



Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 20 October 2022
12.30 pm

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and
Online

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 20 October 2022**
Hybrid Meeting - Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square, Westminster and Online.

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

11.00am	Conservative	Bevin Hall (Ground Floor)
11.00am	Labour	Eaton-Cockell Room (7 th Floor)
11.00am	Independent	Victoria Room (8 th Floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground Floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available in Smith Square Rooms 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.

[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.

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:

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Carers' Allowance

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

Councillors' Forum – Membership

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

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (37)	
Cllr James Jamieson OBE (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Vice Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset County Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Toby Savage	West of England Combined Authority
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Richard Wenham	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Lewis Cocking	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Andrew Proctor	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland District Council
Cllr Kelham Cooke	South Kesteven District Council
Cllr Nicholas Jones	Bury Metropolitan Borough
Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Adele Davies-Cooke	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Rob Humby	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Penny Channer	Maldon District Council
Cllr Lucy Stephenson	Rutland County Council
Cllr Ash Ashbee	Thanet District Council
Cllr Paul Roberts	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Cllr Richard Bingley	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Paul Osborn	Harrow London Borough
Labour (36)	
Cllr Shaun Davies (Vice-Chair)	Telford and Wrekin Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Jas Athwal	Redbridge London Borough
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Oliver Ryan	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Andrew Western	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Damien Greenhalgh	High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Islington London Borough
Cllr Carl Johnson	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Naushabah Khan	Medway Council
Cllr Rachel Sutton	Exeter City Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Sharon Thompson	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Georgia Gould	Camden Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Tracey Dixon	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Claire Holland	Lambeth London Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Cllr Andrew Morgan	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mayor Damien Egan	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Philip Bialyk	Exeter City Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich Borough Council
Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (13)	
Cllr Joe Harris (Vice-Chair)	Cotswold District Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Vikki Slade	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Keith Aspden	York City Council
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Sean MacLeod	Lewes District Council

Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council
Cllr Pippa Heylings	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Sarah Osborne	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Emily Smith	Vale of White Horse District Council
Independent (13)	
Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell District Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	North Kesteven District Council
Cllr Paul Woodhead	Cannock Chase District Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Tony Saffell	North West Leicestershire District Council
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Mike Haines	Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Sue Baxter	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr Caroline Topping	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Georgina Hill	Northumberland Council
Cllr Chidi Nweke	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Craig Browne	Cheshire East Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tessa Hodgson	Pembrokeshire County Council
Cllr James Giles	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Cllr Emily O'Brien	Lewes District Council
Cllr Caroline Jackson	Lancaster City Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday, 20 October 2022

12.30 pm

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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- 4. **Digest of the last meeting held on 21 July 2022** 55 - 56

- 5. **Any other business that Chairman considers urgent**

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 26 January 2023, 12.30 pm, Hybrid Meeting
- 18 Smith Square and Online

Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities from 15 July – 20 October 2022

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

JULY	
18	The Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Advisory Board
AUGUST	
4	Lord Harrington, Minister DLUHC/Home Office
24	Lord Harrington, Minister DLUHC/Home Office
26	Lia Nici MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling Up, The Union and Constitution
31	Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP, Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities
31	Paul Scully MP, Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
SEPTEMBER	
13	Roundtable with Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP, Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities
21	Dehenna Davison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
27	Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
OCTOBER	
12	Paul Scully MP, Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Meetings with organisations and individuals

JULY	
15	East Midlands Councils regional meeting
26	Regional visit to Cornwall Council
26	Regional visit to Plymouth Council
27	Regional visit to Exeter County Council
27	Regional visit to Taunton Council
AUGUST	
2	Regional visit to Manchester City Council
2	Regional visit to Stockport City Council
	Regional visit to Bolton City Council
2	Meeting with Andy Burnham, Mayor of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority
3	Regional visit to Lancashire County Council

3	Regional visit to Chorley Council
3	Regional visit to Blackburn with Darwen
8	Regional visit to Bournemouth, Christchurch and Portsmouth Council
8	Regional visit to Dorset Council
8	Regional visit to New Forest District Council
9	Regional visit to Fareham Borough Council
9	Regional visit to Hampshire County Council
16	Call with NHSE/I regarding Future Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy
23	Regional visit to Newcastle City Council
23	Regional visit to North Tyneside Council
24	Regional visit to Stockton-on-Tees Council
24	Regional visit to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
31	Dr Bola Owolabi, Director – Health Inequalities at NHS England and NHS Improvement
SEPTEMBER	
12	LGA/APCC Quarterly catch up
21	CCN Council
23	LGA, ADASS and NHS Confed joint messages meeting
27	LGA and NHS Confed Chairs and Chief Executive catch up
28	Worcestershire Leaders Board

Events and speaking engagements

JULY	
19	Digital Transformation in Local Government, Public Policy Exchange event
19	Radio 4 World at One live interview regarding the Homes for Ukraine scheme
20	LGC Awards Ceremony
OCTOBER	
2, 3, 4 and 5	Conservative Party Conference



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

Future of Cities

1. Following the launch of a collection of essays, videos and data analysis looking at the question “What do we want our cities to be, and how do we get there?” at LGA Conference, the Board has commissioned ‘The means’ to produce a series of six videos of city residents to understand their experience of the city and how cities could change to help them achieve their goals.
2. These videos will feed into the next urban summit, which is planned to take place in early 2023. The event will bring together others working in this space, including Key Cities, London Councils, Core Cities and the RSA, who are carrying out complementary work on urban futures.

Levelling Up

3. The [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#) has now completed all four roundtables, and officers are now working to synthesise the themes and ideas from the discussions. The emerging themes of the roundtables will be used in conjunction with previously commissioned research on place and identity, looking at how a local sense of pride in place can be formed as part of the levelling up agenda, and research into how the pandemic may have affected demographic trends and what the implications are for levelling up of any demographic shifts. These results will then be presented to the Inquiry’s steering group, with final recommendations being published this autumn.

Employment and skills

Green Jobs

4. In collaboration with the People & Places Board, the Board has agreed the priority of developing green jobs and skills needed to deliver net zero and green growth in local economies. With the EEHT Board lead members, lead members met with Kate Kennally, the local government representative on the BEIS led Green Jobs Delivery Group. They raised a number of suggestions and issues on how support the skills and business support system to develop green jobs and the pipeline of skills to support them.
5. The Board has prioritised the skills and jobs needed to deliver retrofit in the context of rising energy bills, the evidence of climate change and the general cost of living crisis. The Board have identified the need for the longevity of funding certainty, the potential to develop the right qualifications to develop the

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skilled workforce needed and the support to businesses. Members will be hosting a number of roundtables, starting later in the autumn, to explore retrofit issues with key partners to develop shared principles needed to address the retrofit challenge.

Economic and social inclusion

6. The boards (People and Places and City Regions) have agreed to examine the role of councils in supporting employment, skills, and economic inclusion. This piece of work will shine a light on the disparities that exist within people and places which impact economic inclusion. It aims to showcase the good practice in local areas through case studies and 'what good looks like' publication and will culminate with Employment, skills, and economic inclusion principles. A series of activities are planned to include an equalities survey and a roundtable.

Further Education reforms

7. The DfE is reforming further education (FE) through legislation and a range of measures which will put employers in the driving seat to determine local skills priorities. This means that Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) will design Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) which will be rolled out across England. We have lobbied through the [Skills Bill](#) (now enacted) and through several consultations for local government – both councils and devolved authorities - to have a clear and strategic role in supporting ERBs to deliver LSIPs. Our [response](#) to the DfE statutory guidance on LSIPs can be found, in which we set out why and how the sector needs to be involved.
8. A DfE consultation is currently running until 12 October on the future of adult skills funding and accountability. This affects both the wider skills system at a local level and specifically council-run adult and community learning. Feedback from the local government sector suggests this could have a significant impact on local deliver. A response is being developed.

Ministerial engagement

9. In August, Board Chairs wrote to the new Ministers for Skills (Andrea Jenkyns MP) and Employment. After positive responses, we are seeking meeting dates.

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

1. Officials from the Department of Health and Social Care gave a presentation to the Community Wellbeing Board meeting on 11 October on the DHSC engagement document on health and wellbeing boards. The engagement document was published in July 2022 as a guide to the role of HWBs following the publication of the Health and Care Act 2022 and the Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations white paper.
2. The engagement period has now ended and the revised guidance will be published in the Autumn.
3. On 20th September 2022, I chaired an LGA webinar led by the National Inclusive Sustainable Economies (NISE) Network. It explored levelling up implementation and the opportunities this presents for integrating inclusive growth and health improvement at the place level. The webinar considered how places are developing approaches to health improvement and more inclusive and sustainable economies, and how the health service is thinking about its role in place-based partnerships to level up and support social and economic development.
4. At the Board's July meeting, Members provided a very helpful steer on what the LGA's position should be with regard to the Government's adult social care reform agenda. In summary, Members agreed that we should call publicly for a short 6-month deferral to aspects of the Government's reform agenda but maintain work on 'cost of care' exercises with providers (albeit without the requirement to publish a draft market sustainability plan in October this year). Following this Board discussion, Cllr David Fothergill [wrote publicly](#) to the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care setting out the LGA's position. This was published alongside an accompanying [press release](#).
5. Building on the above work, the LGA published a new '[adult social care position statement](#)' in September calling for £13 billion new investment in adult social care (to align with what the Prime Minister said during the leadership campaign regarding adult social care needing to be the beneficiary of new funding). We argued that this level of investment is needed to both tackle current pressures and limit their immediate- and short-term impact, and provide councils with the resources required to deliver on their full range of statutory duties under the Care Act. The statement reiterated our position of seeking a 6-month deferral to charging reform, and a delay of at least 12 months to adult social care assurance. The statement was published alongside an accompanying [press](#)



[release](#), which received considerable national media coverage in both print and broadcast.

Media Statements

6. [NHS “dental deserts” persist in rural and deprived communities – LGA analysis](#)
This was covered in the [Telegraph](#), [Times](#), [Mirror](#), [Mail](#), [Independent](#), [iNews](#), [ITV](#) and [Sun](#). It also featured on BBC regional radio, LBC, Times Radio and Sky Radio, who produce news bulletins for Capital, Heart Radio and commercial channels.
7. [LGA responds to Childhood Vaccination Coverage statistics](#)
8. [LGA responds to new National Child Measurement Programme figures](#)
Our comments were reported in the [Mail Online](#).
9. [LGA responds to additional funding for hospital discharges](#)
Our comments were reported in [The Independent](#), [Guardian](#), [Express](#), [The Times](#), [The Daily Mail](#) and the [Evening Standard](#)
10. [Councils call for £13 billion for social care to be delivered as promised by PM](#)
This was covered by [Times Radio](#), [Sky news online](#), [The Independent](#), the [Daily Mail](#), [ITV online](#) and the [Guardian](#) and Cllr Fothergill was interviewed on [LBC](#).
11. [LGA responds to NHS Confederation's call for further funding to social care](#)
12. [LGA responds to ONS figures on excess deaths](#)
Our comments were reported by the [Press Association](#) and [BBC regional radio](#).
13. [LGA responds to Early Intervention Foundation report into mental health in schools](#)
14. [LGA: Sugar levy should be spent by councils to tackle physical inactivity and ensure lasting Commonwealth Games legacy](#)
This press release was reported by the [Independent](#), [Evening Standard](#), the [Guardian](#) and [LBC Radio](#) (on air and online)
15. [Evidence of immediate pressures to social care growing](#)
This was covered by [ITV News online](#) and was a main feature on [ITV News at 6 and 10](#), Cllr Fothergill was interviewed for the broadcast piece.
16. [LGA responds to ONS data on drug related deaths](#)
The LGA's comments were reported by the [Press Association](#).
17. [LGA responds to NHS Confederation report on social care](#)
18. [LGA responds to Women's Health Strategy](#)

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19. [LGA responds to new National Child Measurement Programme figures](#)

Our response was reported by the **Telegraph** and **Sun**.

20. [LGA responds to ADASS Spring budget survey](#)

21. [LGA responds to autumn COVID-19 and flu vaccination campaign](#)

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

Sports, physical activity and parks

1. The Board is working with partners to ensure Government has a strong evidence base to assess the impact of rising energy costs on the leisure sector, particularly swimming pools.
2. On National Fitness Day we launched a guide on [Identifying additional financing options for public sport and leisure services](#) which highlights different financing options to help sustain the leisure sector and shares learning from a number of councils who are already doing this.
3. On 27 September I met with Tim Hollingsworth, Chief Executive for Sport England to discuss how the cost of living and energy increases might affect sports provision and delivery of Sport England Uniting the Movement strategy
4. On 14 October Cllr Peter Golds spoke at the Why Sports? 6th Annual Sports Activity conference about local government working collaboratively with health and wider partners to serve our communities health and wellbeing needs.

Culture, heritage and libraries

5. On the 21st July Cllr Peter Golds represented the LGA at the fourth and final of the Commission on Culture and Local Government's evidence sessions, which focused on 'place'. The evidence gathering phase of the Commission closed at the end of July, following a very positive response from the sector.
6. On the 5th September I represented the LGA at a roundtable discussion on the key findings and recommendations for the Commission's report. Cllr Peter Golds attended a follow-up session on the 10th October. We are now working towards a report launch in December.
7. On the 2nd August, Cllr Peter Golds gave the keynote address at the Public Policy event *Supporting Local Libraries: Protecting Services & Adapting to the Digital Age* in which he highlighted the innovative ways in which libraries have responded to digital adaptation and the challenges presented by the pandemic.
8. On the 10th October I was quoted in a press release announcing the launch of a new LGA case study resource for culture, which showcases the examples of best practice submitted as evidence to the Commission on Culture and Local Government:

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- 8.1. "Funding for council cultural services declined by over 40 percent between 2009/10 and 2019/20, but these excellent case studies highlight just how vital culture can be in our communities. Councils understand that we are facing a cost-of-living crisis ahead of the autumn budget, but these integral services must not only be preserved but invested in to support economic, health and creative recovery from the pandemic."

Visitor economy

9. The LGA has submitted a response to the Government's call for evidence on developing a tourist accommodation registration scheme for England. The response highlighted the pressures that the increase in unregulated short-term lets is placing on some local communities and services.

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

Children's social care

1. In July we published a report looking at [structural change in children's services](#). This research looks at lessons learnt by councils that have undertaken large-scale structural change in children's services, including alternative delivery models, shared services and local government reorganisation. The report identifies the key building blocks to ensure high quality services for children, young people and families as services go through these reorganisations.
2. On 22 July 2022 we issued a [press release](#) highlighting new government statistics which show the number of children in England waiting for a place in a secure children's home (SCH) has doubled in a year. We emphasised that this illustrates the urgent need for more provision to support some of our most vulnerable young people and called for the introduction of national commissioning for these placements.
3. We have submitted a response to Ofsted's [consultation on proposals for a new judgement](#) on the experiences and progress of care leavers within the ILACS (inspection of local authority children's services) framework. We strongly supported these proposals, recognising that they will help to bring more focus to work to support care leavers across councils and partners, ultimately improving outcomes for young people. We encouraged Ofsted to engage with care experienced people to consider what "good" looks like for care leavers, to inform the criteria for this judgement.
4. We have [written to the Public Accounts Committee](#) with regard to its inquiry into evaluating innovation projects in children's social care. We recognised that the Department for Education's innovation fund had many positive impacts, including offering opportunities for the robust evaluation of new approaches which have seen positive impacts for children and families. However we also emphasised that additional funding should not come at the expense of funding core services for all councils, and encouraged the DfE to share the learning from the programme and use this to evidence the value of long-term investment in children's services.

Independent inquiry into child sexual abuse (IICSA)



5. On 6 July 2022 we published a [code of practice](#) to support councils responding to civil claims of non-recent child sexual abuse. This code draws on the findings of the IICSA as well as the experiences of councils to ensure that councils can respond appropriately and effectively to victims and survivors.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

6. On 23 August I met with the then-Immigration Minister Kevin Foster alongside LGA Chairman Councillor Jamieson and CYP Board deputy chair Councillor Fallon to discuss changes to the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. We made it clear to the Minister that while we recognised the importance of ensuring children have appropriate placements as quickly as possible, the proposed changes to the scheme would not tackle the challenges within the NTS including a shortage of placements, underfunding of the scheme and workforce pressures. We also emphasised the importance of considering children's best interests in any placement.
7. At our Board meeting on 29 September, members discussed support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Members agreed to keep lobbying on the existing challenges within the NTS, and suggested it would be helpful to seek good practice examples to share across the country. Members also agreed that child-centred reception services were preferable to using hotels where placements could not immediately be found for children, though were clear that these should be a last resort, with a clear plan needed to end the use of both reception services and hotels.

Early years

8. In September we responded to two consultations on early years; one on the regulatory arrangements for the ratio of children that can be cared for by an adult and the other on the funding formulae. We emphasised the need for a strategic review of early years funding, noting that making small changes to the regulations will not make the changes we need to improve outcomes for children.

Children's health

9. On 12 October 2022, I chaired an LGA webinar on how councils are addressing rising levels of food insecurity impacting children and young people. Councils and local partners have demonstrated their ability to deliver remarkable services and support to try to ensure children and families do not go hungry. During the webinar, we heard how councils and their partners are working together to stamp out food insecurity in their local areas and how they plan to address hunger as essential costs rise rapidly in the coming months.



10. We submitted responses to the [Ofsted/CQC consultation on a new approach to SEND area inspections](#) and to the [Department for Education's consultation on implementing the direct National Funding Formula \(NFF\) for schools](#).

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

Housing, Planning and Homelessness

Homelessness Prevention Grant Consultation Submission

1. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities recently announced their intention to change the funding formula for the Homelessness Prevention Grant. It is their intention to simplify the funding landscape and end the current mixed economy which can mean short-term pressures to fund temporary accommodation have to be traded off against the opportunity to invest in prevention. Their first steps towards achieving this have been to open a technical consultation with some suggestions for potential funding formulas which would fit around a multiyear funding approach. We [submitted our response](#) at the end of August which was generally supportive of a move towards simplified, multi-year funding but was critical of certain elements such as the use of Area Cost Adjustments and data such as population, which didn't necessarily reflect housing pressures. Since then, DLUHC have advised they will be implementing a spending declaration at the start of the next financial year and are seeking views on what resources councils may need to resource this. We are leading on a working group with councils to ensure their views are represented.

Rough Sleeping Strategy

2. The Government published their new [Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) on 3rd September. We were pleased to see a number of LGA policy asks featured and a fair amount of crossover with [our own report](#) on how to create an effective rough sleeper strategy. In particular,
 - Better access to mental health and drug and alcohol support for people sleeping rough
 - A cross government commitment that no one will leave a public institution to the streets – this includes hospitals, prisons and care
 - More supported housing and Housing First nationally and a commitment to working with Adult Social Care for vulnerable adults who are homeless
 - Embedding the voices of lived experience into policy making



3. Government also unveiled a new Single Homelessness Accommodation Pathway (SHAP) which will deliver 2400 new homes across England to plug a gap in current RSAP and RSI provision. We are expecting a prospectus for councils before the end of the year.

Refugee Housing

4. We have been working closely with DLUHC on a number of key elements to help local authorities house refugees and new arrivals. This includes a potential stock acquisition programme for councils as well as incentives for the private sector. There is a regular Refugee Housing group which meets weekly to discuss different elements of move on as well as ad hoc groups such as a roundtable with local authorities that have successful private sector schemes to see what is working nationally. Concern continues to grow, particularly as Homes for Ukraine placements stretch on for longer than the initial 6 months. As of the end of September there were 670 Ukrainian households in temporary accommodation. Particularly interesting is that the Homes for Ukraine scheme has overtaken the Ukrainian family scheme in numbers of duties owed for the first time, which indicates more and more sponsors are leaving the scheme. Since April, homelessness duties to Ukrainian households have rapidly increased over 6 months, and of the councils who submit figures to DLUHC, a vast majority are now reporting homelessness duties owed to Ukrainian households. The biggest reason for approach for both schemes is that arrangements are breaking down. On a positive note, councils continue to report high numbers of homelessness preventions with Ukrainian households.

Kerslake Commission Progress

5. The Kerslake Commission have published their latest progress report informed by the commission board which is attended by LGA Chairman James Jamieson. Within the report there is an ask for central government to consider funding the LGA to expand our peer support programme – which has previously focused on “Everyone In” and the use of temporary accommodation – into a peer review model outside of our usual DLUHC grant. The report has also renewed its asks around a Duty to Collaborate which we are supportive of. The report also highlights cost of living as an ongoing risk to the goal of ending rough sleeping, with the latest London figures from CHAIN showing that rough sleeping is back on the rise despite hitting an eight year low in last Autumn’s statistics.

Cost of Living Roundtable

6. LGA, National Housing Federation and Homeless Link are jointly hosted a roundtable on the 7th October to “sound the alarm” with senior civil servants and other officials that the current cost of living crisis will lead to an increase in homelessness if emergency measure are not considered. Chief Exec of

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Homeless Link Rick Henderson will be meeting with Andrew Stephenson MP to feed back the top lines of the roundtable. Lead members from both EEHT and Resources board have been invited as well as R9 Chief Execs. The roundtable will look at short term solutions, longer term solutions as well as policy levers in both local and national government.

Housing Improvement

7. The 2022/23 Housing Advisers Programme (HAP) opened for applications at midday on 29 September 2022. This year there are two strands to the programme: in addition to the grant programme this year we will also be running an action learning programme for councils who want to play a more direct role in building more homes in their local area but have minimal or no experience of doing so. Application for both strands of the programme is via an online application form and more information is available on the [Housing Advisers Programme pages](#) of the LGA website.
8. The HAP launch will be supported by an online event "[A guide to applying to the Housing Advisers Programme](#)" taking place on 14 October 2022. This is open to all members and officers interested in applying to the programme, both for grant funding and for the action learning programme.

Private Renters Inquiry

9. The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee launched a written inquiry and an oral evidence inquiry into reforming the private rented sector, in August and September respectively. The purpose of the inquiry was to examine the Government's proposals set out in its White Paper, which was published in June. We submitted written evidence and Councillor Darren Rodwell (Vice-chair for the LGA's EEHT Board) gave evidence at the oral evidence session on behalf of the LGA. In addition, we have been working with DLUHC to shape the reforms as they have been brought forward.

HRA Research – Assessing the New Challenges

10. Savills were appointed in June to undertake this research. To support the research, a range of stock-holding councils and arm's length management organisations have been interviewed regarding the income and expenditure-related challenges that their Housing Revenue Account is facing. We have now received the initial report for the income research and we have engaged and shared the interim policy options and findings with DLUHC. The findings and recommendations from this research will assist the LGA in its lobbying going forward, including responding to the proposed social housing rent cap consultation.

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill – Planning Reforms

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11. The Bill is currently at Committee Stage in the House of Commons. We have set out our position on the reforms announced in and alongside the Bill, and we continue to brief parliamentarians as the Bill progresses through Parliament. In addition, we responded to DLUHC's Compulsory Purchase – Compensation Reforms consultation. The purpose of this consultation was to seek views on the reforms announced in the Bill to reform the Land Compensation Act (1961) and modernise the compulsory purchase order system.

Decent Homes Standard Consultation

12. The Government has launched a consultation on the proposal to expand the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector, which runs until 14 October. At present, the standard exclusively covers the social rented sector. The LGA will be responding to this consultation. To support our response, we have engaged with DLUHC officials and other stakeholders in the sector, including via DLUHC-led roundtables for tenant and council groups.

Social Rent Cap Consultation

13. The Government has launched a consultation on a proposal to cap social rent policy for the next financial year. We will be responding to this consultation, which runs until 12 October. To support our response to the consultation, we engaged DLUHC officials and the Housing Finance Advisers Network, which includes councils with a Housing Revenue Account and arm's length management organisations. In August, the LGA issued a [joint media statement](#) with the National Housing Federation on the proposed cap. The statement welcomed the opportunity to respond to the consultation, but highlighted that if the Government does take forward a lower cap, then it should provide additional funding for 2023/24 and for future years so that housing providers can continue to safeguard services and meet the country's future housing needs.

Right to Buy Media Story

14. In August, we issued a media story voicing the LGA's concerns regarding the sustainability of the Right to Buy Scheme. The central argument was that almost £6 billion has been given out in discounts through the Right to Buy scheme since the size of the discount was increased in 2012, and the Government must allow councils to retain 100% of receipts so that homes that are lost under the scheme can be replaced on a one-for-one basis.

Shale Gas Extraction

15. The Government has announced that the shale gas moratorium will be lifted. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Jacob Rees-Mogg has confirmed via a written ministerial statement that the



Government will now “consider future applications for Hydraulic Fracturing Consent with the domestic and global need for gas in mind and where there is local support”. Developers will need to have the necessary licences, permissions and consents in place before they can commence operations. The LGA’s current position is that local communities should decide, through their democratically-elected councils and the planning system, whether or not to host shale gas operations in their areas. Before they can consider granting planning permission for shale gas applications, councils will also need to be assured that the issues covered by relevant regulatory regimes can, and will, be adequately addressed. This should include potential incidences of seismic activity and water pollution, the disposal of waste water, well construction and well integrity.

Building Safety

16. The LGA continues to work with key stakeholders to support the reform of building safety. We held a webinar to update members and officers on the development of the Building Safety Regulator and the expectations arising from the Fire Safety Act in early July and published case studies to support our existing guidance on the Principles for effective regulation of fire safety in flats. We facilitated a webinar for councils on the Operational Standards Rules for building control in early October. We are currently planning further webinars, Leadership Essentials events, case studies and an e-learning tool on the new building safety regime in the run up to the 'go-live date for the Building Safety Regulator next March. The EEHT Board met with the Health and Safety Executive in September to discuss the Building Safety Regulator.

Climate change

Engaging new Ministers and the LGA Climate Change Task Group

17. The new Prime Minister has appointed a range of new important political leadership posts in relation to councils and climate change, including a new Minister for Climate. The Climate Change Task Group met with Lord Callanan on 12th July. Topics of discussion included the spend window for Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund rounds, the number of funding pots, lack of joined up thinking across departments on climate change and the need to get the political Local Net Zero Forum group up and running. Letters are now being sent to Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, the new Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Enterprise and Skills, and Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Climate, inviting them to meet the task group. Lord Callanan remains a Minister at BEIS.

Net Zero delivery review

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18. The Prime Minister has asked Rt Hon Clive Skidmore MP to lead a review into how to most efficiently and rapidly achieve the net zero goal in a pro-business and pro-growth way. It is understood that the review will conclude before the end of 2022. We are responding to the call for evidence and are working with Rt Hon Clive Skidmore MP and his team on holding a roundtable meeting with the Climate Change Task Group.

Local Net Zero Forum

19. The first meeting of the Forum was held on 20th June including senior officials from across Whitehall Departments and local government, the LGA is represented on the group and is playing the lead liaison role with BEIS and some coordination role of local government voices on the group. The Forum established three initial Task and Finish Groups to cover – Roles and Responsibilities, Data and Finance. The three groups had their first meeting over the summer and the outputs of which will be discussed at the second LNZF meeting set to take place the beginning of October. The LGA is working with BEIS on the Task and Finish Groups to help ensure maximum value added. The LGA is also continuing to work with BEIS on establishing a political oversight of the officer group, including Ministers and lead LGA members.

Retrofit - Heat and Buildings Decarbonisation by 2050

20. The LGA has awarded Energy Systems Catapult 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. The EEHT Board Lead Members are acting as a task and finish group to oversee the progress of this work.

Advancing local and central government collaboration in climate change adaptation

21. The EEHT Board is commissioning a piece of work to investigate, understand and present what local government would like to see from the refreshed National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), and the wider national government policy, regulatory and funding framework, in order to accelerate central and local government's collaboration on place-based adaptation to climate change. The preferred bidder will be selected in October with the project due to complete in the first quarter of 2023. The aim is to draw on the experience of councils in adapting to climate change, including learning from recent extreme weather events (such as heat, and London floods).



Fuel poverty and accelerating the transition

22. Considering increasing energy costs, we have made representations on the need for Government and councils to work together to rapidly scale investment in energy efficiency, the transition to renewables, and energy saving advice. We are linking this ask to the establishment of a new partnership delivering the long-term transition to net zero up to 2050. For instance, we have published research on the options and cost benefits for increasing energy efficiency measures to protect more households from fuel poverty as energy costs increase. We will revisit this considering the impact of the Energy Price Guarantee both in terms of cost/benefits for households and the Government, our modelling suggests Government's intervention to support bills means that it will be directly losing billions through draughty homes. We are also working with other LGA Boards on developing the wider cost of living messages and support, for instance the LGA's cost of living hub, linking welfare, health, housing and other issues.

Energy Price Guarantee

23. In Sept 2022, the Prime Minister announced an energy price cap on gas and electricity unit rates and standing charges for two years, the average cap will be £2,500 per annum per household. This will be welcome help to households although it will still mean, on average, households will pay twice as much on energy as they did two years ago (Feb 2020 price cap was £1,042). The Government is continuing the £400 payment and other additional energy and welfare support.

24. A separate scheme will apply to businesses, charities and public services (incl councils) for six months, with a review for action beyond 6 months to conclude within three months. We are working with the LGA finance and growth teams to understand the impacts of this, and what the asks might be for beyond six months.

Green Streets

25. DG Cities will shortly complete a piece of work, commissioned by the EEHT Board, 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. The final report will be on the LGA website early October and a webinar to present the findings is planned for the morning of 15 November, coinciding with COP27.

Renewables



26. We are exploring options to refresh our guide to councils on developing renewable energy, the current LGA Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidance report was published in 2020.

Hard to decarbonise homes

27. In July we published a report we co-funded with the National Housing Association on Hard to decarbonise social homes. The report examines the decarbonisation of social homes, looks at why some are harder to decarbonise than other and explores changes required to make hard to treat social homes easier to decarbonise.

Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) Guidance for Local Authorities

28. The LGA submitted a short response to the Draft ECO4 Guidance for Local Authorities from Ofgem in which we argued for a proportion of resources to be used for outreach and engagement with communities to identify those in most need of ECO4, and for a strengthened obligation on energy providers to undertake works in households identified by councils.

COP27

29. , We are currently preparing communications activity for the build-up and duration of COP27 which will be hosted by Egypt in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2022. Building on the success of COP26 communications, the focus will be on showcasing exemplar local authority action to address the global climate crisis. We have also prepared a Locally Determined Contribution (LDC) which highlights the role local government plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The LDC aggregate's local action and presents it in the same format as a Nationally Determined Contribution to highlight the critical role councils play in addressing this global issue.

Waste

Inflation challenges

30. Councils are reporting concerns about rising costs and the capacity to make reductions without impacting services, some councils are also reporting concerns about strikes. Defra has issued a survey to councils regarding workforce, costs and capacity challenges in the waste sector. The National Association for Waste Disposal Authorities has issued a similar survey. This is a big issue for the sector, and we will be working with Defra, NAWDO and other networks of council waste teams to understand and disseminate the findings, and to consider recommendations for the next steps working with LGA boards leading on finance and workforce.



Tackling waste crime

31. We continue to make the case for reforms that will be successful in preventing waste crime. We recently launched research warning that lenient sentencing guidelines were not a significant enough deterrent which was widely covered in the media. This builds on our recent submissions on waste tracking, waste carriers, and research work on the costs of dealing with fly-tipping.

Next steps on the Resources and Waste strategy

32. We continue to work with Defra on the progress of the Resources and Waste Strategy. The Government has set out its next steps on the Extended Producer Responsibility for which payments to councils are due from April 2023/24, and we are pushing for the LGA to have a role on the governance arrangements for the new scheme administrator. However, it is looking increasingly likely that there will be further delays to implementation. We are also beginning to work with councils and Government on the new burdens considerations for proposed food waste collections. There is less certainty about what decisions Government will make on other elements of the consistency reforms (such as Garden waste) and on Deposit Return Schemes. It is also possible that a new Secretary of State may want to revisit some of the objectives the Government were previously working towards. The delays and uncertainties are causing a range of issues for councils seeking to develop long-term strategies.

DIY waste

33. In July we responded to Defra's call for evidence on booking systems at household waste and recycling centres, and a technical consultation on preventing charges to households for the disposal of DIY waste at household recycling centres. In our response, we focused on the fact that there is no evidence of higher rates of fly-tipping for councils that have introduced charges for DIY type waste and that the operation of HWRCs is a local matter that is best determined by councils, who are accountable to residents for the way waste and recycling services operate. Further, we are concerned that the consultation suggests a decision has been made to forgo the new burdens process for this policy decision entirely, which is a concern we are taking forward with both Defra and the DLUHC new burdens team. We are working with the National Association of Waste Disposal Authorities to develop an evidence base on the costs of this policy, and the views of councils on its impacts on the ground.

Persistent Organic Pollutants

34. The UK is a signatory to the UN Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, an international environmental treaty that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Some



Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) have been designated as POPs for several years under the Stockholm convention. They were used as flame retardants in products such as domestic seating, cars and electrical goods. These chemicals are also responsible for 100% failure of the Environmental Quality Standard in biota, one of the methods used to assess the health of English rivers. The law requires that POPs in waste are destroyed to prevent lasting environmental harm and impacts on the food chain. This means waste containing POPs must be incinerated and must not be re-used, recycled or landfilled. At the end of August, the Environment Agency (EA) wrote to businesses and local authorities requesting they reply by 31 December 2022 confirming they are compliant with the regulations. Compliance by 31 December 2022 is unlikely to be achieved across England due to several factors including contractual arrangements, suitable incineration capacity, suitable treatment and storage capacity. The LGA is working with council officials, the EA and Defra to bring this issue to a sensible, pragmatic conclusion.

Waste and Emissions Trading Scheme

35. We have submitted a response to the consultation on extending the UK Emissions Trading Scheme to council waste services. The response supported the ambition from Defra and BEIS to decarbonise emissions from waste, and argued the first principle of the waste hierarchy is to prevent waste in the first place, and this is where action on net zero must focus.

Environment

Nutrient and water neutrality

36. We have launched 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, we have published research on the impact of this on local housebuilding objectives. The enquiry's aim is to bring together councils with a range of partners to explore solutions in the short term and find long-term resolutions to protect the environment. The enquiry is being led by a team of LGA politicians that has now closed its call for evidence via a survey and is now planning roundtable discussions with stakeholders. The enquiry will present recommendations in the Autumn. The LGA held the first of the enquiry roundtables on 28 September 2022 focusing on water neutrality.
37. On 22 September the Government set out their ambition to revoke or reform transposed EU laws. Reporting suggests that this might include elements of the Habitats Directive which underpins the requirement for nutrient and water



neutrality in protected habitats. It might also include recreational disturbance protections.

Biodiversity Net Gain

38. We continue to work with Defra, Natural England and the LGA's Planning Advisory Service on the planned implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). We are currently planning a conference for councils jointly with Natural England and property developers to explore preparation work, to take place approximately one year ahead of the BNG becoming mandatory. Although, amid delays in progressing proposals it is beginning to look possible that the implementation point may be delayed. It is also not clear what the new Secretary of State's position is on the progression of BNG.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)

39. We continue to work with Defra on this issue and pushing for further guidance and clarity on the ambitions for LNRSs in line with local efforts to lead the local nature recovery. Defra has recently issued communications to councils and is expected to published guidance on how to develop and use a LNRS shortly. We hope to ensure this is useful to councils, and is aligned with other national policy development, including BNG, Environmental Land Management, and so on. However, it is also not clear what the new Secretary of State's position is on LNRS.

Economy

Identifying and promoting green growth opportunities

40. The EEHT Board is commissioning a report highlighting the social and economic benefits of having businesses located in a local authority area that provide low carbon and environmental goods and services. The report will be evidence based with case studies and the provider will suggest measures councils can take to make their area more attractive for these businesses to locate in. Focus will be on the supply of goods and services required for the Net Zero transition. Work will commence end September 2022 with a view to completion in December / January.

Identifying local authority best practice in repurposing shopping centres

41. The EEHT Board is commissioning a report highlighting the social and economic opportunities and benefits of repurposing shopping centres to reflect the needs of the town centre, the community, the local authority, and the businesses located within their area. The report will be evidence based with case studies and the provider will suggest measures and approaches councils can take to



repurpose shopping centres or support the repurpose of shopping centres where their ownership lies solely in the private sector. Work will commence at the end of October with a view to completion in the first quarter of 2023.

Transport

Buses funding

42. There have been further announcements on Government support for local buses. The first announcement, on 19th August, extended the previous support provided by DfT for bus services with an additional upto £130 million available from October 2022 to March 2023 to protect bus routes and travel, which remains at around 75% of pre-pandemic levels.
43. The Transport Minister, Baroness Vere, wrote to local transport authorities (see attached letter) to confirm this announcement, making it clear that the current cycle of providing long-term recovery funding packages is not a sustainable long-term solution. Baroness Vere anticipates “that this will include Local Authorities tendering more services in future to accommodate changing travel patterns or making changes to networks so that demands to travel can be met effectively.”
44. In relation to lower levels of concessionary passengers, the letter states “If concessionary patronage does not increase, and the funding spent on local bus services declines, we have to be clear that Local Authorities should expect funding from the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to decrease in future Spending Reviews to reflect this position.”
45. Whilst the LGA welcomed the extension to the Bus Recovery Grant, what councils want to see is the Government back its own National Bus Strategy in full, providing the £3 billion over three years for Bus Service Improvement Plans which have been produced by every local transport authority and local bus operators. This will help to protect and grow bus travel. Fewer than half of places that applied for BSIP funding were successful, and most of those that were received well below what they asked for.
46. It also appears unfair to expect councils to have their RSG decreased given that it is estimated that the national concessionary fares scheme is already underfunded by £700 million. The letter also fails to reflect the structural changes in demand for concessionary fares following the pandemic, with fears of coronavirus safety, reduced bus services and switch to alternative modes cited as key reasons in recent Transport Focus research.
47. On 5th September the Government announced plans to put a £2 cap on single adult bus journeys from January to March 2023, funded via £60 million by



Government. This is to assist with the current cost-of-living crisis as well as help to achieving a long-term ambition to reduce fares. We await further details on how this will be funded.

48. Given the recent and ongoing changes in Government it remains unclear who the minister for buses will be going forwards. Once this has been established the LGA will seek to set out the position of councils and how local and central government can work with the industry to secure a more prosperous and longer-term future for local buses.

Local bus schemes

49. A number of Metro Mayors, including Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and West Yorkshire have announced a maximum adult bus fare of £2 beginning this month.
50. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has issued a proposal for the future bus network in the Cambridge area which includes new bus routes, longer service hours and cheaper fares. Key route corridors would have six to eight buses an hour with hourly rural services, and fares of £1 to travel in the city or £2 in the wider area. To fund the improvements a Sustainable Travel Zone road user charge is proposed that could see drivers pay £5 a day.

Cost inflation

51. In a recent press release the LGA highlighted increased costs of undertaking highways work.
52. In partnership with ADEPT (Association of Directors of Economy, Environment, Planning, and Transport) the LGA undertook a snapshot sample survey of ADEPT members to identify the extent of cost inflation relating to highways activities.
53. Our analysis revealed significant inflationary pressures: with figures estimating increases of 21% to 37% in costs of roads maintenance, running and repairing streetlights, and capital works, such as new roads and infrastructure.
54. LGA officers will continue to monitor this and feed into other ongoing work on cost inflation within local government.

TfL funding deal

55. Transport for London has agreed a financial settlement with the Government until March 2024. £3.6bn of capital investment will be made and ongoing revenue support will be provided should passenger numbers not recover at the budgeted rate.

Transport webinars

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Parking and High Streets – 20th October 10.30 to 12pm

56. Car parking is often one of the most talked about issues in town centres and frequently cited by high street businesses as a cause of poor performance. Improvements need to focus on the whole journey into town and take into account wider considerations such as sustainable and active travel and transport emissions, whilst also recognising parking as a pinch-point for customers.
57. This LGA [webinar](#) will share good practice from the experts at the British Parking Association and councils who are trying something different.

Shared micromobility: How local authorities can make the most of new mobility options - 14 November 10.30 to 12pm

58. Local authorities are increasingly embracing innovative modes and new transport business models including shared e-scooters, e-bikes, cargo bikes and other shared micromobility schemes. However, the relative infancy of shared micromobility (particularly shared e-scooters) in the mobility ecosystem means their potential benefits and challenges are not fully understood. The LGA has commissioned Steer to set out the latest evidence and examples of successful shared e-scooter and shared micromobility adoption.
59. In this [webinar](#) Steer, will present their findings, alongside insights from practitioners, for councils on different shared micromobility options, the benefits they could provide and how they could support local transport plans.

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Improvement and Innovation Board – Report from Cllr Abi Brown (Chair)

Improvement Update

Board update

1. Councillor Abi Brown is now the Chair of the Improvement and Innovation board, following Councillor Peter Fleming OBE who was chair from 2018 to 2022 and remains a member of the board.
2. In addition, Councillor Brigid Jones joins the board as Deputy Chair and lead member for the Labour group.
3. Councillor Liz Green (Vice Chair) and Councillor Neil Prior (Deputy Chair) remain as lead members for the Liberal Democrat and Independent groups respectively.
4. The first Improvement and Innovation Board of this cycle took place on the 14 October 2022.

Member Peer Conference

5. The Member Peer Conference is being held on Thursday 10 November in Sheffield and will be the first in person event held in three years. This year's conference will reflect on the Government's increasing focus on the performance of councils and the role of peers in supporting councils facing challenges or intervention. It will also discuss how sector led improvement is adapting to address and support councils and how member peers can utilise their own skills to support councils in seizing opportunities and responding to the emerging challenges we all face.
6. The conference will be chaired by Cllr Abi Brown, Chair of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board and Leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council. With a Keynote address and Q&A on Government Intervention and Sector Led Improvement, the conference provides delegates with an opportunity to hear directly from a panel of experts, including Max Caller CBE, on the current and future situation with regards to Government intervention and what this means for sector led improvement. This will be followed by a series of practical workshops focussing on sharing the skills and learning required to be a Member Peer and an in conversation session with Stephen



Baker, Chief Executive of East Suffolk District Council, on working together a member and officer peers.

Peer Challenge

7. As of 30 September 2022, our peer support and regional teams have delivered 47 programmes of peer challenge or remote support, including 14 corporate peer challenges / finance peer challenges. If you would be interested in our peer support, please contact the [LGA Principal Advisor](#) for your region.

NGDP Cohort 25 launch

8. The [National Graduate Development Programme \(NGDP\)](#) is the LGA's flagship local government graduate programme and has re-opened candidate applications for the latest cohort. Every year, thousands of bright, motivated graduates apply to fast track their career in local government. The LGA runs a rigorous national recruitment process to place high calibre, talented graduates in councils across the country, giving them access to a pool of talented graduates to help boost skills and capacity within their workforce. Councils have until 31 March 2023 to sign up.

Leadership development programmes

9. Since April 2022, we have had over 1,500 attendees on LGA training and development opportunities. This includes bespoke workshops in councils on topics such as scrutiny and chairing skills.
10. To date, 110 people have attended core leadership programmes such as leadership academy and leadership essentials. There are over 700 further places booked for the coming months.

Be a Councillor guide to support disabled residents to stand as councillors

11. The Be a Councillor campaign has launched a new guide to support disabled residents to stand as councillors. The new guide: [Improving access to local government elected office for disabled people](#), offers specific advice and support for disabled people who are considering the role and coincides with the launch of the. It has been produced with the help of disabled councillors in a bid to encourage disabled people to become councillors and bring new experience into local government, following the LGA's most recent Councillor Census which found that disabled people are consistently underrepresented on councils.

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Housing Advisors Programme

12. The LGA has launched the sixth year of our [Housing Advisors Programme](#), inviting bids for up to £20,000 to fund innovative schemes to help councils overcome housing challenges in their local areas. In the previous five years of the programme, the LGA has funded more than 150 projects across England, helping councils build homes, reduce homelessness and rough sleeping, plan for ageing populations, understand the student housing market, increase supply of modular housing and more.

This year, for the first time, there will be a second strand to the Housing Advisors Programme, aimed at councils who want to play a more direct role in building more homes in their local area but have minimal or no experience of doing so. This will be an action learning programme, giving participants the opportunity to explore which of the different routes to housing delivery will work best in their local area.

Finance development for councillors

13. To support portfolio holders to lead on financial governance and to proactively shape financial management and decision-making, the LGA has published a [Councillor workbook on finance for non-finance portfolio holders / cabinet members](#). The workbook has been designed to enable councillors holding a non-finance portfolio to better understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to the financial aspects of their role and considers the role of the non-finance portfolio holder in the financial planning, control and decision-making process.

Procurement

14. Following consultation with the sector, the LGA published its updated [National Procurement Strategy 2022](#) in August. The strategy and [accompanying toolkit](#) provides councils to benchmark their own capacity and capability against a refreshed set of themes covering leadership, behaving commercially, achieving community benefits. Councils plot their own progress against a maturity index. These can be compared against similar councils regionally and nationally as well as against their own benchmarks from previous years.

Councillor Peter Fleming, Chairman of the LGA Improvement and Innovation Board (2018 to 2022), and Professor Martin Reeves, Chief Executive,



Coventry City Council and National Procurement Champion provided the foreword.

Events

15. Building Housing Retrofit Skills, 12 July 2022

This webinar shared a number of good practice examples from experts and councils who are creating local green jobs in the area of housing retrofit, as well as insights from the LGA's recent action learning sets on housing retrofit skills. The webinar was developed in collaboration with Ashden, a charity that showcases innovative climate pioneers. It was chaired by Councillor Laura Beddow and attended by 123 people.

16. Sustainable Procurement Webinar, 27 September 2022

Cllr Clyde Loakes, Member of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Climate Working Group, Deputy Leader and Climate and Air Quality lead at the London Borough of Waltham Forest, chaired our [Sustainable Procurement webinar](#) which had 190 attendees.

In the session we introduced the LGA's new [Energy Procurement Category Strategy](#) that's been updated to help councils optimise the way they procure and manage energy in today's markets, focusing on the wide range of economic, environmental and social opportunities available to them.

Oxford City Council introduced their unique Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) tailored for the fast-paced, innovative and ever-growing world of electric vehicle infrastructure. And lastly, we heard from Dr Josh Pritchard, Deputy Director, Policy Unit at the CBI who leads on Procurement and gave us a perspective from the private sector on how they are working with councils to get the best socio-economic and environmental outcomes from their contracts.

Publications and media

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

17. Media release, 1 October 2022

[NHS "dental deserts" persist in rural and deprived communities – LGA analysis](#)

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Our press release, highlighting data published on LG Inform on shortages of NHS dentists by local authority area was covered in the [Telegraph](#), Times, Mirror, [Mail](#), [Independent](#), [iNews](#), ITV and [Sun](#). It also featured on BBC regional radio, LBC, Times Radio and Sky Radio, who produce news bulletins for Capital, Heart Radio and other commercial channels.

Local Government First Magazine Activity

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

11.1 First Magazine, dated August 2022

[Strength and imagination](#) – Chair of the Improvement and Innovation Board (2018 to 2022), Councillor Peter Fleming provided an article on this year's Innovation Zone and how it demonstrated the importance and value that councils place on learning from each other.

[Supporting council improvement](#) - Chair of the Improvement and Innovation Board (2018 to 2022), Councillor Peter Fleming supplied an article reflecting on the boards work over the last 12 months and on how LGA programmes continue to deliver value and impact for councils.

18.2 First Magazine, dated September 2022

[Net-zero innovation](#) – Lead Member for Climate Change and Sharing Practice on the Improvement and Innovation Board, Councillor Liz Green contributed an article highlighting the LGA's net-zero innovation programme which has brought councils and universities together to collaborate on climate change.

[Demystifying digital](#) – Lead Member for Transparency, Productivity and Efficiency, Councillor Neil Prior provided an article on new outcomes-based framework which can help councils on their digitalisation journeys

18.3 First Magazine, dated October 2022

[Early years lifeline](#) - Chair of the Improvement & Innovation Board, Councillor Abi Brown co-authored an article with Councillor Louise Gittins, Chair of the LGA's Children and Young People Board, highlighting an LGA review which has identified how library services can support the youngest children and their families



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

Levelling Up

1. The [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#) has now completed all four roundtables, and officers are working to synthesise the themes and ideas from the discussions. The emerging themes of the roundtables will be used in conjunction with previously commissioned research on place and identity, looking at how a local sense of pride in place can be formed as part of the levelling up agenda, and research into how the pandemic may have affected demographic trends and what the implications are for levelling up of any demographic shifts. These results will then be presented to the Inquiry's steering group, with final recommendations being published later this autumn.

Digital infrastructure and inclusion

2. The Board has agreed a new commission exploring the intersection between digital inclusion and infrastructure to inform the Board's lobbying positions related to the scale of the challenge of digital exclusion, its link to digital infrastructure, and the role of local government in supporting the agenda. The final report will include recommendations for Government about how councils can be the link to make infrastructure rollouts more equitable and inclusive.
3. The Board continues to raise concerns about the integration of all analogue lines (PSTN) to digital internet-based infrastructure. A local authority readiness survey was conducted in September and a press release will be distributed highlighting the results. Following a steer from the Board Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the LGA's digital connectivity champion will be holding an event with Mobile UK, County Councils Network and District Councils Network to highlight the importance of local authority digital champions.

Employment and skills

Green Jobs

4. In collaboration with the City Regions Board, the Board has agreed the priority of developing green jobs and skills needed to deliver net zero and green growth in local economies. With the EEHT Board lead members, lead members met with Kate Kennally, the local government representative on the BEIS led Green Jobs Delivery Group. They raised a number of suggestions and issues on how support the skills and business support system to develop green jobs and the pipeline of skills to support them.

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5. The Board has prioritised the skills and jobs needed to deliver retrofit in the context of rising energy bills, the evidence of climate change and the general cost of living crisis. The Board has identified the need for the longevity of funding certainty, the potential to develop the right qualifications to develop the skilled workforce needed and the support to businesses. Members will be hosting roundtables, starting later in the autumn, to explore retrofit issues with key partners to develop shared principles needed to address the retrofit challenge.

Economic and social inclusion

6. The boards (People and Places and City Regions) have agreed to examine the role of councils in supporting employment, skills, and economic inclusion. This piece of work will shine a light on the disparities that exist within people and places which impact economic inclusion. It aims to showcase the good practice in local areas through case studies and 'what good looks like' publication and will culminate with Employment, skills, and economic inclusion principles. A series of activities are planned to include an equalities survey and a roundtable.

Further Education reforms

7. The DfE is reforming further education (FE) through legislation and a range of measures which will put employers in the driving seat to determine local skills priorities. This means that Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) will design Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) which will be rolled out across England. We have lobbied through the [Skills Bill](#) (now enacted) and through several consultations for local government – both councils and devolved authorities - to have a clear and strategic role in supporting ERBs to deliver LSIPs. Our [response](#) to the DfE statutory guidance on LSIPs can be found, in which we set out why and how the sector needs to be involved.
8. A DfE consultation is currently running until 12 October on the future of adult skills funding and accountability. This affects both the wider skills system at a local level and specifically council-run adult and community learning. Feedback from the local government sector suggests this could have a significant impact on local deliver. A response is being developed.

Ministerial engagement

9. In August, Board Chairs wrote to the new Ministers for Skills (Andrea Jenkyns MP) and Employment. After positive responses, we are seeking meeting dates.

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Resources Board – Report from Cllr Andrew Western (Chair)

Local Government Finance

Cost Pressures

1. Since publishing the outcome of our cost pressures modelling in the summer – highlighting the additional [£2.4 billion of cost pressures](#) councils face in 2022/23 inflation has increased to around 10 per cent. The LGA Chair and Vice-Chairs [wrote to the new Prime Minister](#) outlining the financial challenges facing local government, as a result of inflation and the National Living Wage, and called on the Government to meet these pressures with additional funding for councils. These issues will be reflected in the LGA's Autumn Budget submission prior to an Autumn fiscal event. This will include the results of a survey of a sample of councils on the financial pressures facing councils.

Funding for Adult Social Care Reform

2. Lead Members of Resources Board cleared a response to [DHSC's consultation on "Distribution of funding to support the reform of the adult social care charging system in 2023 to 2024"](#). This consultation focussed on the distribution of funding for the extension to the means test, the cap on care costs and for implementation and additional assessments. [We called on the Government](#) to provide adequate, sustainable, and long-term funding for all council services, to ensure social care reforms are properly funded, and to defer elements of the proposals. We also point to the need to use the best available data and to ensure that where there is evidence to suggest authorities are underfunded, they are provided with additional funding.

IFRS9

3. Resources Board has approved a [response](#) to the [consultation on the future of the statutory override for International Financial Reporting Standard 9 \(IFRS 9\)](#). The override means that councils do not have to reflect fluctuations in the values of pooled investment funds in their revenue accounts in the short term. We argue that as a minimum the statutory override should be extended, and preferably should be made permanent.

Local Audit

4. Resources Board approved responses to three consultations on proposals designed to improve the current crisis in local audit. The first is from the [Public](#)

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[Audit Forum](#), on revisions to recommended practice for auditors of public sector bodies. We [point to suggestions](#) that could help to alleviate the pressure on local audit.

5. The second is the [annual CIPFA consultation on the Code of Practice on Local Authority Financial Reporting \(2023/24\)](#). We [reinforced points](#) made in consultations earlier this year on temporary changes to the accounting code; on [professional valuations of operational equipment](#) and [changes to accounting for infrastructure assets respectively](#). These were proposed to respond to problems with finalising local authorities' accounts but have not yet been implemented. The latest response argues that these changes should continue in future versions of the code.
6. Finally, the LGA responded to [a consultation from Public Sector Audit and Appointments \(PSAA\) on the 2022/23 audit fee scale](#), which is for the final year of fees under the existing audit contract. The [response](#) agrees with PSAA's proposals and urges them to provide as much information and guidance on the likely fee levels under the new contract (from 2023/24) as soon as possible, to help councils with their financial planning.

Business Rates Retention

7. In our [response](#) to a [consultation on technical adjustments to the Business Rates Retention system](#) to reflect the 2023 business rates revaluation and transfers from local lists we agree that starting from the approach used for the 2017 revaluation is correct. We recommend that any adjustments for appeals and reliefs should be kept under review.

Digitalising Business Rates

8. Resources Board approved a [response](#) to the Government's [consultation on digitalising business rates \(DBR\)](#). The proposal is to consolidate business tax information, linking business rates to other tax data. We support DBR in principle and welcome the commitment to not materially alter the roles of different parts of government. We used the opportunity to raise concerns about compliance and urge the Government to tighten up rules around avoidance as well as fund any new burdens arising from the proposals.

Local Government Pension Scheme Climate Risk Reporting Consultation

9. DLUHC has [launched its consultation](#) regarding governance and reporting of climate change risks in the LGPS. The consultation seeks views on proposals to require LGPS administering authorities in England and Wales to assess, manage and report on the climate-related risks of their pension fund



investments, in line with the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 24th November 2022.

Workforce

Local Government Pay 2022-23

10. Pay claims for 2022-23 were received from the three local government unions in June 2022. In July, the National Employers unanimously agreed to make a one-year final offer to deliver a £1,925 increase on all NJC pay points, an increase of 4.04 per cent on allowances (both effective 1 April 2022), an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave and the deletion of NJC pay point 1 (these latter two points effective 1 April 2023).
11. Final offers of £1,925 increase on basic salary for all Chief Officers and Chief Executives were also made.
12. Union consultations are ongoing, though UNISON members voted by 63.5 per cent to 36.5 per cent to accept the offer in September 2022. Unite's membership consultation will close on 14 October (they have made a recommendation to their members to reject the offer) and GMB's will close on 21 October (no recommendation made).

'Red Book' Employees Pay

13. The National Employers' full and final pay offer of a 1.75 per cent increase on all basic salaries and allowances, backdated to 1 April 2021 was finally accepted on 18 August 2022.
14. An offer for 2022-23 has now been made by the National Employers offering, with effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on basic salary and an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances.

Youth and Community Workers' Pay

15. Agreement was reached in July 2022 for a 1.75 per cent increase on all spinal column points on the Youth and Community Support Worker Range and the Professional Range effective from 1 September 2021 and an increase of 1.75 per cent on the London Area Allowances and Sleeping-in-Duty Allowance from 1 September 2021. A pay claim for 2022 has been received and will be consulted on.

Fire and Rescue Service Pay

16. On 4 October the fire and rescue service National Employers made a final pay offer for Grey Book employees across the UK (uniformed staff, e.g.

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firefighters) of 5 per cent on all basic pay points and continual professional development payments. The employees' side will now consider the offer.

Teachers' Pay 2022

17. The Department for Education (DfE) has published its response to the STRB's 32nd Report. The headline is a five per cent increase for most teachers and all leaders, with bigger increases for early career teachers (max 8.9 per cent outside London). The government remains committed to reaching a starting salary of £30k. The DfE feels this is affordably within the cost envelope already committed to schools, so there is no additional funding despite the higher-than-expected increase.
18. The LGA consulted on these proposals to inform the national employers (NEOST) response back to Government. The NEOST board agreed their response which has now been published, welcomes a number of the commitments (particularly the starting salary and the one-year proposal) while raising some concerns about whether the proposal is affordable for all schools in maintaining educational standards, and concerns about the timing of the consultation period again.
19. The full response from NEOST is available [here](#).

HMRC Mileage Rates

20. At the last Resources Board meeting, a paper was tabled seeking clearance to write to Treasury Ministers to request an urgent review of HMRC mileage rates. The LGA had received representations from councils highlighting the negative effects on staff being caused by the 11-year freeze in rates in light of soaring fuel prices and the wider cost of living crisis. A letter in Cllr Western's name was sent in July.
21. In a response from Exchequer Secretary Alan Mak received on 5 September (and included in full as Appendix 1), the minister restates the existing policy around the setting of mileage rates and indicates that these rates are kept under review with any changes considered by the Chancellor and announced at fiscal events. It therefore does not appear that any review is likely to be forthcoming, though we may wish to consider raising this issue again in communications with ministers in the new government.

Public Sector Exit Payments – HM Treasury consultation

22. On 8th August HM Treasury published a consultation on a new controls process for high exit payments in the public sector. The consultation does not apply to local authorities but applies to bodies classified as "central government", which we believe includes academies, and non-departmental public bodies (including, for example, the Environment Agency).



23. The new approvals requirement will apply to decisions by employers to agree the exit of an individual where the payment to be made on exit, including relevant statutory contractual or discretionary payments, would be more than £95,000. We, as well as Department for Education officials, are seeking clarification from HM Treasury as to whether or not the pension strain cost is included in the £95,000 (which the consultation emphasises is not a cap). The consultation closes on 17 October and any LGA response will be cleared through the usual processes.

Emergenetics

24. A pilot programme has been launched for five councils (Essex, Peterborough, Tandridge, Tower Hamlets and Warwickshire) for the LGA's new Emergenetics offer. The programme will enable teams to understand one another's thinking and behavioural preferences within a work environment to build more collaborative, high performing teams. Each team will receive individual psychometric profiles and training on how to utilise these tools to work more effectively together.

Workforce Planning

25. The workforce planning support network that was launched last year to support workforce planners from an initial 70 councils has now been opened up to all councils to join.
26. We have launched our 2022-23 workforce planning support offer to provide support to Principal Social Workers in ten councils to undertake workforce planning.

Apprenticeships

27. On 22 July the LGA wrote to the new Minister for Skills, Further and Higher Education, Andrea Jenkyns on behalf of the chairs of the three LGA boards that have an interest in apprenticeships and skills policy – Resources, City Regions and People and Places – to welcome her to her new role, highlight some of the LGA's policy positions in this space and to request a meeting. We also took the opportunity to raise once again an ongoing issue where non-maintained schools are prevented from accessing apprenticeships funding if they are part of a Pooled PAYE scheme, often run by a local authority.
28. In her reply on 18 August, the minister agreed to our request for a meeting, though responded less positively on finding new solutions for the Pooled PAYE issue, merely restating the current list of workarounds, none of which councils can make work effectively to unblock the issue. Now that the minister has been confirmed in post as part of the new government, we will be taking steps to secure a date to meet with her to discuss this and the full range of LGA apprenticeships and skills issues further.

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Support for Low Income Households

Welfare reform

29. The Chairman wrote to the Chloe Smith, MP, the new Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 23rd September. The letter highlighted the need for Ministers to work closely with other departments to address the current challenges being presented by the rising cost of living, to integrate welfare policy with key areas including housing and childcare. The letter also noted the need for a fair and effective national benefits system, that meets real living costs.
30. Portfolios for junior ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions are still being finalised and Cllr Andrew Western will write to them on behalf of the LGA as soon as these are confirmed
31. The LGA's [response to the Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) said that Government should review existing welfare policy measures, including the Shared Accommodation Rate and the freeze to the Local Housing Allowance, to ensure that they are delivering the intended policy outcomes in the current economic context.
32. The LGA continues to work closely with councils and the Department for Work and Pensions on the implementation of Universal Credit. DWP are now including regular updates on 'Move to UC' in LGA bulletins. We are in the process of identifying a new Chief Executive to represent the sector at the Universal Credit Programme Board and to work alongside LGA officers and members in discussions with the department on welfare policy and delivery.

Cost of Living Pressures

33. The LGA is continuing to take a cross-cutting approach to working with councils, Government and partners on the impacts of cost of living pressures on households and communities. This sits alongside our closely related work on cost pressures for councils and the impact on the local government workforce.
34. We have developed a range of tools for the sector including a [Cost of Living Hub](#), a monthly bulletin and a series of webinars
35. Forthcoming webinars include [Hunger and health – addressing children's food insecurity](#) and a session focusing on [Warm Spaces](#), an initiative that was first developed by councils including Bristol and Gateshead, and is now being implemented by growing numbers of places across the country.



36. In July, we submitted [a response to a call for evidence from the APPG on ending the need for foodbanks](#). This set out a number of our key asks on the role of councils and partners in supporting people with the impacts of cost of living pressures, as well as our proposals for improving financial resilience in the longer term.

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

Spiking

1. In response to the increase in reports of spiking, we [developed a short guidance note](#) which provides a brief overview of spiking, suggests some preventative actions licensed premises and licensing authorities can take, highlights some best practice case studies, and shares a checklist that the LGA would encourage licensing authorities to consider.
2. We also issued a press release with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to raise awareness of the risks of spiking. I was interviewed by Times Radio to discuss this work in more detail.

Public protection services

3. We have also developed a [councillor handbook on public protection services](#), which provides an overview of council environmental health, trading standards and licensing services. Councillors can use this guide to support understanding of what to look out for in scrutinising and leading these services within their council.

Licensing committee training resources

4. The LGA has developed some resources to support officers with the process of inducting new members onto licensing committees. We have [refreshed our licensing e-learning module](#) which provides an overview of the role and responsibilities of a member of a licensing committee.
5. To accompany the e-learning module, we have also [developed a series of licensing videos](#). The videos are all scenario based, and members are encouraged to watch them, reflect on how they would respond in a hearing, before being given some tips on the sort of thing they should consider. The videos touch on the main elements of licensing – alcohol and entertainment, taxi and gambling.
6. The LGA is also running a [Licensing Leadership Essentials course](#) 19-20th October. This is a two-day interactive course, aimed at chairs and vice chairs of committees, and focuses on how good committees are run. Due to high demand, we will run another course in March 2023.

Modern slavery

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7. We are also finalising our updated council guidance on preventing modern slavery which we originally developed with the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. This will be supported by a maturity matrix setting out how councils can develop their work on this issue.
8. To launch this guidance and to mark anti-slavery day, we will be running a webinar on 18th October, in partnership with the Human Trafficking Foundation.

Counter-extremism

9. We have continued to support the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism's programme of events, holding recent practitioner roundtable sessions on online misinformation and conspiracy theories, handling protest activity and on tackling anti-asylum seeker harassment and hate crime. A further interactive workshop was held for councils on responding to anti-minority activism, which will inform the production of a toolkit for local authorities and further planned workshops over the coming months.

Police and Crime Panel webinar

10. Cllr Clive Woodbridge chaired a webinar for Police and Crime Panel members on 27 September. We had over 80 attendees for the free event which saw excellent engagement and discussion with the speakers. We had contributions from the Home Office on the PCC Review and its impact on Panels as well as on complaints. North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel also spoke about their experiences on complaints handling. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners participated as did the Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

Justice Committee – Draft Victims Bill

11. The Justice Committee [published](#) a report on its pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government's draft Victims Bill. Following our written and oral evidence to the committee, the report highlighted "The LGA told us: 'it is crucial that the Government ensures its various recent and forthcoming strategies, guidance, and legislation in this space work cohesively with the draft Victims Bil.'"
12. The report also highlighted that both the APCC and the LGA, alongside a range of stakeholders, had concerns about the level of funding for a proposed new statutory duty. As such, the report recommended: The Government should use the Victims Bill and the guidance provided under the duty to collaborate to draw these different duties and funding models together, to ensure that they work cohesively on the ground. If this legislation simply adds new duties to an already crowded landscape, then it will be incredibly challenging for the relevant agencies to deliver on all pieces of legislation effectively.



13. There were also wider recommendations on anti-social behaviour and the community trigger process. The recommendation is for victims of non-criminal anti-social behaviour, who meet the threshold for a 'Community Trigger', should be recognised as victims for the purposes of the Bill and be entitled to rights under the revised Victims' Code.
14. The Government's response to the report is expected in the coming weeks. Following this, and potential amendments to the Bill, it is expected the legislation will begin its way through Parliament for further scrutiny of both Houses. The LGA will continue to lobby on the Bill, and work with partners, including the APCC to highlight the important funding concerns we have.

Serious Violence – National Oversight Group

15. The Home Office has established a National Oversight Group to oversee the implementation of the forthcoming serious violence duty. The LGA has been invited to become a member of the group, alongside wider partners in the community safety, health and voluntary and community sector space. The first meeting has focused on establishing a Term of Reference and membership of the oversight group.
16. Future meetings are expected to be held in the coming months, as the serious violence duty is expected to come into effect from January 2023, following the publication of the updated statutory guidance this Autumn. LGA officers will ensure the voice of local government is put forward in these meetings and will feedback to councils with relevant updates.
17. The Home Office have confirmed they are in the process of identifying a supplier to provide tailored support to specified authorities and local policing bodies in implementing the Duty. The support is intended to help local areas to establish suitable partnership arrangements and plans to deliver the Duty with a particular focus on; use of evidence, governance and systems leadership; data sharing and best practice.

Fire Reform White Paper

18. The LGA's Fire Services Management Committee responded to the Government's Fire Reform White Paper

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Minutes of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date:	Thursday 21 July 2022
Venue:	Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, Declarations of Interest

2 Any other business that Chair considers urgent

The Chairman welcomed the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP – Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to the meeting and thanked him for his time. Areas of focus for the Secretary of State included:

- Building safety
- Levelling up fund
- Nutrient neutrality
- Devolution deals

The Secretary of State took questions from the room on the following topics:

- Implications for local government on the increase in national living wage;
- Retrofitting of homes;
- Social care; and
- Support available for those on the Ukraine family scheme.

3 Vision for Volunteering

The Chairman welcomed Paul Reddish, the Chief Executive of Volunteering Matters who gave a presentation on the vision of what volunteering should look like by 2032.

Local government should consider full awareness and appreciation of volunteering, making sure there are less barriers in place to enabling people to volunteer, ensure that there was diversity, collaborating with groups and experimenting with new approaches.

In response to a query on barriers for those who wish to volunteer, it was advised that a strong local council for voluntary service (CVS) that embraces low level organised groups and provides advice would be a way forward. It was also recommended that councils focus on community engagement and approach communities with open questions on how they could help with time, resources, or funding.

4 Chairman's Update

The Chairman introduced his report updating on recent work of the LGA, highlighting that engagement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities would continue.

5 LGA Board Chair Reports

The Chairman invited the following Chairs to update on the work of their Boards in turn:

- Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
- Improvement and Innovation Board – Cllr Peter Fleming
- Resources Board – Cllr Andrew Western
- Safer and Stronger Communities Board – Cllr Nesil Caliskan

6 Digest of the last meeting held on 9 June 2022

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