

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 10 March 2022
Venue: Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome, Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.	
2	Gillian Keegan MP - Minister for Care and Mental Health The Chairman welcomed the Minister for Care and Mental Health, Gillian Keegan MP, to the meeting. The Minister gave an update on her work and the work of her department highlighting the ongoing partnership working between the Department for Health and Social Care and local government. Following the Minister's introduction, the Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board, Cllr David Fothergill, and the four party Group Leaders, asked questions in turn and the Minister responded on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cover for any local government shortfall in funding due to the 'fair rate of care' proposals;• The reputational risk to local government of a greater focus on social care via the levy, against the public seeing less of it due to an underfunded sector;• The lack of a mention of Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) or place in the White Paper;• Assessments of the cost of commissioning and wage increases and the impact that will have on delivery;• Whether Council and Government could jointly invest the money paid in Apprenticeship Levy by the NHS and Councils in improving the skills offer and to attract a skilled up workforce to social care. Following these lead off questions, the following topics were discussed with Members and the Minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of modifying boundaries between Councils, HWBs and the Integrated Care Boards; and• Consultation with unions on the proposals in the white paper on workforce.	

The Minister thanked Members for their engagement and questions, and thanked the Chairman for inviting her to the meeting. The Chairman thanked the Minister for her attendance.

3 Chairman's Update

The Chairman introduced his report updating on recent work of the LGA, highlighting in particular the way in which the organisation was pivoting to respond effectively to the impact of the war in Ukraine and the arrival of refugees and others from that country.

4 LGA Board Chair Reports

The Chairman invited the following Board representatives to outline their reports:

- a) Mayor Marvin Rees - City Regions Board
- b) Cllr Nesil Caliskan – Safer Stronger Communities Board
- c) Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson – Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
- d) Cllr Liz Green – Improvement and Innovation Board

5 Digest of the last meeting held on 27 January 2022

The digest of the last meeting was agreed as a correct record.