

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 9 June 2022
12.30 pm

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and
Online

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

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

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Councillors' Forum
9 June 2022

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 9 June 2022** Hybrid Meeting - Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square and Online.

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	Beecham Room (7 th floor)
11.00am	Independent	Eaton-Cockell Room (7 th floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available in Smith Square 3 & 4 (Ground floor).

LGA Hybrid Meetings

All of our meetings are available to join in person at 18 Smith Square or remotely via videoconference as part of our hybrid approach. We will ask you to confirm in advance if you will be joining each meeting in person or remotely so we can plan accordingly, if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please also remember to confirm whether you have any dietary/accessibility requirements. 18 Smith Square is a Covid-19 secure venue and measures are in place to keep you safe when you attend a meeting or visit the building in person.

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@lga.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

Attendance:

Your attendance, whether it be in person or virtual, will be noted by the clerk at the meeting.

LGA Contact:

David Pealing
07920230092 / david.pealing@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.

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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 2021/22

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

Labour (34)	
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	High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Rachel Sutton	Exeter City Council
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Islington London Borough
Cllr Naushabah Khan	Medway 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
Independent (10)	
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 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

Liberal Democrat (9)	
Cllr Joe Harris (Vice-Chair)	Cotswold District Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Keith Aspden	York City Council
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Sean MacLeod	Lewes District Council
Cllr Vikki Slade	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 9 June 2022

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Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 21 July 2022, 12.30 pm, Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP

Biography

Kwasi Kwarteng was appointed Secretary of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 8 January 2021.

He was previously Minister of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Kwasi was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Exiting the European Union from 16 November 2018 to 24 July 2019.

Kwasi read classics and history at Trinity College, Cambridge, and then attended Harvard University on a Kennedy Scholarship. He earned a PhD in economic history from the University of Cambridge in 2000.



Before becoming a Member of Parliament, Kwasi worked as an analyst in financial services.

Kwasi was elected the Conservative MP for Spelthorne in 2010. From 2010 until 2013 he was a member of the Transport Select Committee, and in 2013 he joined the Work and Pensions Select Committee where he was a member until 2015.

In October 2016 Kwasi joined the Public Accounts Committee, where he was a member until May 2017.

In 2015 Kwasi was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords, and in 2017 he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Secretary of State has overall responsibility for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy which brings together responsibilities for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation and energy. This includes:

- developing and delivering a comprehensive industrial strategy and leading the government's relationship with business
- ensuring that the country has secure energy supplies that are reliable, affordable and clean
- ensuring the UK remains at the leading edge of science, research and innovation
- tackling climate change

Personal life

Kwasi's passions include history, music and languages. He has lived in and around London for most of his life. He has authored several books, including Ghosts of Empire, War and Gold and Thatcher's Trial.

Donna Jones

National Lead for Victims and Serious Organised Crime for the Association for Police and Crime Commissioners



Biography

Donna Jones was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on 6 May 2021, achieving 312,993 of the votes cast across the two counties, and officially took up post on Thursday 13 May after taking the Oath of Office. Hampshire Constabulary is one of the largest police force areas in the country.

Donna was the youngest member of the judiciary in England and Wales when she was appointed to the South East Hampshire (Magistrates) Bench in October 2005. She served as a bench chair for 16 years until she was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner. This has helped her develop a strong background in criminal justice.

From 2014-2018 Donna was the first woman to be elected the Leader of Portsmouth City council in Hampshire, presiding over a £780million budget. During this time she received national recognition for the commercial approach she brought to the running of the city council, generating millions of pounds of income each year. She has a thorough understanding of managing public sector finances; of generating new income and removing wastage from outdated contracts ensuring your taxes are spent wisely.

As well as being the PCC for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna is the national lead for Victims and also Serious Organised Crime for the Association for Police and Crime Commissioners.

Donna is Hampshire born and bred. Her professional background is in banking. She is married with two teenage sons.

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities from 11 March – 25 May 2022

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

MARCH	
14	Stuart Andrew, Minister of State for Housing
14	Ed Argar MP, Minister of State for Health
15	Rachel Hopkins MP, Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office
15	Ben Spencer MP
15	Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, Newham Council
15	Andrew Hood, SpAd SofS DLUHC
25	Baroness Barran, Minister DfE
APRIL	
5	Lord Harrington, Minister DLUHC/Home Office
13	Kevin Foster MP, Minister Home Office
19	Roundtable with SofS DLUHC and Lord Harrington, Minister DLUHC/Home Office
20	Richard Coates, SpAd DEFRA
25	Helen Whately MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
25	Caroline Nokes MP
27	John Healey MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence
28	Gillian Keegan MP, Minister DHSC
MAY	
4	Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under SofS BEIS
11	Pat McFadden, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury
12	Kevin Foster MP, Minister Home Office
13	Lord Harrington, Minister DLUHC/Home Office
17	Rachel Maclean MP, Parliamentary Under SofS DfT
18	Nadine Dorries MP, SofS for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
18	Ed Argar MP, Minister DHSC
18	Wes Streeting MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Meetings with organisations and individuals

MARCH	
15	Roundtable on Social Care from Huw Merriman MP and MHA
17	CCN Council

23	NHS England / Local Government Association meeting to discuss vaccination programme operational planning
APRIL	
14	Cllr Jamieson meeting delegation from South Korean embassy
21	Claudia Sturt, Youth Justice Board
21	Quarterly meeting with HSE
22	Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Roundtable: LGA & APCC
26	Heat Networks Roundtable
27	Infrastructure Levy Roundtable
28	Ian Dilks, CQC
MAY	
4	NHS Leadership Review workshop
18	APCC/LGA quarterly meeting
19	Yorkshire and Humber regional meeting

Events and speaking engagements

MARCH	
21	DCN mini conference and reception
MAY	
11	BBC Interview on Ukrainian refugees presenting as homeless
12	New Statesman: Regional Development in the Age of Levelling Up Conference

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

SEND Green paper

1. On the 22nd March CYP Board Lead Members and the LGA Chairman met with the Minister for Children and Families to discuss the SEND Green paper that was published the following week. We used the meeting to stress that councils, with sufficient levers and funding, are ideally placed to lead reformed local SEND systems and hold partners to account for the support they provide to children and young people with SEND. Our briefing on the proposals set out in the SEND Green paper is available [here](#).

Schools White paper/Bill

2. The Schools White paper was published on the 28th March and in our response we welcomed the acknowledgement that councils have a continued role in local education systems and need powers to fulfil their remaining duties. We also welcomed proposals for councils to be able to set up their own Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), something the LGA has been calling for over a number of years, as well as proposals to introduce a duty on parents to register home-schooled children with their council. Our briefing on proposals set out in the White paper is available [here](#).
3. We have also published research that show council maintained schools outperform academies. The [research](#) found 92 per cent of council-maintained schools were rated outstanding or good by Ofsted as of 31 January 2022, compared to 85 per cent of academies that were graded since they converted.

Children and Young People Board

4. The Board met on 15 March to consider a wide-ranging agenda, including the Competition and Markets Authority report on children's social care placements, the National Food Strategy and the use of foodbanks, and our new [research on SEND dispute resolution](#).

Youth Justice

5. We have published new research looking at [what works to support younger children in the youth justice system](#), in order to support our calls for the minimum age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 14. On 27 April we held a [webinar](#) for over 100 councillors and youth justice practitioners to discuss the research and to consider good practice in this space.
6. On 21 April I joined the Chairman of the LGA for a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) where we discussed the adultification of black children, local authority budgets and restructures of youth justice services. We used

the meeting to further our relationship with the YJB particularly around a joined up narrative on good practice and the need for greater investment in early intervention services.

Mental health and emotional wellbeing

7. Vice-Chair Cllr. Heritage attended a roundtable hosted by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with other third sector and sector leaders to discuss the mental health and wellbeing 10-year plan. The roundtable discussed the importance of early intervention, access to the right support at the right time and the need for access to specialist support.

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

8. On 5 May Councillor Mark Sutton attended the meeting of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board. The Board discussed a wide range of issues, including a detailed discussion around how to improve outcomes for children who wait the longest to be matched with their adoptive parents.

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

9. On 10 May, I met with the Chair of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, Josh MacAlister, alongside the Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Board Councillor Teresa Heritage, to discuss the review's forthcoming publication. We discussed a range of likely recommendations from the care review and welcomed the review's consistent emphasis on early help and improving support for children in the care system and care leavers. We also noted the need for significant financial investment into children's social care in order to deliver improvements.
10. The Review's [final report](#) was published on 23 May. I issued a [statement](#) welcoming much of the review, though noted that reform would not work without transformational investment in the system, while all of Whitehall must commit to tackling the issues children's social care cannot solve alone. I also highlighted that we need urgent action on workforce challenges and the need for suitable homes for children in care with particularly complex needs – these issues cannot wait for the long-term reform outlined in the report.
11. Going forward, I will be working with the Government to ensure that local government's voices are heard in the planning and delivery of reform, and together with the Children and Young People Board will hold government to account for its commitment to improving services.

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Community Wellbeing Board – Report from Cllr David Fothergill

Understanding health and care reforms: opportunities and implications for local government

1. On 11 May, Cllr David Fothergill chaired a national webinar on the health and care reform agenda. The session convened senior figures including Sally Warren, director of policy at the King's Fund, Matthew Taylor, chief executive of NHS Confederation and Sarah McClinton the new president of ADASS, to consider the main components of the reform agenda and the opportunities and implications for councils. The webinar was extremely well attended, with more than 380 delegates joining and posing numerous questions and comments. All speakers and delegates were clear about the huge scale of the reform agenda and its potential impact on an already over-stretched workforce. Local government's strengths – particularly community engagement, co-production and innovative handling of operating in such a constrained financial environment – were considered vital attributes for Integrated Care Systems to draw on, helping to widen collaboration and embed meaningful accountability. Despite the challenging timescales and concerns about the adequacy of funding for particular aspects of the reform agenda, speakers were optimistic that the reforms present an opportunity to deliver the kind of health and care system we want and need for those who have cause to draw on it.

Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) Annual Public Health Conference, March 23-24 2022

2. The annual conference, organised by the LGA in partnership with the Association of Directors of Public Health was opened by Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, who was joined by leading public health experts in a range of sessions over two days.
3. Sessions covered the very latest thinking on national policy issues, including 'Taking stock: Covid-19's long-term global impact', 'Health security: looking to the future' and 'Mind the gap: working together to reduce health inequalities'. Other important topics such as climate change, Levelling Up and pregnancy, birth and early childhood were also discussed.
4. Delegates were able to put their questions and comments to those involved in shaping and implementing them at strategic and community levels, on issues such as the reform of the public health system and the impact of Covid-19 on health inequalities. They had the opportunity to participate in sessions sharing good practice from local areas and to discuss issues that mattered to them.
5. All lead members chaired at least one session at the webinar. Cllr Fothergill chaired the keynote address with Professor Chris Whitty and another session about early development with Dame Andrea Leadsom MP and other sector leaders. Cllr Sarah Osborne chaired a climate change session with Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol. Cllr Rosemary Sexton chaired a session about active transport with Chris Boardman and Janet Atherton, and Cllr Louise Gittins co-chaired a session with Professor Matt Ashton (Director of Public Health, Liverpool) about health inequalities with Professor Michael Marmot.

6. A full selection of the conference material, including the presentations, is available to [download from the LGA website](#)

School Nursing

7. In April, the LGA published an infographic to highlight and define the role of a school nurse, who they are commissioned by and how they contribute to the vital health and wellbeing of children aged five to 19 years old.
8. It explores the full range of interventions which school nurses can offer and their impact on key government priorities such as reducing child health inequalities, emotional wellbeing and mental health, encouraging healthy weight and childhood immunisations. It also includes key evidence on the impact of school nursing interventions on advancing outcomes for child health, in addition to supporting quotes from key stakeholders.
9. The document has received high numbers of page views since it was published and can be accessed [here](#).

Whole Systems Approaches to Promoting Healthier Weight: Virtual Conference 2022

10. On 19 May 2022, the Local Government Association ran a full day conference on re-engaging with Whole Systems Approaches (WSA) to promoting healthier weight. Three sessions were held throughout the day, providing an overview of WSA (Session 1), actions local areas have taken as part of their own WSA (Session 2) and Tier 2 Adult Weight Management Services (Session 3).
11. Cllr Louise Gittins chaired the second session and Cllr Rosemary Sexton chaired the third session. An average of 250 participants from across local and national government attended each session.
12. Speakers included Margie van Dijk (Team Leader, Obesity and Healthy Weight Team, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities), Professor Paul Gately (Professor of Exercise and Obesity at Leeds Beckett University and founder of MoreLife) and Sally Williams (Content Lead, National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)). Seven local authorities presented at the conference, including Hull, Oxfordshire, Liverpool, Sandwell, North Tyneside, Bristol.
13. In addition, the organisation Food Active presented about their Healthy Weight Declaration which focuses on population-level interventions which take steps to address the social, environmental, economic and legislative factors that affect people's ability to change their behaviour.

Start for Life: Family Hubs Announcement

14. On 2 April 2022, the government announced [the 75 local authorities eligible](#) for a share of £302 million to create new Family Hubs in their areas. Family Hubs are intended to be one-stop-shops where families can access important services such as parenting advice and breastfeeding support.
15. Family Hubs are for families with children of all ages, but with a Start for Life (the critical 1,001 days from conception to age 2) offer at their core. £100 million of this funding will be shared among eligible areas to roll out bespoke parent-infant relationship and perinatal mental health support.

16. On 23 May 2022, the Government [announced the seven local authorities](#) that will receive funding from the first wave of the £12 million Family Hubs Transformation Fund. The Fund aims to support twelve local authorities with the costs of moving to a family hub model, and the Government hopes to collate learnings and best practice which will help more councils to move to a family hub model in the future. The final five councils that will receive funding are expected to be announced in the coming months. This funding is in addition to the £302 million announced for the creation of 75 Family Hubs.
17. We continue to work with the government's joint Start for Life Team (Department of Health and Social Care and Department of Education) and local authorities to develop these proposals, ensuring they are fair on councils and do not add any new burdens.

10 year drug strategy

18. On 25 May, the LGA gave evidence to the Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the 10 Year Drug Strategy. Councillor Joanne Harding, Trafford Council, Maggie Boreham, City and Hackney Public Health Team, Hackney Council and Prof Jim McManus, Director of Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council and President of the Association of Directors of Public Health gave evidence to the Inquiry where we welcomed the strategy, called for sustainable long-term funding, a workforce strategy and greater co-ordination across local and national partnerships.

Smokefree 2030

19. In February, Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, announced an independent review into tobacco control policies needed to achieve the Government's target of making England smoke free by 2030. The 'smokefree' target will be said to have been reached when the proportion of adults smoking falls to 5 per cent or less.
20. The review, which we understand will publish their findings next month is led by Javed Khan OBE, the former Chief Executive Officer of children's charity Barnardo's, who is tasked with providing "independent, evidence-based advice that will inform the Government's approach to tackling the stark health disparities associated with tobacco use". The LGA welcomes the ambitious target and we have met with Javed Khan and officials to push for sustainable funding to meet the 2030 'smokefree' ambition, support a 'polluter pays' smokefree 2030 fund, consideration of a tobacco licensing scheme, improved coordination between the NHS and local government, tackling the supply of illegal tobacco with tough enforcement and a continued roll-out of vaping products.

Health and Care Act 2022

21. [Health and Care Act 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) is now on the statute books and the LGA has published a summary of the provisions of the legislation that have most relevance to local government: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/get-act-health-and-care-act-2022>. The LGA broadly supports the ambitions of the Act to improve collaboration within the NHS and between the NHS, local government and other partners in order to improve health and care services, improve population health outcomes and address health inequalities.
22. We will continue to work with Government and NHS England to ensure that integrated care boards (ICBs) and integrated care partnerships (ICPs) support and enhance the work with existing place-based partnerships – in particular health and wellbeing boards – to join up care and support and to invest in preventative approaches to population health.

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Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board – Report from Cllr David Renard (Chairman)

Housing, Planning and Homelessness

Homelessness survey

1. The LGA undertook a survey of councils to obtain a snapshot of the number of new Ukrainian households presenting to homelessness services. We have used the data as an evidence base to help make the case for further funding for councils and an effective rematching scheme. The findings have been cited widely in the media and in parliament.

Planning reforms

2. The government has now set out the direction of travel for planning reforms – some of which will be delivered through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and the rest through secondary legislation or policy change. The proposed reforms are a significant improvement from those proposed in the planning white paper. In particular there is a greater focus on democratic input and community engagement; measures that intend to strengthen the weight of Local Plans and reduce speculative development as well as proposals to increase planning application fees. Crucially, the proposal for development 'zones', linked to an automatic permission, have been scrapped. These are all areas that the LGA has lobbied on. There is much to welcome in the new proposals but there are many changes and effective engagement with the sector on the detailed policy development will be key.

Permitted development rights

3. In a proactive press release on 9th May, Councillor David Renard raised concerns that more than 18,000 affordable houses have been lost as a result of office-to-residential conversions under permitted development. The release called for permitted development rights to be removed to ensure all conversions and new developments contribute to the delivery of desperately needed affordable homes.

Building Safety Act 2022

4. The Act aligns with the LGA's fundamental asks: that the construction industry, developers, and manufacturers should pay for the cladding crisis. We continue to press the government to distinguish between local authorities and developers, and fund councils to deliver the Building Safety Regulator (BSR). We are supporting a coordinated audit of risk within medium-rise residential buildings. The Fire Safety Act commenced, with secondary legislation implementing most recommendations of the Grenfell Inquiry. Following lobbying, the Home Office published the Fire Safety Assessment Prioritisation Tool alongside the Fire Safety Act and agreed to implement the LGA's working group on PEEPs neighbour assistance. We will engage in the new consultation on PEEPs and the Emergency Evacuation Information Sharing (EEIS) proposal. The LGA has published case studies and a document on principles of

effective regulation, and has run several webinars and Leadership Essentials events with more being planned currently. The Joint Inspection Team has secured funding for the next two years which will see it triple in capacity by the end of this financial year.

5. We will engage with HSE's programme to establish the new building safety regulator and raise awareness amongst councils of their responsibilities as regulators and duty holders under the new building safety regime. As part of this, we will continue to lobby for the funding of new burdens and a proportionate approach to transition to the new regime and new FSO responsibilities. We will continue to support councils in taking enforcement action under the Housing Act 2004 through hosting the Joint Inspection Team and to monitor the impact of the continuing competitive environment in building control regulation for buildings under 18m.

HRA commission – assessing the new challenges

6. The LGA is working with ARCH and the NFA to jointly commission a research project to assess the new challenges to the HRA, following the most recent reform to the system in 2012 when the HRA became a self-financing model. Three separate, but interrelated contracts will be commissioned in relation to: expenditure; income; and the Right to Buy. The overarching project objective is to understand and assess how effectively the HRA self-financing model is operating in relation to meeting expenditure needs. The supplier(s) will develop a report which will comprehensively capture the long-term challenges to the HRA; and produce a set of evidence-based policy recommendations to assist in the LGA's lobbying. The indicative timescales for the project are June – November 2022.

Infrastructure Levy

7. Following a ministerial roundtable in April attended by the LGA and the Queen's Speech in May, we are meeting with stakeholders that have an interest in the Levy to support our lobbying as the Levy progresses through Parliament under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. This has included the GLA, CCN, NHF and others. The purpose of these meetings is to better understand the issues and concerns with the new system; identify areas of agreement and opportunities to jointly lobby on the Levy; and frame our asks of Government to ensure that the new Levy will be a success for councils.

Homes for Ukraine webinar

8. In April, the LGA hosted a webinar for council practitioners to share the case studies and the lessons learnt from administering the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Delegates had the opportunity to hear from, and pose questions to DLUHC. The aim of the webinar was for councils to improve their local offer and ensure that new arrivals from Ukraine can access suitable accommodation that meets their needs. The webinar was attended by 270 delegates and 75% of the respondents to the subsequent satisfaction survey were either very or fairly satisfied with the webinar overall.

APPG for Ending Rough Sleeping

9. Cllr Pippa Heylings attended an APPG for ending rough sleeping on Tuesday 24th May in Parliament. The LGA called for government to address the system drivers and levers of homelessness and reassure councils they will be supported with rising pressures relating to the cost of living crisis. We also shared difficulties around recruitment and retention of staff, data sharing and increasingly complex customers. We called for better partnerships at a central government level and asked for the new rough sleeper strategy

to look at broader homelessness prevention as opposed to being focused on the crisis end of homelessness.

Vagrancy Act Submission

10. At the beginning of May we responded to government's vagrancy act submission. We commented that not everyone who is living a street-based lifestyle is homeless and this crossover can be difficult for councils and partners to manage. A one size fits all approach will not work and different tools are needed to respond to different types of begging. We noted that it would be helpful to have a clear view from councils and the police about what gaps could be created through the repeal of the Vagrancy Act, and which existing or new powers could be better utilised to address these complex issues. We also asked that any new reforms proposed would need to be clear and enforceable, with enforcing bodies fully resourced to apply them.

Rough Sleeping Strategy Roundtables

11. The LGA have participated in and facilitated workshops which will influence the new rough sleeper strategy. Over 30 councils attended the local authority roundtable hosted by LGA on 19th May, as well as representatives from across the various central government departments. The roundtable was split up into three workshops focused on what central government, local government and the third sector can do to end rough sleeping and we were assisted by valued partners from Crisis and Homeless Link. The outcome paper will be submitted to lead members for approval this week. LGA officers also attended the DLUHC hosted roundtable on homelessness prevention.

Housing Advisers Programme (HAP)

12. The Housing Improvement grant for 2022/23 has now been finalised and we are moving forward with the design of the 2022/23 programme. We expect to start recruitment for HAP cohort 6 in autumn 2022.

Social Housing Management Peer Challenge (SHMPC)

13. We have developed a Social Housing Management Peer Challenge that will support host councils to reflect on, receive feedback on and learn how to improve the service provided to social housing residents. It will also assess their readiness and plan for a new emerging consumer regulation regime. The peer challenge was piloted at South Holland District Council in February 2022, and we are in the process of redeveloping the guidance and scope following evaluation and feedback from the council and the peer team. South Holland District Council will give an Innovation Zone presentation on their experience of the peer challenge at the LGA Annual Conference..

Economy

Public-Private Partnerships: Driving Growth, Building Resilience

14. Against a backdrop of significant uncertainty and challenge, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and continued pressures on budgets, councils across the country are continuing to look to unlock a range of social, environmental, and economic benefits aligned to local and national priorities. This LGA commissioned this good practice guide which aims to support councils to plan and establish more effective public-private partnerships, which can unlock and deliver the investment, development and services that are essential to boosting economic growth and recovery.

Supporting councils with business engagement.

15. Relationships between councils and businesses have always been essential. The pandemic accelerated and emphasised the importance of that relationship and has become even more central to maintaining quality place-shaping and vibrant local economies – there was a rapid scaling up the interaction between private and public sector. LGA commissioned research to identify and capture the learning from councils' extensive contact with businesses in the context of COVID-19. This report sets out how councils can engage more effectively with businesses in the future to support economic recovery.

Environment and Climate Change

Local Net Zero Forum

16. The LGA has been working with the Government on the establishment of the Local Net Zero Forum, which will aim to advance the collaboration between local and central Government Departments from across Whitehall in achieving climate change mitigation and adaptation in places. It is likely the Forum will focus on priorities set out in the Net Zero Strategy, including roles and responsibilities, funding, and capacity and capability. The LGA has a seat on the Forum.

Financing the Green Ambition

17. In May, we commissioned Local Partnerships to update the LGAs [Green Finance Guide](#) reflecting the launch of the UK Investment Bank, the response to the Public Loans Board consultation in November 2020 and the Net Zero Strategy in Autumn 2021. We also held a very well attended webinar on Wednesday 4 May 2022 where we heard from Local Partnerships, UK Investment Bank and the UK Municipal Bond Agency on the type of finance that is and will be available for local authorities. Presentations from the webinar [are available](#) on the LGA website.

Fuel Poverty

18. The LGA is undertaking some work seeking to under the impact of energy price increases on the number of households in fuel poverty, the costs of bringing these properties up to EPC C standard, and the benefits of this for energy cost savings and wider health savings. The work will be used to explore and make the case for councils lead role in improving the energy efficiency of fuel poor households, and the links to the wider green economy and decarbonisation ambitions.

Retrofit - Heat and Buildings Decarbonisation by 2050

19. The LGA will undertake a project to design an approach whereby local and central government would work together to further enable decarbonisation of heat and buildings up to 2050, building on existing local strategies and bringing them together into a single national framework. It will focus on: the objectives and value added of locally led approaches; the governance and process for how existing and new local strategic approaches can be brought together into a single coherent framework clarifying roles and responsibilities, and how to shift to joined-up multi funding plans for delivering outcomes and market change.

Green Streets

20. We have commissioned a piece of work that will seek to demonstrate the case for a local approach to decarbonising buildings and transport at the street or neighbourhood

level. Through a combination of literature review and interviews identifying national and international best practice, the case will be heavily evidenced and implementable in the UK. Publication of the final report and a webinar to present the finds are expected in the summer.

Future of local energy institutions and governance

21. We will be responding to Ofgem's call for [input into future local energy institutions and governance](#). The call seeks input from stakeholders on energy system functions needed at sub-national level to facilitate the transition to net zero, the suitability of current and planned institutional and governance arrangements and the opportunities and risks of change.

Hard to decarbonise homes

22. The LGA has co-funded a piece of research with the National Housing Federation to identify hard-to-decarbonise homes and policy solutions for increasing the viability of retrofit. Parity Projects have undertaken the work and the final report will be available in June.

Environment

Nutrient and water neutrality

23. We are shortly launching a policy enquiry on nutrient and water neutrality. Both issues relate to river catchment areas and advice to local planning authorities to stop housing development immediately in order to protect weakened natural environments. The enquiry will be led by a team of LGA politicians and will include a survey to understand the full impact of the neutrality advice, as well as roundtable discussions with stakeholders. The enquiry will present recommendations in the Autumn.

Tackling waste crime

24. Defra set out proposals to reform [waste tracking systems](#) and the [regulation of waste businesses](#) as part of measures to crack down on waste crime. Our responses to the consultation papers supported the broad approach, noting that Defra's approach must be robust enough to discourage the criminals but avoid placing excessive requirements on local authorities and responsible private waste businesses. This was an opportunity to put forward the powers that councils need to crack down on fly-tipping, particularly the ongoing issue with prosecution leading to paltry fines in so many cases. The LGA is calling for an urgent review of sentencing guidelines for fly-tipping.

Next steps on the Resources and Waste strategy

25. The outcome of consultations on greater consistency in household and business recycling and a new deposit return scheme are still awaited. Defra has set out further detail on the implementation of a new system of extended producer responsibility for packaging material (EPR). This will see manufacturers and retailers paying councils for the cost of dealing with packaging in household waste, a welcome move that the LGA has long called for. Defra confirmed that payments to councils will start from April 2024 with a phased implementation. This is later than proposed but not unexpected due to the complexity of setting up the new payment system. We will be working with Defra on the

next steps and we are calling on them to rethink the decision to exclude the cost of dealing with litter as part of the payments producers must make to councils.

Biodiversity net gain

26. A requirement for developers to provide a net gain to biodiversity on all new sites will come into force in November 2023. The LGA [responded to the release of draft regulations and Defra's implementation plan](#). This was largely a technical consultation and it was good to see Defra engage with councils in a series of Q&A sessions organised by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). We asked Defra for clarity on new burdens funding along with an offer to work with them to ensure that the resource implications are fully understood.

Transport

Moving traffic offences

27. The final Parliamentary scrutiny stage for councils to be able to apply for powers to enforce against moving traffic offences has now passed meaning that highways authorities can now apply for designated powers. This is a significant win for local government. The LGA has long called for powers that already exist in London to be made available to all local areas outside London, and had provided substantial [evidence](#) in support. This will help highways authorities to deal with a range of traffic contraventions such as yellow-box junctions, banned turns and overweight vehicles on weight restricted roads. The Draft Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Representations and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2022 cleared scrutiny stages through both houses last week and will become law from 31st May 2022.

National Bus Strategy – funding

28. The LGA wrote to the Buses Minister, Baroness Vere of Norbiton on the recent [Bus Service Improvement Plan \(BSIP\)](#). The letter acknowledged the value of the funding for those places in line to receive funding but adds that it falls short of local authority/operator partnerships' and the Government's own ambition for buses and asks whether the national bus strategy is truly 'national'. Fewer than half of Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) were funded. Cllr David Renard also attended the Transport Select Committee to give evidence on the National Bus Strategy.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

29. The Government has published its [UK Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Infrastructure Strategy](#). The strategy sets out a raft of measures to rapidly scale up public EV charge points across the country. The strategy also announced that the Government will be increasing the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund to £450 million and will be providing up to a further £50 million to support local authority skills and capacity. The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) launched a £10 million pilot of the LEVI Fund for local authorities. The expectation is that combined authorities will take the lead on developing local EV infrastructure strategies and outside of these, that highways authorities will take the lead (in consultation with district councils in two-tier areas). The Government will also look to take pre-emptive powers, subject to consultation, to ensure there is a clear statutory obligation on councils to develop local charging infrastructure strategies and oversee their delivery. [The LGA welcomed the boost in funding](#) and the important role that councils can play.

Last Mile Deliveries

30. With the growth in online shopping and freight traffic the LGA commissioned independent research into local authority views on 'last mile deliveries' and the potential role of councils and what changes need to be considered for councils to play a more effective role, building on DfT's Transport Decarbonisation Plan. This work has been led by University of West of England, and has involved workshops with councils as well as a workshop with elected members (across EEHT, P&P and City Region boards). The findings have now been captured in a report which can be found [here](#).

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People and Places Board – Report from Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)

Levelling Up

1. Following the announcement of a Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill in the Queen's Speech, the LGA on 10 May, the LGA issued a [response](#) emphasising that levelling up will only be achieved if councils have the powers and funding they need to address interregional and intraregional inequalities, tackle deprivation, and make communities attractive places to live, work and visit.
2. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was then published on 11 May, and this Board, together with the City Regions Board will work with parliamentarians and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to shape and amend this legislation to ensure it helps councils to level up and delivers greater devolution so the UK ceases to be one of the most centralised countries in the democratic world.
3. We are halfway through the [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#), overseen by an independent steering group, which explores how the Government's levelling up agenda might better strengthen local communities.
 - 3.1. The first roundtable was held in March exploring the theme of funding and alignment with Professor Philip McCann (professor of urban and regional economics at the University of Sheffield) and Matt Whittaker (chief executive officer at Pro Bono Economics) presenting. The session explored practical questions about how levelling up in the broadest sense might be paid for and, at a more granular level, the opportunities to align policy and funding interventions at the local level to improve the quality of public service outcomes and address concentrations of deprivation.
 - 3.2. Following this, the second roundtable on the theme of leadership took place in May with speakers Joy Warmington (chief executive officer at Brap), Patricia Wharton (community advocate) and Nick Garnham (chief executive officer at Community Organisers). The roundtable investigated the role of local leadership in binding communities and anchor institutions together to strengthen resilience, align national priorities, and articulate policy interventions necessary to support balanced economic growth and tackle systemic inequality.

Employment and Skills

4. This Board, together with the City Regions launched the LGA's [Work Local: Unlocking talent to level up](#) in mid-May, our latest instalment to our longstanding campaign for employment and skills devolution. The proposals build on the Government's Levelling up White Paper and make recommendations to Whitehall on ways it can improve its approach to policy and provision for all places right now and develop a more coherent approach to devolution. This is critical to levelling up.

5. It includes new analysis showing that every place has a unique labour market, that the system is complicated and that a Work Local approach – giving democratically elected local leaders the power and funding to work with partners to join up provision – could each year result in a 15 per cent increase in the number of people improving their skills or finding work in a local area. We call on the Government to work with us to establish a ‘Work Local Board’ to co-design new and repurpose existing provision and implement changes to improve the system set out in our prospectus for change. Through our press work, Cllr Bentley was interviewed by BBC Look North.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

6. On 13 April 2022, the Government published the [prospectus and allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#). This provided further details and the platform for lead authorities to develop and submit their investment plans to access the funding. The LGA published a briefing and a [UKSPF hub](#) to support lead authorities by signposting to relevant improvement work.
7. The LGA has worked with the wider sector to understand the implications for the prospectus and continue to raise issues with Government officials, including the short time frames and the longevity and quantum of funding. One of the key issues raised has been the funding gap between the end of the European Social Fund and the commencement of the UKSPF People and Skills Priority. The LGA published a [press release](#) on the sector’s concerns which was featured in the Financial Times.

Digital Connectivity

8. We have been working with the LGA public affairs team to highlight the importance of good digital connection, [responding to the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill](#) announced at the Queen’s Speech to call for Government funding for councils to put in place a local digital champion. We also [responded](#) to a change in planning laws for 5G rollout. Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the LGA’s digital champion has supported with Mobile UK’s [recent report](#) calling for fully-funded local authority digital champions.
9. The LGA has launched a [digital switchover hub](#) to support councils throughout the switchover. We have a Local Government Digital Switchover Working Group who met for the first time in April to discuss issues, opportunities and good practice relating to the analogue to digital switchover. Where issues are raised within the group, particularly around communications and messaging, we are picking up conversations and lobbying Government.

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City Regions Board – Report from Mayor Marvin Rees

Levelling Up

1. Following the announcement of a Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill in the Queen's Speech, the LGA on 10 May, the LGA issued a [response](#) emphasising that levelling up will only be achieved if councils have the powers and funding they need to address interregional and intraregional inequalities, tackle deprivation, and make communities attractive places to live, work and visit.
2. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was then published on 11 May, and this Board, together with the People and Places Board will work with parliamentarians and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to shape and amend this legislation to ensure it helps councils to level up and delivers greater devolution so the UK ceases to be one of the most centralised countries in the democratic world.
3. We are halfway through the [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#), overseen by an independent steering group, which explores how the Government's levelling up agenda might better strengthen local communities.
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 - 3.2 Following this, the second roundtable on the theme of leadership took place in May with speakers Joy Warmington (chief executive officer at Brap), Patricia Wharton (community advocate) and Nick Gardham (chief executive officer at Community Organisers). The roundtable investigated the role of local leadership in binding communities and anchor institutions together to strengthen resilience, align national priorities, and articulate policy interventions necessary to support balanced economic growth and tackle systemic inequality.

Employment and Skills

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system is complicated and that a Work Local approach – giving democratically elected local leaders the power and funding to work with partners to join up provision – could each year result in a 15 per cent increase in the number of people improving their skills or finding work in a local area. We call on the Government to work with us to establish a ‘Work Local Board’ to co-design new and repurpose existing provision and implement changes to improve the system set out in our prospectus for change.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Community Renewal Fund

5. On 13 April 2022, the Government published the [prospectus and allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#). This provided further details and the platform for lead authorities to develop and submit their investment plans to access the funding. The LGA published a briefing and a [UKSPF hub](#) to support lead authorities by signposting to relevant improvement work.
6. The LGA has worked with the wider sector to understand the implications for the prospectus and continue to raise issues with Government officials, including the short time frames and the longevity and quantum of funding. One of the key issues raised has been the funding gap between the end of the European Social Fund and the commencement of the UKSPF People and Skills Priority. The LGA published a [press release](#) on the sector’s concerns which was featured in the Financial Times.

Urban Summit

7. We held our first Urban Summit on 9 March. The event, hosted by Mayor Rees, brought together a broad cross-section of academics, international experts, politicians and business representatives to explore the challenges facing cities today, and look ahead to the role for cities in delivering the Government’s levelling up agenda and tackling the challenges of the future.
8. The event heard contributions from speakers including Professor Greg Clark, Chair of the Connected Places Catapult, Lord Kerslake, Chair of the UK2070 Commission, Dr Coleen Thouez, a Senior Fellow from the New School’s Zolberg Institute, Dorthe Nielsen, Executive Director and Acting Secretary General of Eurocities, as well as leading councillors from Salford, Nottingham, Southwark, Lancaster, Richmond and Bradford.
9. Following the summit, officers have developed plans to build on the discussions at the Urban Summit, including an urban fringe event at LGA Conference which will launch a collection of videos and essays on the topic of “what do we want our cities to be, and how do we get there?”.

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

1. On 16 March 2022, the Board visited Coventry to experience first hand the work that has been done as part of the City of Culture programme, and hear about the positive impact that it has had on residents and businesses.
2. On 8 June 2022, the Board visited [Buxton in Derbyshire](#) to learn about the transformation of the historic crescent into a thriving destination, including hotel and thermal spa.
3. The learning from these visits is being built into conversations with civil servants, Ministers, and Government advisers, including on levelling up; and discussions with funding bodies such as Arts Council England and Historic England on refining place-based investment approaches.

Culture

4. The new [culture commission](#), chaired by Baroness Lola Young, has now met three times, including an introductory session for commissioners, a session on the role of public culture in supporting economic growth, and a session on tackling health inequalities using culture. The Commission has received widespread attention and has started sharing [visual records](#) of its conversations, with short films due to be published shortly. Cllr Peter Golds acts as the representative of the CTS Board on the Commission.
5. Cllr Julian German chaired a conference on the Unboxed festival on 25 March, taking place across the country, identifying how councils could become involved and support community engagement with the activities.

Sport and physical activity

6. Cllr Vernon-Jackson met with Nigel Huddleston, Minister for Sport, to discuss the future of sport and activity services and DCMS' plans for a new sports strategy. At the meeting, DCMS committed to the development of a sport facilities audit, to better understand the challenges facing councils and providers with their asset management and maintenance.
7. Cllr Vernon-Jackson also spoke at the APPG on Swimming to highlight the significant threat to the sector as a result of rising energy costs, as outlined in the [LGA briefing note](#). Following the session, the Chair of the APPG wrote a follow up letter to the Minister highlighting these concerns.

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

Improvement Update

1. The LGA has updated its sector support offer for 2022/23, funded by DLUHC and shaped through direct engagement with councils to ensure that they have the support they most need. Our offer includes an extensive range of support to drive improvement across all regions.
2. The offer includes an extensive range of support options to enable councils to keep providing critical services and also empower them to deliver as effectively as possible for their local areas. Some examples of our support include our leadership programme which identifies and shapes new and existing talent. Our governance and finance offers which support councils to improve performance, systems and capacity, including through financial resilience and data-informed decision-making. We also provide councils with comprehensive support to empower them to deliver their place-based visions for local priorities such as climate change, housing, devolution, building safety and community engagement
3. The [LGA Annual Conference](#) (running June 28th – June 30th 2022) will feature our Innovation Zone (IZ) offering a vibrant and creative space within the wider conference programme, where councils, partners and others will be able to showcase their innovative ideas and approaches. The IZ will feature engaging, interactive sessions and will encourage delegates to think differently about issues they may be facing in their own authorities. The theme for this year's Innovation Zone will be Resilience and Renewal and presentations will span topics including Place, Leadership, Environmental Sustainability and Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion.
4. A programme for the IZ has now been produced and will be shared publicly in the coming days via the LGA site and conference app. The programme will include over 30 IZ sessions, representing councils across all regions, council types and political alignments.
5. The IZ will also feature Spotlight on... talks, which are a new addition to the IZ programme. Unlike IZ sessions, these will stand alone when presented. These will run for approx. 30 mins and will follow a TEDx style format. They are focused on big ideas and challenging and inspiring councils to think differently.
6. In total we have 7 Spotlight on... talks arranged across the 3 days. A selection of these include:
 - A session from Exeter Council delivered, by their CEO Karime Hassan, on utilising partnership working as a vehicle for delivering place leadership outcomes.
 - A session delivered by Karl Lokko, a former gang leader turned activist, poet, influencer, public speaker and adventure, organised Newton Europe.

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- A session from ActEarly City Collaboratories in Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Tower Hamlets Borough Council – focusing on how they are uniting research expertise with local government, local partners and communities to improve local environments and give young people a healthier and fairer future.
 - Our Spotlight on Climate Change Panel’ – featuring exciting ideas from the University of Exeter, East of England LGA and the Carbon Co-op (in collaboration with Oldham Council), with presentations on a Local Climate Adaptation Tool, greater collaboration between councils and business and community led-energy planning.
7. The IZ will also launch our Annual Report on the LGA’s improvement activity in 2021/2022. The report outlines what has been delivered during 2021/2022 and evidences the significant positive impacts across the local government sector.
8. Of significant note in the annual report are the achievements around our peer support. Our peers and regional teams delivered 134 programmes of peer challenge or remote support including 53 corporate peer challenges. This is particularly impressive since covid-19 measures meant that face to face forms of support like peer challenges were not able to commence until July. If you would be interested in our peer support, please contact the [LGA Principal Advisor](#) for your region.

Climate Change

Council and Business Collaboration for the Climate Emergency: Webinar Blog

9. On 15 March, Councillor Andrew Cooper chaired a webinar where the LGA partnered with the Business Services Association (BSA) on how councils and businesses can work together to meet their carbon reduction targets. The session was focussed on three different partnership case studies, where councils and businesses had worked together on green initiatives. You can [download the webinar presentations](#) on our website.

[Webinar blog: The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool updates and scope 3 emissions](#)

10. On April 28, over 180 people attended a webinar, chaired by Councillor Andrew Cooper, to introduce some [new guidance on Scope 3](#) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and the latest updates to the free-to-use [Local Partnerships/LGA Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#).

[Climate Change: Reporting Guidance for Local Authorities](#)

11. Councillor Andrew Cooper launched a new guidance document which supports the [Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#). The guidance aims to assist local authorities with understanding the scale of scope 3 reporting, what to report and how to set an action plan for future reporting.

09 June 2022

Cyber, Digital and Technology

[Digital Inclusion Learner Checklist](#)

12. Working with SOCITM Advisory, the programme has developed a Digital Inclusion Learner Checklist. This represents a suite of resources to guide councils through the necessary steps to diagnose, develop, deliver and evaluate digital inclusion support for residents. This guidance is underpinned by a dynamic spreadsheet tool that can assess resident need and progress toward digital maturity. The tool provides councils with a standardised baseline of quantitative data that can assist officers to effectively demonstrate impact of initiatives. 55 councils have engaged with the checklist to date.

Publications

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

Local Government First Magazine Activity

First Magazine, dated March 2022

[First – Support for Disabled Councillors](#) – Lead Member for Leadership on the Improvement & Innovation Board, Cllr Judi Billing contributed an article highlighting the LGA's new package of support for disabled councillors and candidates.

First Magazine, dated March 2022

[First - Know your place](#) – Chair of the Improvement & Innovation Board, Cllr Peter Fleming provided an article highlighting the value of LG Inform and how it can support councils to achieve better outcomes through enabling better benchmarking, performance management, data-based decision making and more.

First Magazine, dated May 2022

[First - Supporting the sector](#) – Cllr Peter Fleming article which focuses on our updated sector support offer for 2022/23.

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Resources Board – Report from Cllr Shaun Davies (Chair)

Workforce

National Living Wage and Impact on Local Government Pay

1. The Low Pay Commission (LPC) announced its latest forecast for the National Living Wage in April and work has been undertaken to understand the potential impact on local government pay.

Local Government Pay 2022

2. At the time of writing we expect the unions will lodge their pay claim for 2022-23 at the end of May or in the first week of June. The National Employers have now been in touch with the regional employer organisations and the WLGA and NILGA to arrange the formal pay briefings, which will take place between 14 and 27 June. National Employers will then meet in July to discuss and hopefully respond to the claim.

Soulbury Officers (Soulbury Committee) – Pay 2021

3. Agreement has now been reached for a pay award of 1.75 per cent for all officers within scope of the Soulbury Committee. The pay award is applicable from 1 September 2021.

Youth and Community Workers (JNC Youth and Community Workers) – Pay 2021

4. The National Employers made a final offer of a 1.75% pay increase to the Trade Unions in September 2021. The Trade Union Side (Unite, Unison, UCU and NEU) rejected the offer and issued a trade dispute. The National Employers continue to urge acceptance of the offer.

Police Staff (Police Staff Council) – Pay 2021-2023

5. The National Employers have made a final offer to the Trade Unions which is a 2.1% pay increase with effect from 1 April 2022 until 31 August 2023 and a £250 pay increase for those earning under £24,000 from 1 September 2021. This has now been agreed by the employees' side.

Teachers' Pay 2022-23 and 2023-24

6. The [DfE published their evidence](#) to the STRB in March. The proposals include an above 16% increase to achieve the Governments' policy of £30k starting salary over the next 2 years. A 3% increase for 2022-23 and 2% increase for 2023-24 is proposed for experienced teachers and school leaders. NEOST provided evidence at the oral STRB session this April and we will report back further on this process as it develops.

Schools White Paper

7. [DfE has now published its Schools White Paper](#), giving councils powers to set up their own multi-academy trusts. In [the LGA briefing](#) we highlight that the White Paper is silent with regards the future of the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document that is widely supported.

Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill

8. The Bill gained Royal Assent and became an Act of Parliament in mid-March 2022. At House of Commons report stage an amendment proposed by Robert Jenrick MP, covering boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) guidance for the Local Government Pension Scheme, was supported by the government. Following constructive discussions between officers, DLUHC officials and HM Treasury officials, satisfactory comfort was given in the final House of Lords debate around the intended use of the provision.
9. Provisions in the Act closed all final salary public service pension schemes as of 31st March 2022, ending the period of transitional protection that followed the 2014/15 reforms. We await the Department's response to its 2021 McCloud consultation on changes needed to the LGPS to implement the provisions of the Act.

Public Sector Apprenticeships Target Set to End

10. Government has now confirmed that the Public Sector Apprenticeships Target, which has been in place for all public sector employers since 2017 ended on 31 March 2022 and will not be renewed. There will be no formal target moving forward but all public sector employers, including councils, with headcounts of 250 or more will be required to report annually on their progress. League tables will be created for each part of the public sector, including local government, to show progress, allow for benchmarking and drive behaviour.
11. Local government, including maintained schools, failed to meet the public sector target between 2017 and 2021, managing to create apprenticeship starts equivalent to 1.2 per cent of our collective headcount, against a target of 2.3 per cent. The inclusion of maintained schools – over whom councils have no control when it comes to recruitment, retention and development of staff – in the local government target dragged down our performance due to their lower levels of interest in apprenticeships. Had maintained schools not been included in the local government public sector target, our performance against that metric would have risen from 1.2 per cent to 1.6 per cent. All of this disguises what is actually a good performance from councils who created an average of 13,500 apprenticeship starts per year over the four-year period, more than doubling the number of apprenticeships created the year before the target (6,000 in 2016/17).

Apprenticeship Guides for Social Work and Social Care

12. As part of our sector-led improvement offer for councils on apprenticeships, we have produced several documents highlighting apprenticeship opportunities in social care and social work. Drawing on work we have previously done in mapping local authority job roles to available apprenticeship qualifications, we have produced A-Zs of both social care and social work apprenticeships, showing which ones map across to apprenticeships in both fields and developed short 'pathway guides' that can help council officers visualize how apprenticeships can be used to aid in staff development and progression.

New Website for LGPS Members

13. We have launched the new [national website for members of the LGPS](#) in England and Wales. The website has easy to use tools and calculators, helpful bitesize videos and improved search facilities and accessibility.

Annual Standards for Employers for Social Workers survey

14. Our annual survey asking a number of critical questions about the experiences of social workers in England is now complete. A record number of 137 councils received their reports between January - March 2022 and we'll be publishing annual summary of this social worker health check soon. See our website for [more information about the Standards for Social Workers](#).

LGA response to consultation on disability workforce reporting

15. After seeking local authorities' views we responded to the Government's consultation on disability workforce reporting and whether it should be mandatory. Local authorities had mixed views on the issues set out in the consultation and the response reflected that.

COVID-19 employment law FAQs

16. The LGA's [COVID-19 employment law FAQs](#) have been updated following the publication of Government guidance on 1 April 2022.

Local Government Finance

Queen's speech

17. At its last meeting Resources Board received a verbal update on the [Queen's speech](#). Several local government finance related bills were announced:
 - 24.1 The Non-Domestic Rating Bill includes shortening the revaluation cycle from every five to three years from 2023, providing ratepayers with information on how their rateable value is calculated, and various rates relief.
 - 24.2 The Draft Audit Reform Bill which includes the formal establishment of the new statutory regulator, the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority (ARGA), which will also act as the system leader for local audit.
 - 24.3 The [UK Infrastructure Bank Bill](#) which will finalise the creation of the UK Infrastructure Bank.

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill

18. The [Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill](#) contains changes to council tax and new proposals for local government capital finance risk mitigation, including new powers enabling the Secretary of State to intervene in individual local authorities to set borrowing limits or require that the local authority take a specified action.

Spring Statement

19. On 23 March, [the Chancellor delivered the 2022 Spring Statement](#). Whilst there were no announcements about additional core funding for council services, councils did

receive £500 million to continue to provide targeted local welfare support to low-income households facing financial hardship via the Household Support Fund.

20. The LGA [issued a press reaction](#) as well as an [on-the-day bulletin](#).

Council tax energy rebate

21. Councils have been distributing the [Council Tax Energy rebate](#) from 1 April. Although DLUHC has not yet published data, we understand that it has now been paid to most direct debit payers. Councils are having to contact those not on direct debit. There have been extensive discussions about the details and administration of the scheme and new burdens arising from the scheme with DLUHC officials; an initial payment of £28 million has been made to councils.

Online sales tax consultation

22. Resources Board Lead Members approved a response to [HM Treasury's policy consultation](#) exploring the proposal for an online sales tax (OST). In our [response](#) we say that we support the introduction of an online sales tax, particularly as it would help to spread the range of the taxbase for business taxes. However, this should not be at the expense of business rates income.

Cost pressures facing councils

23. Several developments, including a spike in inflation and energy prices, along with accelerated growth in median earnings (which drives the benchmark for future National Living Wage increases), have meant that cost pressures at the time of the Spending Review now appear to be a significant underestimate.
24. LGA officers are reassessing future cost pressures in the light of these increased inflationary, pay and demand pressures and will continue to make the case for sustainable funding.
25. In addition, the LGA continues to push the Government to provide clarity on local government finance reforms such as the Fair Funding Review, business rates reset and the New Homes Bonus, and ensure no authority loses out from the Fair Funding Review.

Business Grants

26. The final payments of the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Additional Restrictions Grant were due to be made to businesses by 31 March 2022. This brought the total paid to businesses since March 2020 to over £22 billion. BEIS and local authorities are now working on reconciliation and assurance for the grant programme.

Ukrainian arrivals

27. As was reported to Resources Board, officers have been continuing dialogue with DLUHC officials over the financial implications of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and other arrivals from Ukraine. DLUHC has published [guidance](#) on the role of councils in the Homes for Ukraine.

UK Infrastructure Bank

28. [The UK Infrastructure Bank](#) will have £4 billion over 5 years to lend to local authorities for high value and strategic projects of at least £5 million that support regional and local economic growth or tackle climate change. The bank is keen to engage with councils and made a presentation to Resources Board on how it will work with the sector.

Support for Low Income Households

How councils are supporting people and communities affected by cost of living pressures

29. Supporting households at risk of hardship remains a key priority for councils. Events including the war in Ukraine are continuing to have real and immediate impacts on the costs of living for households in England and Wales.
30. The LGA continues to highlight the need for the mainstream benefits system to provide the principal form of financial support for low-income households. Further discretionary funding through the Household Support Fund has enabled councils to provide much-needed crisis support in collaboration with Government and other key partners. The LGA continues to call for a more sustainable approach to both funding and joint working, which also considers long-term financial resilience and healthy, inclusive local economies.
31. Councils and the LGA recognise that this needs a collaborative approach across the sector. Led by Resources Board, the LGA is working across key areas including housing, employment, health, education, environment, transport and social care to ensure that we both address the immediate crisis, but also – for example through our work on ‘levelling up’ – strengthen the role of councils in reducing inequality and leading inclusive, successful and resilient local economies.
32. The LGA is delivering a wide range of work to inform both national policy and local delivery including a programme of action learning for councils to collaborate and develop their approaches to local welfare and financial support.

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

Select Committee evidence session on the Licensing Act

1. On Thursday 10th March one of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Licensing Champions, Cllr Jeanie Bell, provided evidence to the House of Lords Liaison Committee on the Licensing Act 2003. Cllr Bell highlighted that whilst the LGA believes the Licensing Act provides a sound licensing framework, we would like to see an increase in licensing fees and health introduced as a licensing objective. Cllr Bell also highlighted the LGA's training offer for members of licensing committees and pressed for the Government to make progress on the issue of online licensing forms.

Night-time economies conference

2. Cllr Bell spoke at The Local Night-Time Economies Conference 2022 on behalf of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. Cllr Bell spoke about the strategies councils use to support their local night-time economy and shared examples of good practice. This was a paid for speaking slot, which generated £300 for the LGA.

Meetings with Addictions and Substance Misuse Portfolio leads, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

3. Two of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Licensing Champions, Cllr Jeanie Bell and Cllr Clive Woodbridge, met with the Addictions and Substance Misuse Portfolio leads at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Joy Allen and David Sidwick, to discuss potential areas of joint work. The LGA and APCC have agreed to do some joint media work on drink spiking to coincide with students going to University in September and for the APCC to feed into the LGA's refresh of its council guide on gambling harms.

Meeting with Rachel Maclean MP, Minister for Safeguarding

4. The LGA Chairman and I met with Rachel Maclean MP, the Minister for Safeguarding, to discuss the importance of tackling anti-social behaviour and wider safeguarding issues. There was a focus on the forthcoming Community Safety Partnership Review and the Government's Beating Crime Plan. LGA officers will continue to liaise with the Home Office, councils and partners on the Government's Levelling Up milestone to reduce neighbourhood crime and homicide.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

5. In February, the Vice-Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, Cllr Mohan Iyengar chaired the LGA's webinar on tackling serious and organised crime. Over 160 delegates joined the best practice session, with speakers from the Home Office, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and wider council

speakers. LGA officers continue to work with the Home Office and partners on this important issue.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour roundtable discussion with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

6. The LGA Chairman and LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Lead Members met with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to discuss tackling anti-social behaviour, and wider community safety issues. Members agreed a series of joint actions, including supporting the forthcoming Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week (commencing 18th July 2022) and collectively raising awareness of the community trigger.

Traveller Site Fund

7. The LGA held a webinar, with representatives from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to provide further details on the Traveller Site Fund. Over 100 delegates joined the session, ahead of the funds bidding deadline in mid-June.

Vagrancy Act

8. The LGA [responded](#) to the Government consultation on an effective replacement for the Vagrancy Act. We will continue to work with Government, councils, police, and wider partners to consider the range of proposals that could be taken forward, in light of the Vagrancy Act being repealed.

National Expert Steering Group on Domestic Abuse

9. The National Expert Steering Group on Domestic Abuse met for a second time to discuss the implementation of the Part 4 statutory duty, for councils to deliver domestic abuse accommodation-based support and services. The LGA is a representative on the steering group and has held a series of best practice sessions with councils ahead of the next meeting in June. These best practice workshops included presentations from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the National Housing Federation, Imkaan, Women's Aid and local government case studies.

Domestic Abuse Commissioner Strategic Group on Perpetrators

10. Cllr Lois Samuel, the LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board Domestic Abuse Champion, attended the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Strategic Group on Perpetrators in March. The meeting focused on the Government's publication of its Domestic Abuse Plan, and the Government's commitment to invest in perpetrator interventions.

Fire Services Management Committee media work

11. I responded to media inquiries about the provision of transit sites and negotiated stopping places for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, illicit sales of tobacco, and on the inclusion of a modern slavery bill in the Queen's Speech.
12. Cllr Iyengar, the Board's Vice-Chair responded to media inquiries about scams linked to the energy rebate paid through council tax, additional funding being made available to Violence Reduction Units, on publication of the Tackling Domestic Abuse action plan.
13. Cllr Ian Stephens, the Chair of Fire Services Management Committee responded to the launch of the Fire Reform White Paper, the commencement of the Fire Safety Act and the government's response to the Home Office consultation on personal emergency evacuation plans.

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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.

LGA location map

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 18 Smith Square
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 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

