiry](#). More than 80% of homes that will be needed in 2050 already exist today. Yet over 4 million of them are classed as being below the most basic minimum standard of decency. Over the last 14 months The Good Home Inquiry, supported by the Centre for Ageing Better, has set out to explore not only why we are in this position, but also what we can do about it. Speakers include David Orr CBE, Chair of the Good Home Inquiry, Emma Lower, Chief Executive Lendology, and Sean Johnson, Public Health Programme Manager, Lincolnshire County Council.

Loneliness

7. Cllr Rosemary Sexton will be speaking on local governments role in addressing loneliness at the Institute of Government & Public Policy conference on 'Working in partnership to tackle loneliness and isolation' on 19th October. We continue to represent local government on the governments Tackling Loneliness Network.

Media work

8. I have responded to a range of media issues including the Health Foundation Report on the impact of the pandemic on the clinically extremely vulnerable, the IPPR report on reducing health inequalities, the Skills for Care report on the value of adult social care, the Diabetes UK report on 1 in 10 having the disease by 2030, the Health Foundation analysis on the investment needed in public health, fuel shortages and their impact on adult social care, and the Unison survey on social care vacancy rates.

Contact officer: Mark Norris
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 02076643241
Email: *mark.norris@local.gov.uk*

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

Culture and libraries

1. Chair of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke at the virtual whole Directorate away day for the Arts, Heritage and Tourism Directorate at DCMS on the 16th September on the topic of 'place' and local government within the Levelling-Up agenda.
2. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke at a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Theatre, about council's role in UK theatre and how local and national government, and the sector, can work together to secure recovery.
3. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson met with Giles Watling MP, Chair of the APPG for Theatre. Following the meeting Giles Watling MP wrote to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to highlight the need for all Government Departments to improve their strategic relationship with the LGA.
4. Cllr Barry Lewis, CTS Board Member and Leader of Derbyshire County Council chaired an LGA/National Lottery Heritage Fund/Arts Council England/Historic England webinar on Place-based Collaboration for Culture and Heritage in the East and Midlands region on the 5th October. This was attended by over 80 delegates. It highlighted regional best practice and supported council delegates to gain a better understanding of national funding priorities in relation to culture, heritage and place-making.
5. Cllr Tom Hollis as Libraries Champion for the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board has continued to engage with the Library Accreditation programme, led by Libraries Connected and the Arts Council.
6. Cllr Phil Seeva has joined the Creative Industry Council's Regions and Clusters Working Group as a representative of the CTS Board and is speaking at their meeting on the 14th October.
7. The CTS Board have contributed to the development of the Commission on Culture and Local Government, to be launched later this year. The Commission was discussed on the 28th September with Lord Neil Mendoza, Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal and representatives of DCMS, who have expressed their support for the aims of the project.

Responses

8. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Government's new Online Media Literacy Strategy on the 14th July, commenting that for many communities, libraries remain one of the most trusted places and sources of information that many people can rely on for help, whether it be accessing wellbeing support, services or developing their digital media skills through online courses.

- 9 On the 6th August, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the announcement of a Government-backed insurance scheme, which the LGA had called for, noting it provided a 'lifeline' for the events industry.
- 10 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the publication of Arts Council England's Delivery Plan on the 16th September, commenting that the LGA is supportive of the plan and that partnership working with arm's length bodies is vital in making sure that funding invested in communities, goes further and has a greater impact. He noted that as place-makers, councils are in a unique position to be able to support this through the provision of locally-led culture facilities, including museums, libraries and arts organisations and that the LGA stands ready to work with Arts Council England to deliver high quality, opportunities to create and engage in culture.

Tourism

- 11 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Independent Review of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) in England, concluded by the Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport on the 14th September. He noted the LGA was pleased that the importance of local authorities to tourism was recognised by the report and agreed that DMOs should continue to work closely with councils and combined authorities on the growth of the visitor economy. He strongly endorsed the idea of creating a Tourism Data Hub.

Sport, Leisure, Parks and Green Spaces

- 12 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke at the parliamentary launch of "[Securing the future of public sport and leisure services](#)". The event was attended by almost 100 MPs, Peers, civil servants and council representatives. Delegates heard about the report's two priority recommendations for Government to stabilise the sector and equip it to meet the needs of future communities and the seven recommendations for Government, councils and wider partners as we seek to rebuild back better and local following the pandemic.
- 13 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke about the abovementioned report at a joint meeting for the APPG for Sport, and the APPG for Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Responses

- 14 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Government's new Health Incentives programme on behalf of the LGA on the 12th July. He commented that the programme represents an exciting approach to encourage people to get active and make healthier choices, drawing on the resources of businesses, public and private sectors to work collaboratively in opening up opportunities to residents of all ages and backgrounds. He noted however, that it is vital to have access to high quality facilities, which will require significant government investment of at least £700 million to redesign, upgrade and renovate to the standard needed.
- 15 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the restarting of Park Run on the 24th July, commenting that our public parks and green spaces benefit people of all ages and

backgrounds, and as one of the largest providers of these facilities councils are committed to ensuring these spaces continue to be accessible for everyone.

- 16 On the 29th July, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Sport in our Committees Select Committee report, noting that the report rightly recognises that local government is at the forefront of providing facilities, supporting both formal and informal opportunities for activities that are accessible to all members of the community. He urged the Government to use the forthcoming Spending Review to put local government finances on a long-term, sustainable footing, so councils can repair ageing facilities, and resume providing sports development support to the clubs and communities that need it.
- 17 On the 4th August, the LGA responded to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, warning that the legacy of Team GB's success during the Tokyo Olympics risks being lost without further investment in grassroots and community sport facilities, the Local Government Association. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson commented that We must take action now if we want to ensure this success is repeated in the future, and that young people from all backgrounds can aspire to compete in future Games.
- 18 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the publication of a Swim England report on the 22nd September which warned that nearly 2000 swimming pools could be lost by the end of the decade. He noted that the findings in this report adds to our own recently published evidence highlighting that 72 per cent of schools rely on public swimming pools to teach children how to swim and water safety skills making them essential for delivering the national curriculum.

Contact officer:	Ian Leete
Position:	Senior Adviser
Phone number:	02076643143
E-mail:	Ian.Leete@local.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, HOUSING & TRANSPORT BOARD – Report from Cllr David Renard (Chairman)

Housing, Planning and Homelessness

Leadership Essentials – Housing

1. The second [Leadership Essentials](#) course on housing ran over two days on 16-17 September. Speakers included representatives from Homes England, One Public Estate, Cotswold District Council, Doncaster Council, Runnymede Borough Council, and Tower Hamlets Council. This year's course helped participants develop their leading role in shaping the local housing market, covering a wide range of topics such as delivering with affordable housing with partners, and delivering net zero housing solutions. Councillor Darren Rodwell, Deputy Chair of the EEHT Board, gave a keynote speech at the dinner attended by all delegates.

Keynote speech at Westminster Social Policy Forum

2. On 11 October I gave a keynote speech at the [Westminster Social Policy Forum](#) on the local government perspective on council housebuilding, locally-led planning and sustainable communities. The half day conference entitled 'Next steps for house building in England' included speakers such as Housing Minister Chris Pincher and was attended by a wide range of delegates including MPs, councillors, London Assembly Members, academics, civil servants, local government officials, and representatives from the private and third sectors. The Minister of State for Housing, Chris Pincher, also spoke at the event.

New evidence supporting our campaign for 100,000 new social homes

3. To support the evidence base for our [Spending Review](#) submission, we published a new report by Pragmatix Advisory. This was commissioned jointly with the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA) and the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH). The report demonstrates how building 100,000 social homes would improve the public finances over thirty years by the equivalent of £24.3 billion. This builds on the LGA's ['Building post-pandemic prosperity' report](#) commissioned late last year. The new report also looks at how building 100,000 social homes will support: economic recovery from COVID-19, the government's levelling-up ambitions, the construction sector to deliver low carbon homes, and action to address the climate emergency. New data from the report has been included in our submission to this year's Spending Review.

Rough Sleeper Peer Support Programme Report and Webinar

4. At the end of last year, the LGA and the former MHCLG, now DLUHC, worked together to develop the Rough Sleeping Peer Support programme in order to share learning and best practice during the "Everyone In" policy. This involved facilitating a programme of 28 Delivery and Impact Panels involving 222 councils, the findings from which have fed into a report which was published on

9th September. The report highlighted some best practise as well as challenges within the sector and opportunities for positive change. The report was launched with a webinar which was attended by around 120 councils with speakers from DLUHC and Leeds City Council amongst others.

Out of Area Placement Protocol

5. Previous work commissioned by the LGA investigated issues relating to out of area moves in order to improve our understanding and find ways the LGA could help to mitigate some of the concerns. This was with a view to improving the position for both councils and the households being moved away from their home area.
6. The outcome report presented several options for sector-led improvement. This resulted in the appointment of an independent expert and the establishment of a working group that developed a set of sector-led guidelines, with an accompanying communication and dispute resolution process. The out of area placements protocol has now been drafted and is open for consultation with homelessness and children's services until October 19th

Kerslake Commission

7. LGA hosted the final report release for the Kerslake commission report on homelessness and rough sleeping on 23rd September in Bevin Hall. Speakers at the event included author Bob Kerslake as well as politicians from across the spectrum, colleagues in health and people with lived experience.
8. The report's recommendations include: the Government developing a longer term rough sleeping strategy built on the success of their Everyone In policy; the maintenance of the £20 Universal Credit uplift; increased joint working by all organisations involved in homelessness by extending the Homelessness Reduction Act's Duty to Refer, to make it a Duty to Collaborate; introducing a Quality Assurance framework for those providing homelessness accommodation; establishing a clear policy position that limiting access to benefits for non UK nationals should stop short of causing destitution; reducing the reliance on communal shelters through improving planning in relation to extreme cold or severe heat.

Social housing management peer challenge

9. The LGA is working with partners to develop a Social Housing Management Peer Challenge in light of the Social Housing White Paper, which maps out the future for social housing regulation and focuses on consumer protection and redress. Through this, councils across the country will be able to access independent external expertise within the sector to provide robust assurance and improvement for social housing management. This year there will be a small number of pilots to inform proposals for 2022/23.

Housing Advisers Programme 2021/22

10. The [Housing Advisers Programme \(HAP\)](#) has returned for a fifth year and is open for applications for 2021/22. The programme will continue to fund the provision of bespoke expert support to councils – or groups of councils – wanting to transform the delivery of homes and places, the quality and security of existing homes and/or to prevent and reduce homelessness. HAP will award up to £20,000 to successful applicants for the purpose of securing expert advice in transforming how a service or

partnership meets the housing need of communities. This year there is emphasis on strategic housing projects that will support local authority housing delivery.

Building Safety

11. On 9 September, Cllr Renard gave evidence to the committee stage of the Building Safety Bill, reiterating the points made in our written submission.

Transport

The Transport Decarbonisation Plan

12. The key item at the last EEHT Board was on the Government's Transport Decarbonisation Plan and the potential implications for councils and priorities for further work for the LGA. Professor Greg Marsden, University of Leeds, and Konstanze Scharring, from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) were invited to lead and provide expert input into the debate. Items for discussion included EV charging infrastructure, the role of councils and the challenges of incentivising modal shift.

Electric Vehicle charging

13. As mentioned in the last report, we have now published a report undertaken by Local Partnerships on the LGA's behalf on scoping the role of local authorities in the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This report can be found [here](#). We will use the findings to help ensure that councils receive the right amount of support and resources to help them play an effective transition to electric vehicles.
14. In relation to this work, the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) are consulting on whether there should be a statutory obligation on councils to plan for and deliver a charging infrastructure. The deadline for responses is 22nd November and the LGA intend to respond. We would welcome any member councils that want to share and inform the LGA's response to do so with Simon Jeffrey simon.jeffrey@local.gov.uk.

Climate Change

COP26

15. We will be able to send delegates to the formal negotiations at COP26, in the blue zone with equivalent observer status. Priority days for the LGA will be the 10th and 11th November, which are the transport and cities, regions and built environment days. We have proposed to hold events inside the blue zone on these days and have been successful in our expression of interest to the UN. We await confirmation and further clarification on our other proposed events. The LGA has also successfully secured an exhibition space in the public-facing green zone, in partnership with NILGA. This will take place on 11 November and will showcase the leading work of councils to tackle climate change.

Climate Change Task Group

16. A priority area of focus for the Task Group is to develop strategic relationships with key partner organisations and engage Ministers across Whitehall about how national and local government can work in partnership to address key climate challenges. We have met with partner organisations, such as UK100 and the Local Governments for

Sustainability (ICLEI) and Ministers from different government departments. These have included from DLUHC, DfT and the COP26 Presidency team.

Permanent Secretaries/Local Government Chief Executives roundtable

17. In September, a roundtable took place between a number of Permanent Secretaries and UK local government chief executives to discuss local government's role in climate change. Representatives from all the four UK local government associations were present. Permanent Secretaries from DLUHC, DfT, DEFRA, BEIS, DfE and Treasury attended.

This marks the beginning of a new collaborative arrangement across Government and local authorities on delivering net zero and adaptation.

Low carbon infrastructure policy research

18. We are preparing to launch this research before COP26 alongside a press release and social media threads. Focusing on buildings and transport, it will set out the strategic and economic case for the local delivery of low carbon infrastructure and initial findings were present to the EEHT Board in July. It will contribute to the development of a robust evidence base that strengthens our lobbying on climate change.

Environment

Water

19. On 29 September the Local Government Association [responded to Defra consultation: the Government's strategic priorities for Ofwat](#) welcoming the updated statement of priorities.

Waste and recycling

20. On 2 August, Cllr David Renard, Chairman - Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board Local Government Association (LGA), co-signed a letter to the sentencing council calling on them to consider tougher fines and sentences for fly tipping offenders. Currently, sentences handed down do not always match the severity of the offence committed or fairly reflect the costs incurred by the public purse. This means that punishment for the offence of fly tipping does not act as a suitable deterrent. The letter was signed by 158 local authorities and 10 professional bodies.

Trees

21. On 16 July Cllr Linda Gillham chaired an LGA webinar about Tree Management & Woodland Creation. We had speakers from The Tree Council talking about why tree management matters, speakers from Defra and the Forestry Commission talking about new opportunities including the England Woodland Creation Offer and Local Authority Treescape Fund and a presentation on the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. [The presentations are available on the LGA website](#)

Contact officer: Eamon Lally
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 02076643132
Email: *Eamon.lally@local.gov.uk*

21 October 2021

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

Improvement Update

1. With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in July, face to face support offers have been able to resume, including the Corporate Peer Challenges. Remote peer support remains available, including recovery and renewal panels, remote corporate health checks and bespoke remote peer support.
2. The LGA has proactively engaged with councils following local government elections in England in May. Support has been offered to all councils that have seen a change of political control and our regional teams have already provided support (including top team development, mentoring and other leadership training) to more than 75% of those councils. We continue to be in conversation with those who have yet to receive support and have provided further support to a number of councils where there has been a change of leader or portfolio holder.
3. Councils interested in accessing peer support or support following elections should contact their Principal Advisor for further information.

Leadership and Localism

4. Webinar: Becoming an effective ward councillor

On Wednesday 21 July, the Leadership team hosted a webinar for new and recently elected members on being an effective ward councillor. Chaired by Cllr Liz Green, Lead Member for Climate Change/Sharing Practice, and Alison Edwards, Adviser – Leadership, the webinar provided delegates a deeper understanding of their ward role and how they might increase their effectiveness by outlining the main areas of the ward councillor position and discussed the key skills needed to be effective in carrying out day-to-day activities. The webinar was attended by 43 councillors.

5. Webinar: Developing a safe and effective social media presence event

On Monday 13 September, the Leadership team hosted a webinar with a focus on the use of social media. Chaired by Cllr Peter Fleming, Chairman of the Improvement and Innovation Board, the session provided newly and recently elected councillors with an overview of social media platforms and supplied them with tips and advice on how to build an effective online presence and build their reputation, whilst staying safe. The webinar was attended by 59 councillors.

6. From September a number of our Leadership programmes have commenced including Communication and Media; Fire and Rescue; Effective Cabinet Member; Climate Emergency; Housing; Economic Growth; Leading Healthier Places and Risk Management. We also have started our 200th Leadership Academy which is the flagship political leadership programme of the LGA recognised by the Institute of Leadership and

21 October 2021

Management. On October 9th-10th, the LGA held a Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Councillors Event providing a unique and networking opportunity to BAME elected members committed to developed their leadership effectiveness and careers.

7. More [Leadership programmes](#) are set to take place in the near future. Our Annual Young Councillors Weekender event taking place on 13-14 November, our Women Councillors Weekender event 4-5 December 2021 and our annual Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Councillors Weekender taking place 19-20 February 2022.

We have launched a second Leadership Essentials EDI programme for councillors: Leadership Essentials: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The aim of the course is to strengthen the skills of councillors to champion equality, diversity and inclusion within their elected role.

Climate Change

8. **LGA Annual Conference 2021: Green light services to address our planetary emergency**

The climate change plenary session on green light services to address our planetary emergency took place on 7 July and was chaired by Councillor Liz Green. The session featured speakers from local, national and international organisations who discussed the importance of local government in the fight against climate change and their role at COP26. It was attended by 313 attendees.

9. **Webinar blog: Greening procurement**

In this session, attended by 133 councils, we heard first-hand experience from different local authorities about their innovative approaches to procurement. Councillor Neil Prior, Lead Member for Transparency, Productivity & Efficiency, chaired the session which included early market engagement; collaborating with stakeholders and suppliers; and the use of design and technology to overcome and mitigate climate challenges.

10. **Local Action for Our Environment Podcast**

The LGA has released the Local Action for Our Environment podcast ([linked here](#)), a training resource for council officers and Members. Focusing on community engagement, this podcast helps support councils on a pathway to net zero, enabling councils to fight climate change locally with the right tools, techniques and know how. We are very pleased that Councillor Liz Green has been the podcast host for the series.

Data and Digital

11. Over the summer, Councillor Peter Fleming was interviewed by Executive TV for an industry programme to be broadcast on Sky TV, called 'Adopting Transformation', in which he talked about digital transformation and the use of location data in local government. Following the broadcast on 10 October, the programme has been available at <http://www.executivetv.org>

21 October 2021

12. Cyber Security – 10 questions for a 'layperson' to ask

Following engagement with Councillors and colleagues in Local Government, the Cyber Security and Digital team have produced a list of potential questions that can be used by councillors to find out more about their councils cyber security planning which are as follows:

- I. How does my council understand, assess, manage, and remediate cyber-risk and what testing regimes, policies, processes and tools do we use?
- II. Do my council's decision makers and scrutineers have the knowledge and information they need to make/scrutinize decisions relating to cyber-risk?
- III. How do officers back up council data – is this secure, offline and regularly tested?
- IV. Are staff given training on their role in reducing cyber-risk? Is cyber security understood as a whole workforce issue?
- V. Do members receive regular cyber security updates – including on threats, incidents and near misses?
- VI. How does my council use the National Cyber Security Centre's tools and services?
- VII. What are the response, recovery and continuity plans for cyber incidents? Are they exercised and tested?
- VIII. How would we deliver services if, following a cyber-incident, we had no access to IT?
- IX. What are we doing to understand and manage cyber security risk within the supply chain?
- X. How well connected is my council with others who it may learn from, or may support it in the result of an attack?

13. Housing

Our Housing Advisors Programme returned in September for a 5th year and is now open to applications. This programme is part of the LGA's sector-led improvement offer and aims to continue to fund the provision of expert support to Councils wanting to transform the delivery and quality of homes and places in their communities and reduce homelessness. [The programme](#) will award up to £20k or successful applicants to secure expert advice.

14. Publications

This section outlines the publications and media releases that have occurred since the previous Councillors' Forum.

July

[LGA responds to NAO report on Implementing Digital Change](#)

Responding to a National Audit Office report on 'The challenges in implementing digital change', Cllr Peter Fleming, Chair of the Local Government Association's Improvement and

21 October 2021

Innovation Board said: "Over the last year, councils in particular have been at the forefront of this change, with the pandemic driving a rapid digital expansion within local government to match the growing need to engage with and inform local people."

August

[LGA launches Digital Pathfinders Programme](#)

The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched its Digital Pathfinders Programme to help councils innovate and pioneer projects to advance digital inclusion, digital connectivity, and cyber security.

Wider Coverage on Digital Pathfinders Programme included:

[UK Authority](#)
[Public Sector Executive](#) -
[LocalGovUK](#)
[Computer Weekly](#)

15. Local Government First Magazine Activity

The following articles were published in First Magazine delivered by the Improvement and Innovation Board's Lead Members:

First 661, dated July 21

- [A baseline for emissions](#) (covering greenhouse gas accounting tool by Cllr Liz Green)
- [Addressing barriers to being a councillor](#) (covering Be a Councillor Programme and diversity and inclusion by Cllr Judi Billing, Lead Member for Leadership)
- [Digital political leadership](#) (covering digital and data training by Cllr Peter Fleming)

First 662, dated Aug 21

- [Fresh talent](#) (covering Be a Councillor Programme, young people and NGDP by Cllr Judi Billing)

First 663, dated Sept 21

- [Net-zero innovation](#) (covering the net zero innovation programme by Cllr Liz Green)
- [Digital pathfinders](#) (See above – covering the programme's launch by Cllr Peter Fleming)

Contact officer: Dennis Skinner
Position: Head of Improvement
Email: *dennis.skinner@local.gov.uk*

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

Employment and skills

1. The Skills for Jobs [White paper](#) introduced earlier this year proposed a range of reforms which give new employer representation bodies (e.g. Chambers of Commerce) a lead role in setting out the technical skills provision needed for their local areas. To deliver the reforms, the Government brought forward legislation and two consultations.
2. The Skills and post-16 Education Bill, introduced to Parliament in May, designates new employer representative bodies (ERBs), seeks to make it a legal requirement that ERBs and colleges collaborate to develop Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs), introduces new Secretary of State powers to intervene when colleges fail to deliver, and puts in place provisions for a new Lifelong Learning Entitlement. Our latest briefing to influence the Bill's passage through the Lords can be viewed [here](#).
3. Last week the LGA responded to a DfE further education funding and accountability systems [consultation](#). In it we said that the Government should not merge Community Learning into the National Skills Fund, or if it is, it must be ringfenced so that this provision is protected. Any amalgamation risks losing significant community capacity, especially at a time when local authorities and their partners are already experiencing a tailing off European Social Fund, coupled with delays in replacing ESF with an uncertain quantum of Shared Prosperity Fund.
4. We also call for adult skills funding (Level 2 and below) to be at least restored to 2010 levels and devolved to all local and combined authorities, that the complementary role of councils' adult education provision is understood, resourced and recognised in proposals to reform the FE system, and that councils should have a new 'Community Skills Lead' role with strategic responsibility for adult education planning and work with the proposed ERBs and the provider base to align provision and ensure progression routes. The LGA also responded to the DfE National Skills Fund. Both responses will be available on our [website](#).

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Community Renewal Fund

5. As part of our lobbying for a localised, place-based replacement for EU funding – the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), the LGA has secured an officer level taskforce including the other home nation local government associations, including the Welsh LGA. The Chairs of the People & Places and City Regions Boards agreed that the different levels of English local government should be represented by council representatives for Core Cities, CCN, DCN, Key Cities and London Councils. Three meetings have been held before the spending review where representatives raised a number of key points, including the need for there to be a political level taskforce, the case for a fully devolved

fund with the removal of departmental silos and the urgent need for the Government to announce the successful programmes of the Community Renewal Fund – the pilot programme for the SPF. We are likely to hear further detail of the SPF at the Spending Review and will continue to press for the need for the SPF to be co-designed on a political and officer level.

6. We have urged the Government to announce the successful programmes for the Community Renewal Fund, the pilot programme for the SPF. We tabled parliamentary questions and raised councils' concerns through the Growth Programme Board and the SPF taskforce (above). The Boards have agreed to capture learning from the Community Renewal Fund to support local government with the introduction of the SPF. This work will start when the delivery of the CRF programmes have commenced.

Devolution

7. On 29 July the Board oversaw the publication of a new guide to help councils navigate devolution deals [Devolution deal to delivery](#). This sits alongside the LGA's refreshed devolution hub, which provides a wide range of devolution related resources.
8. The Devolution APPG, which is supported by the Local Government Association has continued to take forward its agreed work programme. On 22 September the Group held its second meeting, focused on the role constitutional reform might play in securing further devolution.
9. On 11 August the Board oversaw the publication of [Local service delivery and place-shaping: A framework to support parish and town councils](#)

Rural Issues

10. On 10 September the LGA published [Rural recognition, recovery, resilience and revitalisation](#), which analyses the consequences of COVID-19 for rural economies makes the case for a step-change in policy and funding interventions.

Local Growth

11. The People and Places Board has agreed to jointly sponsor and attend the Business in the Community Place Task Force looking at the role of business in place-led regeneration. Cllr Simon Henig will represent this Board and the Task Force will report back in April 2022.
12. On 7 September the LGA published [Councils support local businesses to take advantage of international trade opportunities](#).

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 0207 187 7384
Email: Rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk

RESOURCES BOARD – Report from Cllr Shaun Davies (Chair)

Workforce

Local Government Pay 2021

1. In June 2021, the National Employers made an improved, final pay offer to the unions representing the main local government NJC workforce. This offer included:
 - 1.1. With effect from 1 April 2021, an increase of 2.75 per cent on NJC pay point 1.
 - 1.2. With effect from 1 April 2021, an increase of 1.75 per cent on all NJC pay points 2 and above.
 - 1.3. Completion of the outstanding work of the joint Term-Time Only review group.
2. As the employers are acutely aware of the added impact that the pandemic is having on councils' budgets and future financial sustainability, this improved offer is final and represents the limit of affordability for most councils.
3. The employers also considered the unions proposals on the three non-pay elements of their offer and propose that joint discussions begin on:
 - 3.1 A national minimum agreement on homeworking policies for all councils.
 - 3.2 An agreement on a best practice national programme of mental health support for all local authorities and school staff.
 - 3.3 A joint review of the provisions in the Green Book for maternity / paternity / shared parental / adoption leave.
4. A key concern remains the challenge local government faces in maintaining headroom between the NJC's bottom pay point and the National Living Wage (NLW). This stems from the government policy to increase the NLW from 60 per cent of average earnings to 66 per cent by 1 April 2024. This percentage increase is higher than conventional pay awards, while 'average earnings' is not a known figure ahead of time so all planning must rely on increasingly erratic forecasts. This volatility makes it almost impossible to accurately predict the necessary increases required year on year to maintain the current level of headroom. As a result, the employers decided to offer a higher increase to employees on NJC pay point 1 to ensure we remain above the anticipated NLW rate on 1 April 2022.
5. The three local government unions (UNISON, GMB and UNITE) have completed their consultation ballots. [UNISON](#) has announced that its members have voted by a majority of 79 per cent to 21 per cent to reject the [National Employers' final pay](#)

[offer](#) to local government services ('Green Book') employees. Its local government committee has also decided to begin preparations for an industrial action ballot.

6. Similarly, [GMB](#) members voted by a majority of 75 per cent to 25 per cent to also reject the final pay offer. It will shortly conduct a consultative industrial action ballot, the result of which will determine whether there is support to then hold a formal ballot for industrial action.
7. Finally, [Unite](#) members voted by a majority of 81 per cent to 19 per cent to also reject the final pay offer. 85 per cent also voted to say they are supportive of taking industrial action. Its local government committee met on 7 October to discuss next steps, which include holding a formal ballot for industrial action.
8. The National Employers will be meeting on 19 October to take stock of the situation. It is now likely to be some time before this dispute is settled and a final pay deal is reached.

Exit payments

9. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published [local authority exit payments \(first estimates\), England 2019-20 and 2020-21](#). This first summary of the exit payment data submitted by councils will be followed by a further publication in the coming weeks. Initial indications are that the average exit payment made in 2020-21 across local authorities was £26,000.
10. Following publication by HMT of guidance for central government departments in respect of special severance payments on 28 May, MHCLG issued a consultation on guidance to cover similar payments in local authorities. The consultation closed on 13 August 2021 and we expect the response from government together with final guidance to be published in October. You can read the response from the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board (England and Wales) [here](#).
11. We understand that Departments were asked to submit proposals by mid-September 2021 for sector led reforms to exit payments (£95k cap) to replace the cross-scheme HMT regulations which were withdrawn earlier this year. LGA officers have been liaising with MHCLG officials on the implementation challenges of such an approach.

NJC Guidance on new working arrangements

12. The National Joint Council for local government services has issued [guidance on working arrangements](#) now that COVID restrictions have been lifted. The circular provides advice on face coverings, self-isolation, and considerations to be made for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people when returning to the workplace.

Chief Officers and Chief Executives Pay 2021

13. The National Employers have made final pay offers of an increase of 1.5 per cent on basic salary with effect from 1 April 2021 for both Chief Officers and Chief Executives. Lead members from the National Employers have met the employee side of both groups to confirm the final offers.

Police Staff Pay 2021

14. The National Employers have made a pay offer to the Police Staff Trade Union Side for 2021: a £250 consolidated increase to all police staff on pay points 7-18 of the PSC pay spine and a review of police force leave arrangements on a without prejudice basis. The Trade Union Side is undertaking a consultative ballot on the offer and will respond to the National Employers later this month.

Coroners' Pay 2021/22

15. An agreement has been reached within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Coroners to increase salaries and pay rates by 1.5 per cent, with effect from 1 April 2021.

Soulbury: Pay 2021

16. The Soulbury Officers' Side has submitted its pay and conditions claim for 2021. The headline element is for a 7 per cent increase and there is also a claim for a review of the pay structure and the work of Soulbury Officers during the pandemic. The National Employers have undertaken a consultation of local authorities and will respond to the Officers' Side later this month.

Youth and Community Workers: Pay 2021

17. The Joint Negotiating Committee Youth and Community Staff Side submitted its pay and conditions claim for 2021 which included a headline element for a 10 per cent increase. Following a consultation of local authorities, the National Employers rejected this but made an offer of 1.75% which is being considered by the Staff Side.

Teachers' Pay 2021

18. The National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST) has submitted a response to the government's consultation on the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) 31st report and the draft School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) 2021. The response, informed by the views of councils, supports the pay uplift for lower paid unqualified teachers (£250 pay award backdated to 1 September 2021), while highlighting our concerns about the impact of the pay pause for qualified teachers, which is likely to increase existing recruitment and retention difficulties of teachers and leaders.

Workforce Survey

19. COVID workforce survey has continued at the request of MHCLG, the latest report will be available at <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-workforce-survey-research-reports>

T Levels

20. The Department for Education has announced that employers will be able to claim £1k for every T Level student they host on a high-quality industry placement, as part of a new incentive scheme. The LGA is providing [support to councils on T Level Industry Placements](#), promoting a 'just take one' campaign for councils to take on one young person to build a quality experience for both student and employer.

Apprenticeships: 2021 Survey Data

21. The LGA has completed its annual Apprenticeship Survey for 2021. The survey, now in its fourth year, has shown that councils created over 55,000 apprenticeships in our workforce in the last four years at an annual rate more than double that achieved before the apprenticeship levy was introduced in 2017. Councils are also creating significant numbers of apprenticeships with employers in their local communities via levy transfers. However, the survey also showed that councils have sent around £3.25m per month in unspent levy funds back to government since 'levy claw back' (where unspent funds expire after 24 months) began in May 2019.

Apprenticeships: Non-Maintained Schools in Pooled PAYE Schemes

22. Over 1,300 non-maintained schools in over 50 local authorities are currently unable to access apprenticeships funding due to their participation in Pooled PAYE schemes run by local authorities. Eighteen months ago, government made a change that required all employers to register for an account on the Digital Apprenticeship Service to access apprenticeships funding. A PAYE number is required to create such an account, but all employers on a Pooled PAYE scheme share the scheme host's PAYE number, cutting them off from funding. The LGA has been engaging with government for some time to find solutions, but so far, options put forward by the Education and Skills Funding Agency have not proved practical or cost effective for councils or schools. We are now in the process of writing to ministers to request progress on finding a resolution to this situation.

Workforce Planning Support

23. For the past year the LGA has been supporting councils to create Workforce Plans as part of our wider programme of support for Strategic Workforce Planning. From October, we will be able to support a further ten councils through this process.

Local Government Finance

24. The chancellor has [announced](#) a three year Spending Review and Autumn Budget will be delivered on 27 October. Overall total departmental spending will match the plans set out in the 2021 Spring Budget, which implies a 1% real terms cut to unprotected departments, although how that will be distributed between departments is a matter for the Spending Review. The LGA submitted our [response](#), which covered cost pressures facing councils in the coming period, as well as underlying pressures (such as adult social care provider market pressures and SEND deficits). Our submission also includes a proposal for a community investment fund for councils to support individuals and strengthen communities according to local priorities. The new health and social care levy is expected to generate £36 billion over the Spending Review period, £5.4 billion of which will be used to fund adult social care reform, in particular the implementation of a care cost cap, a more generous means test and paying a fair rate of care – the rest of the funding will go to the NHS.
25. The LGA [responded](#) to the Government's [consultation](#) on more frequent business rates revaluations, and will respond to the Government [consultation](#) on the central rating list which proposes expanding the central rating list to include several large, fixed line telecom networks, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (HS1) and mobile phone networks. We also responded to the Government's [consultation](#) on how the new Audit Reporting and Governance Authority (ARGA) will undertake the system leadership role for local audit. In August the Treasury [published](#) guidance on the lending terms for the Public Works Loans Boards, which clarifies lending terms introduced for all new loans taken out after November last year. CIPFA also published the formal consultations on the revised wording to the [Prudential](#) and [Treasury Management Codes](#) which we are responding to.

Universal Credit

26. Members of the Resources Board wrote to The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak MP, to express their concerns about the impact on councils on communities on the end of the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit. The £500m Household Support Fund that was announced on 29th September recognises the vital role of local welfare support. However, it is the LGA's view that the mainstream benefits system should provide the principal safety net for low-income households, enabling councils to target discretionary support to those who need it most. We therefore believe that the £20 per week uplift should be retained for as long as it is needed, to ensure that households can recover from the financial and employment impacts of the pandemic.

Contact officer: Sarah Pickup
Position: Deputy Chief Executive
Phone no: 02076643109
Email: Sarah.pickup@local.gov.uk

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

Taxi Licensing

1. Cllr Caliskan and the other Safer and Stronger Communities Board lead members are writing to all licensing authorities to raise awareness of the National Register of Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3) and to encourage authorities to use the database.
2. The letter encourages authorities to comply with the Department for Transport's statutory standards, published in June 2020, which set out an expectation that the NR3 should be used by licensing authorities. It also highlights that legislation may pass in this Parliament which would make the use of NR3 mandatory and urges authorities to demonstrate best practice in anticipation of this.

Police and Crime Commissioner (Part 2) Review

3. Cllr Caliskan and Cllr Mohan Iyengar both gave evidence to the Home Office's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Part 2 Review. LGA officers also submitted a formal response on behalf of local government.
4. The purpose of the two-part review is to consider how the role of police and crime commissioners (PCCs), can be sharpened and expanded. The review applies to all PCCs, including police and fire commissioners (PFCCs) and mayors exercising PCC functions. Part 2 will focus on ensuring PCCs have the tools and levers they need to better equip them to fight crime and on scrutiny of the PCC model.

Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Group Meeting

5. Our Safer and Stronger Communities Board Domestic Abuse Champion Cllr Lois Samuel attended the first strategic group meeting, held by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner Nicole Jacobs, on tackling domestic abuse perpetrators. The purpose of the group is to convene key stakeholders, charities and organisations to help share best practice on tackling perpetrators and lobby the Government ahead of the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Strategy.
6. Cllr Lois Samuel will also be chairing an LGA webinar on tackling domestic abuse perpetrators, with approximately 400 delegates registered to attend. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner will be speaking, alongside domestic abuse organisations Safe Lives, Respect, the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance, Standing Together and also local government speakers.

LGA Improvement – Fire and Rescue Authority members

7. The LGA has now delivered two Governance and Leadership workshops for FRA members, held on 7 September and 12 October 2021. In the virtual workshops, experienced facilitators delivered a range of interactive learning and development activities focusing on key issues

and best practice related to fire governance and leadership. These workshops aim to strengthen knowledge and understanding of various leadership approaches, including a focus on the practical scrutiny skills required to support effective executive decision-making. The LGA will be hosting one more virtual workshop on 9 November (9.30am-1.30pm). It is free to attend, and all FRA Members are encouraged to participate.

8. Also, in September, the LGA held its bi-annual Fire Leadership course virtually via Zoom. Over three days (14-16 September), FRA members heard from various speakers covering topics that aim to inform and support their statutory responsibilities, including: HMICFRS Inspections, Government's fire reform programme, building safety, diversity and inclusion, and fire governance and leadership.

Contact officer: Mark Norris
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 02076643241
Email: *Mark.Norris@local.gov.uk*

LGA location map

Local Government Association
 18 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131
 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@local.gov.uk
 Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

