



# People & Places Board

Agenda

Tuesday, 10 January 2023  
10.30 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and  
Online

People & Places Board  
Tuesday, 10 January 2023

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There will be a meeting of the People & Places Board at **10.30 am on Tuesday, 10 January 2023**  
Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online.

### **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.

[Please see guidance for Members and Visitors to 18 Smith Square here](#)

### **Catering and Refreshments:**

If the meeting is scheduled to take place at lunchtime, a sandwich lunch will be available.

### **Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:**

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.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:labgp@lga.gov.uk">labgp@lga.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

### **Attendance:**

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

### **LGA Contact:**

David Pealing  
[david.pealing@local.gov.uk](mailto: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.

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk) **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)  
Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

**Chairman:** Councillor James Jamieson OBE **Chief Executive:** Mark Lloyd CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson

## People & Places Board – Membership

[Click here for accessible information on membership](#)

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 12)</b>	
Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)	Essex County Council
Cllr Morris Bright MBE (Vice Chairman)	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Lynne Doherty	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Marc Bayliss	Worcester City Council
Cllr Peter Butlin	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Hilary Carrick	Cumbria County Council
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland Council
Cllr Jordan Meade	Gravesham Borough Council
Cllr Eddie Reeves	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Phillipa Williamson	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Barry Wood	Cherwell District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Colin Kemp	Woking Borough Council
Cllr Shaun Gunner	Arun District Council
Cllr Jane Evison	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
<b>Labour ( 3)</b>	
Cllr Amanda Serjeant (Deputy Chair)	Chesterfield Borough Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Damien Greenhalgh	High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Alan Waters	Norwich City Council
Cllr Erica Lewis	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Steve Norman	Lichfield District Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 3)</b>	
Cllr Emily Smith (Vice-Chair)	Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Caroline Leaver	Devon County Council
Cllr Stan Collins	Cumbria County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Michael Mullaney	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Independent ( 3)</b>	
Cllr Emily O'Brien (Deputy Chair)	Lewes District Council
Cllr Kevin Etheridge	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Sue Roberts	South Oxfordshire District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Georgina Hill	Northumberland County Council

Cllr Julian Dean	Shropshire Council
Cllr Caroline Topping	Suffolk County Council

## Agenda

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### People & Places Board

Tuesday, 10 January 2023

10.30 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 14 March 2023, 10.30 am,  
Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online



**Meeting:** People and Places Board

**Date:** 10 January 2023



## Digital Connectivity Update

### Purpose of report

For information

### Summary

This paper provides an overview of recent policy and public affairs work relating to digital connectivity and inclusion. It also provides background to the commissioned work David Mack-Smith of DMS Research and Consulting has carried out exploring the role of local authorities in tackling digital exclusion. At the Board meeting David will present the recommendations for both local and central government and Cllr Mark Hawthorne (the LGA's digital champion) will also be in attendance to provide his expertise. There will be an opportunity for a wider discussion with Board members about the recommendations and how the LGA can take them forward to lobby government.

**Is this report confidential?** No

### Recommendation/s

Members are invited to:

- Note recent policy and public affairs activity in relation to digital connectivity and inclusion since the start of the 2022/23 board cycle.
- Note and discuss with David of DMS Research and Consulting and Cllr Mark Hawthorne the recommendations from the commissioned work on the role of local authorities tackling digital exclusion.
- Comment on how the LGA can take the recommendations forward and land them with Government.

### Action/s

Noting comments from Members from the discussion with DMS Consulting and Cllr Mark Hawthorne, officers will publish the commissioned work exploring the role of local authorities in tackling digital exclusion and create a more detailed plan to take the recommendations forward and land them with central government.

## **Contact details**

Contact officer: Esther Barrott

Position: Adviser

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## Digital Connectivity Update

### Background

1. Officers continue to take forward public affairs and policy work relating to digital connectivity and inclusion, working with Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the LGA's digital champion.
2. On 7 September 2022 it was announced that Julia Lopez would be appointed Minister of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Julia was reconfirmed as Minister of State with the arrival of Rishi Sunak's government.
3. Since the start of the 2022/23 board cycle the LGA has [responded](#) to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement by calling on the government and industry to build internal expertise and put in place local digital champions to assist roll outs. The LGA has also [responded](#) to government's plans to expand the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and [responded](#) to a recent survey by Which? showing households eligible for broadband social tariffs are not taking up the offer over concerns the speed offered will be too slow.
4. On 24 November 2022 the LGA held a session on the role of local authorities supporting digital connectivity. The session was chaired by Cllr Mark Hawthorne and speakers included Gemma Bristow (digital specialist at South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council), Ceren Clulow (digital connectivity manager at Nottinghamshire County Council), Gareth Elliott (director of policy and communications at Mobile UK), and Jesam Eyong (head of public sector engagement at DCMS).
5. The session was well attended with around forty representatives from local government and wider organisations. It explored the role local government and its partners play in improving local infrastructure and the difference local authority digital champions make to local broadband and mobile delivery.
6. Officers continue to raise concern about the impact of upgrading infrastructure. The planned transfer of all analogue lines (also called public switched telephone network or PSTN) to digital internet-based infrastructure will see analogue-based products completely phased out by 2025 and replaced with an all-digital network. Telecare devices such as personal alarms and fall detectors are largely analogue products putting the 1.7 million people who rely on technology enabled care at the most risk.

7. Officers continue to run monthly [switchover working group](#) meetings to discuss challenges and share good practice between regions. The results from an LGA commissioned digital switchover readiness survey reconfirmed the four areas where councils need better support: safe data sharing, funding, communications support, and with the central testing platform. Cllr Hawthorne continues to attend the meetings and officers are now working with the LGA communications team to design tools to raise awareness of the switchover within local authorities and wider communities.
8. The LGA is working with Ofcom to develop a survey which will be distributed in the new year to understand how ready councils are for the 2G and 3G switch off (taking place between 2023 and 2033). There is concern that the most vulnerable will be disproportionately affected and officers will be working with Ofcom to provide more targeted support once the results are analysed.

### **Digital inclusion commission**

9. In March 2022 members agreed to expand the Board's digital work to cover digital inclusion which will be crucial to addressing social and economic inequalities and levelling up every community.
10. Rural areas face specific challenges associated with being excluded from accessing digital services and products. In 2019 Ofcom figures showed only 18 per cent of over-75s used smartphones compared with 95 per cent of 16- to 24-year-olds. Rural areas, which have an older-than-average population, feel this challenge most acutely. Due to poorer transport networks in rural areas and longer distances to delivery venues it can be more difficult and expensive for people to access outreach venues such as libraries and community venues. Additional challenges associated with disability, older age and low income are compounded in rural areas. Tinder Foundation's Rural Action Research found underrepresented groups living in rural areas are more likely to suffer from increased social isolation.
11. Following a steer from members and recognition that digital exclusion remains an important issue for many local communities and in the delivery of council services, officers commissioned DMS Consulting to undertake a piece of work to help inform the LGA's lobbying positions. The research aimed to explore the links between various types of disadvantage and the availability and usage of digital infrastructure, and to consider the role of councils in tackling digital exclusion.
12. To date, the supplier has analysed the link between digital infrastructure and disadvantage and carried out a series of stakeholder consultations including with six councils (Bolsover District Council, Devon County Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Leeds City Council, Norfolk County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council), DCMS, Building Digital UK (BDUK), the Digital Connectivity Forum (DCF),

and the Good Things Foundation. The discussions explored the role that councils can play in tackling digital exclusion and how central government could better support and leverage councils in this.

13. A series of recommendations have been developed aimed at both central and local government. DMS Consulting held a session on 15 December 2022 to discuss the draft recommendations with a series of stakeholders including Cllr Mark Hawthorne.
14. David Mack-Smith of DMS Research and Consulting will attend the January board and present the findings and recommendations to members for comment. Following approval from members officers will launch the report and create a plan for landing the recommendations with central government to enhance the board's lobbying positions.

### **Next steps**

15. Members are invited to:

- Note recent policy and public affairs activity in relation to digital connectivity and inclusion since the start of the 2022/23 board cycle.
- Note and discuss with David of DMS Research and Consulting and Cllr Mark Hawthorne the recommendations from the commissioned work on the role of local authorities tackling digital exclusion.
- Comment on how the LGA can take the recommendations forward and land them with Government.

### **Implications for Wales**

16. Digital infrastructure policy is a devolved responsibility. The commissioned work only analyses data for England, however officers will look for opportunities to ensure alignment of recommendations and messaging with the Welsh Local Government Association.

### **Financial Implications**

17. The Board's activities are supported by budgets for policy development and improvement. The research has been funded from the Board's budget for policy development.



**Meeting:** People and Places Board

**Date:** 10 January 2023



## People and Places forward plan

### Purpose of report

For direction

### Summary

This short paper sets out future Board dates with proposals for discussion topics.

**Is this report confidential?** No

### Recommendation/s

That the Board agree the forward plan.

### Contact details

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

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## People and Places forward plan



### Background

1. The Board will meet five times over the course of the Board cycle. The following table sets out an initial forward plan for lead members' comment. The plan will be updated and further content added throughout the cycle in response to current events and Board priorities.
2. At the November Board, members expressed an interest in a wide-ranging discussion encompassing a number of topics, including:
  - the impact of the cost of living crisis in rural and coastal areas
  - transport connectivity, particularly buses and HGV routing
  - the role of and opportunities for agriculture and food production
  - second homes, and affordable housing more broadly
  - capacity and recruitment issues in non-metropolitan councils.
3. Time on the January Board meeting is limited due to the number of projects that need member engagement before financial year end. The forward plan below suggests setting aside time at the March meeting to have a fuller discussion on these issues.
4. In 2021, the Board [commissioned Pragmatix Advisory](#) to explore the economic challenges facing rural and coastal areas, with a particular focus on deprivation. One way to structure a Board discussion might be to use the 2021 report as a baseline for the discussion. Officers could review the report's findings in light of any new evidence and consider progress made against its [recommendations](#). It might be that members would wish to commission a fuller update to the report as a result of that discussion.

Date	Papers	Guest speaker(s)
23 September 2022	<i>Terms of reference            Work programme            Levelling Up            Green jobs and retrofit            EDI skills and employment            Digital inclusion            Growth funding</i>	<i>Cllr Mark Hawthorne</i>

<p>8 November 2022</p>	<p><i>Final terms of reference LGA Plan and reflections on new Government Britain's Leading Edge Green jobs, including new BEIS project Place pilots research Levelling Up Locally inquiry</i></p>	<p><i>Cllr Linda Taylor</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Longlands, CLES</i></p>
<p>10 January 2023</p>	<p><i>Levelling Up Locally next steps Digital inclusion project findings Work Local next steps, including project updates on EDI skills and inclusion and green jobs Economic development and LEP projects Growth project</i></p>	<p><i>DMS Consulting; Cllr Mark Hawthorne</i></p> <p><i>Shared Intelligence</i></p> <p><i>Growth project suppliers</i></p>
<p><b>14 March 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview discussion: key issues facing non-metropolitan local government</li> <li>• Discussion with the NFU</li> <li>• Rural-proofing Whitehall policy and the Rural England Prosperity Fund</li> <li>• Growth project findings</li> <li>• EDI skills and improvement findings</li> <li>• Green jobs and retrofit project update</li> </ul>	<p>Minette Batters, NFU President (holding the date in her diary)</p> <p>Defra Minister and/or officials</p> <p>Growth project suppliers</p>
<p><b>06 June 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Britain's Leading Edge</li> <li>• Digital connectivity update</li> <li>• Board's annual report</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Linda Taylor</p> <p>Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>





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