



# Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 9 March 2023  
12.30 pm

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and  
Online

Councillors' Forum  
9 March 2023

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There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 9 March 2023** Hybrid Meeting - Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square and Online.

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

11.00am	Conservative	Westminster Suite (8 <sup>th</sup> Floor)
11.00am	Labour	Beecham Room (7 <sup>th</sup> Floor)
11.00am	Independent	Victoria Room (8 <sup>th</sup> 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.

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

### **Attendance:**

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

### **LGA Contact:**

Emilia Peters  
0777 668 0346 / [emilia.peters@local.gov.uk](mailto:emilia.peters@local.gov.uk)

### **Carers' Allowance**

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

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

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

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

## Councillors' Forum – Membership

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

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 37)</b>	
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
Baroness 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
<b>Labour ( 34)</b>	
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 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 Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Baroness Taylor of Stevenage 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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
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
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 13)</b>	
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
<b>Independent ( 13)</b>	
Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell District Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County 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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
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

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Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 8 June 2023, 12.30 pm, Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online





## Lee Rowley MP

### Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Local Government and Building Safety)



#### Biography

Lee Rowley was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 7 September 2022.

He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Government Whip, Lord Commissioner of HM Treasury between 17 September 2021 and 6 July 2022.

#### Education

Lee studied at Oxford University and completed a master's degree at the University of Manchester.

#### Political career

Lee was appointed as one of the two Parliamentary Private Secretaries to the Treasury in July 2019 before becoming Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party in February 2020.

He was elected the Conservative MP for North East Derbyshire on 8 June 2017.

Prior to becoming an MP, Lee worked in financial services and in management consultancy. He also was a councillor on Westminster Council between 2006 and 2014.



## Joanne Anderson – Mayor of Liverpool



### Biography

Mayor Joanne was elected as Liverpool's first female Mayor in May 2021, after serving as a councillor for Princes Park ward for two years. She is proud to be the first black woman to be directly elected as a Mayor in the UK. She strongly believes Liverpool's City Plan will help build a better, fairer city for all. She is committed in particular to empowering communities and promoting equalities. She is passionate about delivering the 'All Voices' pledge and ensuring that everyone is given a voice in their future.

At 19, Joanne was voted in as shop steward in a male-dominated workplace. Active in the Transport and General Workers Union, she held several positions within the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) structures, Women's and Young Members forums as well as a member of the TUC Race Relations Committee.

Joanne has had a varied career. After leaving school with no qualifications, she went away to work in hotels when she was young in roles such as waitress and barmaid, and then came home and worked as an administrator.

Joanne has nearly three decades of experience as an equality, diversity and inclusion practitioner. Whilst her early career started in and is embedded in the voluntary sector, she has always been interested in business, and completed a BA in Business Studies as a mature student in her late twenties.

Joanne is extremely passionate about social enterprises and businesses with purpose, believing strongly in the triple bottom line. She set up the first black social enterprise, Innervision community consultancy in Liverpool in 2000 and has also worked as a civil servant as the community engagement policy lead within the Crown Prosecution Service. She returned to consultancy in 2017 and is a business consultant trainer, facilitator and coach. She recently started an MBA in business scale up.



## Chairman's Update

This report covers the Chairman's activities from 26 January 2023 - 9 March 2023

### LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

<b>JANUARY</b>	
31	Environmental Improvement Plan Launch Reception with Secretary of State Thérèse Coffey MP
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
1	Meeting with Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety
8	Roundtable on local elections and voter ID issues with Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety
9	Local Net Zero Forum with Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
28	Attending DHSC Roundtable - Implementation Plan for adult social care reform with Minister of State for Care, Helen Whately
<b>MARCH</b>	
1	Attending Unlocking Net Zero Cities High-Level Roundtable
3	Joined Next Steps of Net Zero Review with Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

### Meetings with organisations and individuals

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
1	Discussion with Sam Freedman, Senior Fellow, at Institute for Government on Health and Social Care
9	NHS England's breakfast discussion on leadership in the NHS
15	Peter Freeman, Chair of Homes England
21	North West Regional Leaders Board
21	Leader of St Helen's Council, Cllr David Baines
21	Leader of Warrington Council, Cllr Russ Bowden
21	Leader of Knowsley Council, Cllr Graham Morgan
21	Leader of Sefton Council, Cllr Ian Maher
27	Roundtable with the Kerslake Commission

### Events and speaking engagements

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
22	BBC Interview on Homes for Ukraine scheme
22	LBC Interview on Homes for Ukraine scheme
23	District Council Network conference

24	The Conservative Councillor's Association conference
27	Attending 'Competing in the Net Zero Age' with a keynote speech from Climate Minister Graham Stuart MP
<b>MARCH</b>	
1	Attending Creative Coalition Festival opening reception

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

### Ministerial engagement

1. On the 23 January the LGA Chairman and I met with Claire Coutinho MP, Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing. I highlighted the significant pressure councils are facing on placements for children in care, as well as increasing pressures across the children's social care workforce, particularly in the fields of safeguarding and child protection social work. We also encouraged the Minister to engage directly with elected members on the proposals set out in the Department's forthcoming response to the SEND Green paper and highlighted the difficulties councils are facing in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

### Board meeting

2. The Children and Young People Board met on 24 January, when we discussed issues the Deliver Better Value in SEND (DBVS) programme. DBVS is a DfE funded project delivered by Newton Europe and CIPFRA, who are working with a total of 55 councils to ensure their high needs funding can be spent as effectively as possible. Keith Fraser, Chair of the Youth Justice Board, also joined to discuss the work of the Board, disproportionality within the youth justice system and a Child First approach. Workforce was also discussed where the Board emphasised the challenges with regard to children's social work agencies including price inflation, as well as the need to communicate the value of working in local government.

### Children's social care

3. The Department for Education published its children's social care implementation strategy and consultation on 2 February. In our [press response](#), we welcomed the direction of travel outlined in the strategy but raised concerns that the level of additional funding was insufficient and that the strategy would not address the crisis facing many services right now. We also published a [summary of the strategy with our initial view](#) ahead of responding to the consultation later this year.
4. We have submitted a response to the Department for Education's plans around the regulation of supported accommodation for young people. As part of this, we highlighted our significant concerns around placement capacity for children in

care and the potential risks posed by the new plans which we do not feel have been adequately mitigated.

5. On 6 February lead members from the Children and Young People Board met with lead members for asylum and migration to discuss how to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, in order to inform conversations at the Government's cross-departmental UASC Taskforce. This included conversations around how to support children when they first arrive in the UK, and how to ensure they receive the support they need going forward.
6. The Children and Young People Board has established a working group looking at the sufficiency of placements for children in care. This group has now met twice and will bring a final report with recommendations to the Board's final meeting of the year in June.

### **Children's Improvement**

7. I chaired the most recent meeting of the LGA/ADCS/Solace/Department for Education/Ofsted Children's Improvement Board on 31 January. Subjects for discussion included a review of the effectiveness of Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances, an update from DfE officials on the Secretary of State for Education's priorities and the Department's response to the SEND Green paper and; an update from Ofsted on their recent inspection activity.

### **Early years**

8. We briefed for a debate on the affordability and availability of childcare in the House of commons on [21 February](#), highlighting the need for sufficient funding for early entitlements and that current pressures such as the cost of living and inflation is having a negative impact on the quality and availability of childcare and early education.

### **Contact details**

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

### **Sport, leisure and physical activity**

1. The Board's focus has been on quantifying the scale of the pressures on leisure services, and in making Government aware of these severe pressures and the risk of closures.
2. Following the omission of leisure services from the Government's extra energy support scheme, the Board has:
  - 2.1 Joined sector partners in making a [statement on the need for urgent support](#)
  - 2.2 Coordinated 8 local government representative bodies to [write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State for DLUHC](#), highlighting our concern about the omission and the need for urgent investment
  - 2.3 Co-signed a letter to the Prime Minister calling for urgent action to save the nation's swimming pools. The letter has over 200 signatories including Olympic athletes and celebrities.
3. The full Board will meet Stuart Andrew MP, Minister for Sport, on 27 February to discuss the situation, outlining how councils have been moving services towards a sustainable footing, but that an ageing estate and slow Covid-recovery is putting their survival at risk before this transformation can happen. Ukactive data shows that 32% of facilities are at risk, down from 40% in the previous survey, but following over 350 closures or service reductions across the country.
4. The [LGA's work on this issue has been brought together on one webpage](#), which includes a template letter for councils to send to their local MP. I encourage you all to do so.

### **Culture, museums, and libraries**

5. All lead members met with Lord Parkinson, Minister for Arts, on 20 February, discussing the King's Coronation, commemoration of the late Queen, blue plaques, and the impact of energy costs on the sector.
6. The [Government response to the DCMS select committee's report on cultural placemaking](#) acknowledged the role of local government across the wide range of recommendations, and specifically highlighted the recent of the LGA's Commission on culture and local government.
7. Cllr Julie Jones-Evans facilitated the most recent leadership essentials for culture and in First magazine wrote about the importance of embedding new



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effective ways of working from Covid while letting go of temporary measures that are no longer needed.

### Visitor economy

8. Cllr Chris White chaired a [webinar with VisitEngland on the changes to Destination Management Organisations](#), now renamed Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEPs). Over 70 delegates heard about how to prepare for the changes and the importance of securing the right geographic coverage.

### Contact details

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

### Office for Local Government

1. Government have continued to press on with the development of the Office for Local Government (Oflog). As a result, I've been actively involved in discussions to ensure that council views are taken into account and help to shape this body.
2. In recent weeks I have met with both Minister Rowley and Lord Morse, the interim Chair of Oflog, to underline how important it is that Oflog is co-designed with the LGA and that it meets the needs of the sector, the government and the public.
3. I have written to Leaders highlighting this work and am pleased the Minister reflected many of the points we've raised at a DLUHC webinar (held on February 9), including a commitment to co-design with the sector, as well as the need to take into consideration contextual data and variability in the approaches and priorities set by councils.
4. Government have indicated that Oflog will aim to equip local leaders with data to help them deliver improvements for their places, while enhancing transparency and accountability by providing residents with detailed information about their local areas. We are also advised that it will aim to provide government with an oversight of the sector and give local leaders data to help them deliver the improvements for their places. We recognise that councils already provide and use extensive data on an extremely wide range of topics, which the LGA supports through our award-winning and highly valued data benchmarking tool, LG Inform.
5. In working with government, our objective is to ensure that Oflog is complimentary to LG Inform and can be useful to the sector – for instance, by making data available about what government and other parts of the public sector spend at council level so councils can shape and influence what other partners are doing for the needs of residents and businesses. I will continue to advocate on behalf of the sector in my conversations with Minister Rowley and Lord Morse to ensure that Oflog serves the needs of the sector and is genuinely co-designed.

**Peer Support Review**

6. Alongside the Lead Members of the Improvement and Innovation Board (IIB), I have also been working with LGA colleagues on the review of our peer support offer. The review confirmed that peers make a vital contribution to the LGA's sector support offer and are, on the whole, highly regarded for the support and value they provide.
7. Recommendations arising from the review are being implemented to enhance this offer, with IIB Lead Members taking forward an action plan that will in particular develop our member peer support offer. This will include looking at how we ensure we have the appropriately experienced, skilled, and diverse cohort of peers that councils require, whilst also looking at providing more training and support for our member peers.

**LGA Corporate Peer Challenge**

8. The LGA had its own Corporate Peer Challenge in December 2022, with Ali Griffin (Chief Executive – London Councils, former Chief Executive of Southend Council) leading the Peer Challenge team.
9. The LGA Board is scheduled to consider the peer team's feedback and an initial action plan in its meeting on 8 March 2023. Following this, the report and action plan will be published.
10. I will provide a verbal update to Councillors Forum on actions arising from the CPC which are relevant to the terms of reference of the Improvement and Innovation Board.

**Improvement Activity***Peer Challenge*

11. Peer support and regional teams have this financial year delivered 121 programmes of peer challenge or remote support, including 43 councils who have had corporate peer challenges. A further 15 instances of peer challenge or remote support have been confirmed, bringing the total for this financial year to 136. If you would be interested in our peer support, please contact the [LGA Principal Advisor](#) for your region.

*Cyber, Digital and Technology*

12. The Cyber, Digital and Technology Improvement Policy team, in collaboration with the Research and Partners in Care and Health teams, has developed a consultation response on the Cabinet Office's [proposed regulations for data sharing for identity verification](#). Councillor Alex Coley, Member of the Improvement and Innovation Board, participated in a Local Authority roundtable alongside LGA colleagues on Thursday 16 February.

## **Publications**

This section outlines the publications that have occurred since the previous Councillors' Forum including on our website and in First magazine.

### *Local Government First Magazine*

13. [Learning from each other](#), dated February 2023

Councillor Peter Fleming OBE, Chair of the Innovation Zone Working Group and a Member of the LGA Improvement and Innovation Board, wrote an article for First magazine encouraging councils to apply for a space at the Innovation Zone where Councils can showcase their innovative practice at the LGA's annual conference. and highlighting the benefits of sessions which enable councils to learn from each other.

### *Local Government Workforce*

14. In January the [2022 Local Government Workforce Survey](#) provides information on key elements of the workforce within local authorities in England. The figures provided by councils include school support staff, but exclude teachers. The survey is conducted regularly by the LGA Research and Information Team. All data in this report refers to the financial year 2021/22 unless otherwise stated.

### *Local Government Finance Capacity and Capability*

15. The LGA commissioned Local Partnerships to research the question of the capability and capacity of finance teams and to suggest steps that councils and others can take to address the issues raised. The [Local government finance capacity and capability study report](#) was published in February and, as well as being of immediate practical support to councils, is being used to inform development of the LGA finance support offer going forwards as well as adding further to the body of evidence informing the LGA's wider work on workforce challenges.

### *Building Control E-learning Module*

16. A [new e-learning module](#) for councillors and senior officers has been launched and aims to provide an overview of the whole system of building safety, including the building control services offered by councils and their legal duties under building control legislation as well as providing an understanding of how the regulatory system failed to prevent the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017 and how reforms are designed to prevent this happening again.

## Events

17. [Decarbonising Transport Webinar](#), 24 January 2023 - Councillor Liz Green, Deputy Chair of the LGA Improvement and Innovation Board, chaired the webinar which shared good practice examples from experts and councils who are developing and delivering decarbonising transport strategies and provision. It was attended by 229 delegates and also showcased the decarbonising transport action learning sets run by the LGA.

## Contact details

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## Resources Board – Report from Cllr Pete Marland (Chair)

### Local Government Finance

#### *Spring Budget 2023*

1. In advance of the Chancellor's Spring Budget, we wrote to the [Chancellor of the Exchequer](#) setting out the priorities for local government where public finance interventions would help councils remain financially sustainable and deliver on shared priorities. We set out the sector's challenges with increasing costs and demand in social care, housing, homelessness, and culture and leisure services. We also highlighted opportunities for greater fiscal and political devolution, particularly around net zero.
2. The budget will take place on 15 March, and the LGA will circulate an on the day briefing highlighting the key issues for local government.

#### *Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24*

3. We issued a [response](#) to the [Final Local Government Finance Settlement](#), which was published on 6 February accompanied by a [Written Ministerial Statement](#). The final settlement was broadly in line with the [provisional settlement](#), although there was a small increase in Core Spending Power (CSP) of 9.4 per cent from to 9.2 per cent, mostly due to reflecting referendum principles for fire and rescue authorities and the Greater London Authority (GLA) which were not included in CSP in the provisional settlement, and increases in the Rural Services Delivery Grant and the Services Grant.
4. We issued Parliamentarians with a [briefing](#) ahead of the debate on the settlement which was based on the LGA's [response](#) to the provisional settlement. The settlement was approved by Parliament on 8 February.

#### *Public Accounts Committee inquiry – timeliness of local auditor reporting*

5. We issued a [press statement](#) in response to a report by the National Audit Office (NAO) [on the timeliness of local auditor reporting](#). This is a progress report following up from a [report published in March 2021](#). We agreed with the NAO's conclusion that local audit is in crisis with only 12 per cent of 2021/22 accounts being finalised in line with the extended timetable for the completion of audits, despite most councils completing their draft accounts on time. While some progress has been made in addressing some of the underlying issues, we have called on the Government to set out a detailed timetable by which it expects to restore timely audited accounts. Following the publication of the NAO report, the

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has launched an [inquiry into this subject](#). We will be submitting written evidence to this.

6. On the linked subject of Local Government Pension Scheme fund accounts, which are separate to but contained within the administering authority's accounts, the Local Government Minister Lee Rowley has recently [written to the Scheme Advisory Board Chair](#) advising that he has asked his officials to look into the possibility of separating pension fund accounts out from main council accounts, in order to minimise the impact of audit delays on the pension fund annual report and accounts. This mirrors what already happens in Wales.

#### *Consultation on deadline for draft accounts*

7. Between 16 February and 2 March DLUHC ran a two week [consultation on the deadline for draft accounts of councils to be completed](#). DLUHC proposed that the deadline should revert to 31 May for the 2022/23 accounts. This is despite the deadline for audited accounts being extended by two months for the next 6 years. Resources Board Lead Members cleared [a response](#) to this arguing the deadline for draft accounts should continue to be extended, at least until 30 June.

### **Workforce and Pensions**

#### *LGS NJC Pay 2023 - 24*

8. Work on the LGS ('Green Book') NJC 2023-24 pay round has begun, with a series of regional pay briefings being held between 6 and 15 February. The briefings are led by the LGA Workforce Team and are designed to give context and background to councils, setting out the negotiating process, economic context and providing an opportunity for councils to share their views.
9. The pay claim from UNISON, GMB and Unite was received on 30 January and is for:
  - RPI (the unions are citing 10.70 per cent) + 2.0 per cent on all pay points
  - Consideration of a flat rate increase to hourly rates of pay in order to bring the minimum rate up to £15 per hour within two years
  - A review and improvement of NJC terms for family leave and pay
  - A review of job evaluation outcomes for school staff whose day-to-day work includes working on Special Educational Needs (SEN)
  - An additional day of annual leave for personal or well-being purposes
  - A homeworking allowance for staff for whom it is a requirement to work from home
  - A reduction in the working week by two hours
  - A review of the pay spine, including looking at the top end, and discussions about the link between how remuneration can be used to improve retention



*Local government pay 2023*

10. The National Employers met on 23 February and agreed unanimously to make a final, one-year (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) pay offer to the unions representing local government services 'Green Book' employees. The offer would provide all employees with a pay increase of at least £1,925 per annum from 1 April 2023, which for the lowest paid (currently earning £20,441 per annum) equates to an increase of 9.42 per cent; meaning their pay will have increased by £4,033 (22.0 per cent) over the two years since April 2021. For those on all pay points above the top of the pay spine, an offer of 3.88 per cent has been made.
11. As explained in great detail at the recent regional pay briefings, the main issue to influence the employers' position has yet again been the continuing challenge of how to deal with the relentless pressure from the proximity of the National Living Wage (NLW) to the bottom of the NJC pay spine. The National Employers are eleven senior elected members, many of whom are, or have been, Leader of their council. As such, they are all acutely aware of the additional pressure this year's offer, which would need to be paid for from existing budgets, will place on already hard-pressed finances, especially for those councils and schools with large numbers of employees on the lower pay points. However, they believe their offer meets the NLW challenge (at least in the short-term) and is fair to employees, given the wider economic backdrop.
12. The National Employers also made separate, one-year final offers to the Staff Sides representing local authority Craftworker ('Red Book') employees, local authority Chief Officers and Chief Executives. I shall continue to keep you informed of developments.

*Local Authority Chief Executives' and Chief Officers' pay*

13. Final offers made by the National Employers for a £1,925 increase on basic salary for both Chief Executives and Chief Officers, backdated to 1 April 2022, were accepted in November 2022.
14. On 31 January 2023 we received from ALACE its 2023 pay claim for local authority Chief Executives. Among other items, the claim is for a "pay increase for all chief executives in April 2023 and subsequent years that is the same as the percentage increase for the top point on the scale for local government staff covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services."
15. On 7 February we received the 2023 claim from the Staff Side of the Chief Officers' JNC. It seeks, "a pay increase of "RPI (the unions are citing 10.70 per cent) + 2.0 per cent on all pay points." In addition, "an additional day's leave (from 1 April 2023), plus another additional day of annual leave for personal or well-being purposes."

*Local Authority Craftworkers ('Red Book') Pay 2022-23*

16. Agreement was reached on 10 November 2022, backdated to 1 April 2022, for an increase of £1,925 on basic salary and 4.04 per cent on allowances.
17. We are yet to receive a 2023 claim from the Trade Union Side of the Craft JNC.

*Youth and Community Workers: Pay 2022-23*

18. A final one-year pay offer of an increase of £1,925 on all pay points and an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances (both with effect from 1 September 2022) have been accepted by the Staff side.

*Soulbury Officers (Soulbury Committee) Pay 2022-23*

19. The National Employers' final offer of a one-year increase of £1,925 on all pay points and an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances (with effect from 1 September 2022) has been rejected.

*Coroners' Pay 2022*

20. Following consultation, the management side of the JNC for Coroners made an offer to increase local salaries and day rates for individuals, derived from the JNC arrangement, by 1.56 per cent (with effect from 1 April 2022). Agreement has now been reached on this award.

*School teachers' pay 2022/23 & 2023/24*

21. The School Teachers' Review Body's (STRB) 2023 remit was published on 15 November 2023.
22. The LGA consulted local authorities in order to inform the national employers (NEOST) evidence and this was submitted in line with the original timetable. However, we were informed that the timetable was being extended, which means that evidence from statutory consultees (including NEOST, DfE and Trade Unions) has not yet been published. We continue to await an update.

*Police Staff (Police Staff Council) Pay 2022-23*

23. Agreement was reached within the Police Staff Council in December 2022 for a revised pay settlement, which in accordance with a previously agreed re-opener clause, resulted in all PSC pay points (i.e., pay points 7 – 45) being increased by £1900 over the period 1 April 2022 to 1 September 2023. The revised pay settlement incorporated the 2.1 per cent increase which had been agreed from 1 April 2022, providing for £1900 extra pay over the period 1 April 2022 to 31 August 2023.

*Fire Services Pay*

24. Fire Brigades Union (FBU) members, which includes firefighters, voted to undertake strike action in seeking a pay offer above the 5 per cent offered within the UK-wide National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services (NJC).
25. A further consultation meeting was held with fire and rescue authority chairs, chief fire officers and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners before a formal meeting of the NJC on 8 February. At the NJC meeting, members of the employers' side were mindful of a number of factors including the serious concerns raised within the consultation meeting of the damaging effects of strike action both for the public and fire and rescue service culture and relationships. Following intensive discussions, the National Employers agreed to make the following offer:
- A 7 per cent increase on all basic pay rates and Continual Professional Development payments with effect from 1 July 2022
  - A 5 per cent increase on all basic pay rates and Continual Professional Development payments with effect from 1 July 2023
26. The FBU are consulting their members with a recommendation to accept this offer. The consultation closes on 6 March 2023.

#### *Capacity Challenges facing councils*

27. The scale and complexity of the workforce capacity challenge in local government continues to be a strategic focus for the LGA as our most recent press release on this matter highlighted last month. Councils continue to raise their capacity challenges with us and we have made that a key focus for our activity. At the LGA conference in the summer we discussed the capacity challenges, and we continue to work with government departments and other key national stakeholders to raise the importance of increasing investment in the LG workforce. The programmes and support highlighted below are provided in this context.

#### *Recruitment and Retention Support*

28. Our guide capturing best practice in recruitment and retention strategies was published in January focusing our recruitment "6 Ps" model, which contribute to approaches dealing with the capacity challenge across local government.

#### *Social Care Workforce*

29. The LGA continues to provide support to councils and the wider social care sector employers through our Partners in Care programme delivered in partnership with ADASS and skills for care. Recently work has included a focus on workforce retention providing guidance for local authorities and providers to

support retention of the adult social care workforce see - top tips and resources to support the implementation of staff retention measures.

30. The LGA produced an Integrated Workforce Thinking resource produced in partnership with NHS Employers and Skills for Care, and has recently added the lessons learned from the One Devon Partnership. This case study from Devon sets out how the partnership is transforming care for current and future generations.

#### *Children's Services Workforce*

31. The LGA is developing a guidance tool for children's services teams to improve workforce practices. This tool is being developed to support both the Director/ Head of Human Resources (HR) and Director of Children's Services (DCS) to collaborate effectively and develop a shared understanding and vision to achieving best outcomes for children and their families by improving workforce practice.

#### *Family Hub Workforce Support*

32. The LGA is working with supporting 15 of the 70 councils who have been provided funding to develop local family hubs. Family Hubs are centres which, as part of integrated family services ensure families with children and young people aged 0-19 receive early help to overcome a range of difficulties and build stronger relationships. The support to date has provided a self-assessment tool and workforce resource to help the newly established family hubs baseline their approach and learn from the early adopters.

#### *Employer Standards for Social Workers, OTs and Health professionals (Health Check) Survey*

33. The survey for 2022 has now closed, and it has received over 15,000 responses from 150 organisations. For the first time in February, councils will be able to log into an online portal to view their survey results and each council will receive an individualized report to understand the experiences of their workforce. National and regional reports will be available in March on the LGA website.

#### *Employment Relations Unit Update*

34. The ERU team have updated our information around industrial action ballots, FAQs, notice periods, and picketing. We have continued to provide specific updates on key employment law and case matters e.g., further updates regarding the BRAZEL consultation, a range of on-line webinars on employment law, support to councils going through LGR with advice on TUPE etc, various legal/policy advice direct to councils and specialist support to schools through our education employment law online events working with regional employers.

*Apprenticeship Programme*

35. The LGA continues to provide support to councils on practice and policy aspects of getting the best return on council's levy investment. This includes a practice network of over 500 members, webinars, guidance and advice.
36. The government published the latest data set on public sector organisations' progress towards meeting the public sector apprenticeships target. This covered organisations' progress in 20/21 and across the four-year target period. The data shows that:
- Local government created 12,227 apprenticeship starts in 2020/21, taking the sector to over 53,000 apprenticeships created since April 2017.
  - Starts fell almost 23 per cent year-on-year from 2019/20 but were still over 1,000 higher than 17/18 and more than double the level the sector achieved before the target and apprenticeships levy were introduced in 2017.
  - Apprenticeships created by local government in 2020/21 were equivalent to 1.2 per cent of our headcount against a target of 2.3 per cent. Over the full four-year period (2017/18 - 2020/21) it was also 1.2 per cent, below the public sector average of 1.7 per cent.
  - 33 councils and combined authorities met their public sector targets across the full four-year period.
  - The main reason councils missed their targets was the inclusion of maintained schools in the target – these schools created just over 20% of the apprenticeship starts they were expected to, leading to underperformance.
37. A further one-year public sector apprenticeships target has been in operation since 1 April 2021 and will run until 31 March 2022. We expect a new public sector target to run from 1 April 2022 to be agreed and announced by government sometime during Q1 of 2022.

*LGA Apprenticeships Survey 2022*

38. As part of our apprenticeship programme we gather data insights to support our work and representation to government and share progress across the sector. This year we have delivered two apprenticeship surveys. The surveys closed in January, the annual survey for local authorities focusing on organisational matters saw 171 councils respond, a new record turn-out. Our Apprentice Health and Wellbeing Survey, run for the first time this year and targeted at apprentices in the sector, saw almost 4,000 apprentices from over 150 local authorities take part. The data is being analysed and national reports will be available for both surveys in early March with regional and individual council reports available later in the month.

*Early Careers Programme*

39. LGA Workforce Team provides a programme to help councils promote local government as a career destination. The work includes a 2-year project to provide support to councils to work with their local T level provider to provide T level industry placements to 16-19 years olds. Launched in December 2021 we have supported over 50 councils to be early adopters of the T Level to provide industry placements. LGA workforce team see T levels as an ideal way for councils to engage and attract local young people into a job and ideally a career in local government. The programme is supported by a joint partnership between Gatsby Charitable Foundation, Department of Education and the LGA.
40. LGA is working in partnership with Youth Employment UK and provided Careers information to promote the sector to schools and young people under 19. This will include virtual work experience and on-line materials. A beta site is in development

*Supporting Organisational Development (OD) Culture & OD Exchange (CODE)*

41. The LGA runs a thriving network of OD practitioners with over 200+ members sharing practice and progress to save time and money on delivering initiatives. This national network called CODE is delivered in partnership with West Midlands Employers Organisation and provides on-line collaboration platform, sharing documents, policies, advice and guidance.

*Workforce Planning Support Programme*

42. The LGA provides support to councils to improve how they undertake workforce planning. We run a practitioners' network of over 100 workforce planners sharing approaches and using the LGA's workforce planning guidance and model. The programme delivers online workshops as well as direct support to councils. In 2022-23 the LGA provided support to Adult Social Care teams in 9 councils helping them to better understand their workforce data so they could plan and take the most appropriate actions to address short- and long-term needs. The LGA is currently supporting a workforce planning pilot project across Essex to address acute town planning skill shortages.

*Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*

43. LGA workforce have run a series of EDI round tables this year, bringing together practitioners in interactive workshops to do deeper dives into the Diverse by Design steps. Running this "let's talk about..." series every month, we ran a wellbeing themed interactive workshop on the alternate month.

*Workforce Surveys – Improving data and workforce insights*

44. The LGA is part of a NARE project to improve workforce data in 2023. Working with DLUC and directly with councils NARE are committed to improving data collection, sharing and reporting progress.

45. The LGA published the latest Local Government Workforce Survey in January 2023. The report provides information on key elements of the workforce within local authorities in England and demonstrates the challenge across the workforce.

### *Pensions*

46. On 30 January 2023 DLUHC issued an 8 week consultation on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme regulations that govern the Scheme Advisory Board's (SAB) scheme cost management process. This is the process that operates separately from but alongside the quadrennial scheme-level cost management process, which is based upon HM Treasury legislation. The consultation follows the report from the Government Actuary's Department into changes to the HM Treasury cost management process, and the resulting policy and legislative changes set out in HM Treasury's response to that report. It acknowledges the differences between the HMT and SAB processes but proposes measures suggested by SAB in its consultation response to better integrate the two processes. The consultation closes on 24 March 2023 and SAB expects to respond favourably.
47. On 10 February 2023 DLUHC issued a short (2 week) technical consultation on changing the in-scheme revaluation date from 1 to 6 April, with effect from 1 April 2023. The proposed change will remove the impact of high inflation on the annual allowance calculation, and will reduce the number of Local Government Pension Scheme members incurring a tax charge. The consultation closes on 24 February 2023. The government also confirmed that the September 2022 rate of CPI (10.1%) will be used to revalue and uplift pensions for the 2023/2024 year.

### **Support for low income and disadvantaged households**

48. Household Support Fund – on 21 February 2023 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) distributed the confirmed funding of £842m (April 2023 to March 2024) to County and Unitary councils in England
49. The department also issued [revised guidance](#) to councils. The LGA worked closely with councils and government to make recommendations for improved guidance, that would enable the councils to use the funding as flexibly and effectively as possible. We were very pleased to see that our key recommendations had been addressed, including removal of the preclusion on using the funding for advice provision.
50. We continue to make the case for this funding to be put a more sustainable footing, to ensure that councils continue to be able to provide crisis support

where it is needed, and are working towards strengthening financial wellbeing and resilience across their communities.

51. We continue to develop the content of our Cost of Living Hub, which has become a valued resource for councils and partners. In January and February we added four 'spotlight case studies', which looked at councils' cross-cutting approaches to supporting their communities with the rising cost of living. [The first four case studies are from Leeds, Stockton-on-Tees, Kirklees and Brighton & Hove.](#) Further case studies will be added over the coming months, and we continue to work across the sector to capture and share learning, innovation and effective practice.

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

### Licensing conference

1. Cllr Woodbridge, Vice-Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, chaired the LGA's annual licensing conference.
2. The conference gave delegates an opportunity to reflect on some of the key developments that can be expected to affect councils' licensing committees and teams over the next year. There was a wide range of expert speakers who covered issues including licensing and counterterrorism, how to secure alignment between licensing and planning regimes and best practice in fee setting. Cllr Jeanie Bell, one of the Board's licensing champions, also delivered a presentation on how to link licensing into your council's priorities.
3. This was an in-person conference, which attracted around 60 delegates.

### Gambling

4. The [DCMS Committee is holding an inquiry](#) into gambling regulation, which investigates the progress the Government has made on addressing the known issues in gambling regulation. The LGA has submitted written evidence to the inquiry.
5. The LGA and APCC hosted a roundtable on tackling gambling harms in February. The meeting consisted of PCCs, the NPCC, councillors and council officers from public health and licensing. It sought to identify good practice and collaborative working between councils and PCCs on gambling harm.
6. The outcomes of the roundtable will inform a refresh of the LGA's guidance on taking a whole council approach to gambling harms and the APCC's checklist.

### Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition 2023

7. The LGA's Annual Fire Conference took place on 7th – 8th March in Nottingham with over 150 delegates in attendance.
8. The theme for the Conference was 'Building Resilience for the Future of the Fire Service'. Chris Philp MP was due to deliver the keynote address, updating on the Government's Fire reform programme and Andy Cooke, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Chief Fire & Rescue Services was due to talk about key findings in the latest round of inspections.

9. Workshops covered the core code of ethics, sector-led improvement, research Shropshire FRS has done on 'on call' and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs), with plenary sessions focussing on people, efficiency, and effectiveness.

### **Fire Services Management Committee**

10. FSMC met on 6 March at the Annual Fire Conference in Nottingham. Members heard from the Building Safety Regulator and discussed culture in the fire service as well as the findings from [State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2022](#) and plans for the next round of inspections.

### **Fire and Rescue Services Pay**

11. A further [pay offer](#) has been made within the uk-wide National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services, which covers uniformed personnel including firefighters. The offer is for a 7% uplift in basic pay rates and continual professional development payments with effect from 1 July 2022, followed by a 5% uplift from 1 July 2023. Discussions would also take place to explore the wider points in the pay claim. The Fire Brigades Union will now consult its members, recommending acceptance. Notification of strike dates will not take place while the consultation is open (to 6 March).

### **Coroners Pay**

12. Agreement has been reached within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Coroners that with effect from 1st April 2022, local salaries and day rates for individuals derived from the JNC arrangements will be increased by 1.56%.

### **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour**

13. The LGA continues to work with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on plans to tackle anti-social behaviour, following the [Prime Minister's speech on building a better future which set out plans](#) to give mayors and local authorities the tools they need to crack down on anti-social behaviour. The Government is expected to publish a Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Plan in the coming weeks.

### **Surveillance equipment**

14. The Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner has published their [Annual Report 2021 – 2022](#), and [analysis of the results](#) of a survey of police forces on their use of overt surveillance camera systems in public places.

Both the report and survey highlight the Commissioner's concerns about the use of surveillance equipment where it is produced by companies subject to the National Intelligence Law of the People's Republic of China.

### Domestic abuse

15. The Government have confirmed the police and the probation service will start work immediately to ensure that offenders sentenced to a year or more for controlling and coercive behaviour are recorded on the violent and sex offender register. In addition, abusers could be fitted with a tag, prevented from going within a certain distance of a victim's home, and made to attend a behaviour change programme, as part of a trial of domestic abuse protection notices and orders. Also, those at risk of, or suffering from, domestic abuse will be able to receive emergency help from 18 jobcentres across the UK. Further details of the measures can be [found here](#).

### Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Group Meeting

16. The Board's Domestic Abuse Champion Cllr Lois Samuel attended the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's strategic group on tackling domestic abuse perpetrators. This meeting focused on improving the response to perpetrators in a healthcare setting, and evidence-based perpetrator interventions.
17. This follows the Government's [announcement](#) of up to £18 million per year over two years in funding towards the next phase of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund, bringing the total of the fund to £36 million. Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) will be given funding to increase the availability of domestic abuse perpetrator intervention schemes, such as behaviour change programmes, that aim to improve victim safety and reduce the risk posed by abusers. The Government also [published](#) seven standards which provides commissioners with the guidance on commissioning effective interventions with perpetrators while ensuring that victims' safety and welfare remain paramount.

### Independent Review of Prevent

18. The [Independent Review of Prevent and Government's response](#) were published in February. The report is broadly positive about Prevent's overall objectives, endorsing the strategy overall, and recognises the crucial role of local partners in its delivery. The report makes 34 recommendations, which the Government has accepted in full, including several which will impact on council delivery.



**Councillors' Forum**

9 March 2023

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

### Future of Cities

1. Planning is underway for a second urban summit, due to take place on 22 March 2023. This first part of the summit will showcase the progress of the RSA UK [Urban Futures Commission](#) with an address from RSA Chief Executive Andy Haldane. The second part of the summit will provide opportunities for attendees to get involved in discussions about three key questions: *what are cities, what do we need cities to be, and what is the difference and how do we get there?*
2. The summit will provide the opportunity to bring together key urban special interest groups and stakeholders including Core Cities, Key Cities and London Councils.
3. The summit will also launch a collection of videos, capturing the views of city citizens from six different cities in England and Wales to augment our existing [collection of essays and videos](#) drawn from city leaders, urban planners, think tanks, academics and urban artists and writers.

### Urban Resilience

4. At the last meeting of the City Regions Board, members heard from Bristol City Council on Bristol's work on urban heat resilience, including the context for urban heat risks and Bristol's Heat Vulnerability Index. Members also commented on the Government's recently published national resilience framework, for the purpose of feeding back to Government on the plans to take forward the proposals in conjunction with the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

### Levelling Up

5. The [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#) has completed five roundtables. The inquiry has looked to explore how the government's levelling up agenda might better strengthen local areas and the emerging themes of the roundtables have been used in conjunction with research into how the pandemic may have affected demographic trends and what the implications are for levelling up of any demographic shifts. The final report will be launched at a hybrid event on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Confirmed speakers include Sarah Longlands, Professor Francesca Gains and Professor Michael Kenny.
6. The City Regions Board has approved the creation and co-sponsorship of a health devolution working group with the NHS Confederation. This working group will provide an opportunity to ensure that learning can be shared between local government, the NHS and Integrated Care Systems (ICSs).

The three boards with an interest in health devolution (the City Regions Board, the People and Places Board, and the Community Wellbeing Board) will all have a nominated representative on the working group, with the nomination from the City Regions Board being Cllr Gillian Ford. Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive of the LGA will also be a member of the working group.

7. Following the announcement of the second round of the Levelling Up Fund, the Board, with the People and Places Boards raised concerns about the process. The Board resolved to write to the Secretary of State about these concerns, and to ask the Minister to review the process of allocating the Levelling Up Fund ahead of any future rounds.
8. The Board together with the People and Places Board hosted a series of roundtables to hear directly from councils around the country to explore how councils are working to improve equality and diversity in employment and skills outcomes to encourage economic inclusion for their communities. Officers are drawing together the evidence from the discussions to develop policy recommendations to advance this agenda.

### **Growth funding**

9. The City Regions Board, together with the People and Places Board has commissioned WPI Economics to carry out research into what works in driving economic growth and prosperity at the local level. It will also look at the steps English councils working in partnership might take to achieve this. This work is due to conclude in April.
10. The Board is also feeding into two pieces of commissioned work undertaken by Shared Intelligence supporting local economies as part of the LGA's Government-funded support offer. The first relates to the changing skills needs of economic development teams. The project aims to better understand economic development services and how they are delivered across England, the breadth of the work undertaken and how they add value locally, and skills and capacity challenges they face including skills needs and capacity issues delivering local and national priorities.
11. The second project supports councils and combined authorities with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) integration process. To date, two workshops have been held with tranche 2 areas, with a further two workshops scheduled to take place including one for tranche 1 areas who have already integrated. DLUHC officials are confirmed to attend the sessions to provide an update from Government. A final report will be published to share good practice and highlight the opportunities and challenges of LEP integration.

12. The LGA has commissioned Shared Intelligence to run action learning sets to support local authorities delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This will include developing resources to support the wider sector with the introduction of the fund.

### **Green Jobs**

13. The Government's Green Jobs Delivery Group have agreed for the formation of a time limited Local Capacity and Capability sub-group that will run between March and May. The group will make recommendations to the Government on how best to address the local capacity and capability challenges local government face in delivering the jobs and skills needed to achieve net zero.
14. Local Government will be represented by Solace, ADEPT, Mayoral Combined Authorities as well as the LGA, which Cllr Kye Dudd will be representing Bristol City Council. There will also be representation from business, energy companies, and education and training providers. The LGA are engaging with the partners to support the sub-committee as well as inform our wider policy development work.

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

### **Vulnerable people**

1. In December 2022, the Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members agreed publication of a joint LGA/NHSE guidance 'Quick guide on accommodation based mental health, learning disability and autism support in adult community, crisis and acute services'.
2. In December 2022, the Community Wellbeing Board Lead members agreed publication of a LGA 'Get in on the act' briefing on the new Mental Health Act.
3. In February 2023, Cllr David Fothergill and Professor Louis Appleby (Chair of the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group) published a blog on 'Breaking the link between financial difficulty and suicide' to highlight the importance of prioritising suicide prevention during financially difficult times.
4. On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Cllr David Fothergill chaired a LGA webinar on 'No Homeless Veterans'. The event was to help councils identify and respond effectively to the needs of homeless veterans.

### **Public Health**

5. On 17 January 2023, Cllr David Fothergill had a constructive meeting with the Minister for Primary Care and Public Health, Neil O'Brien MP. They discussed the public health grant 2023/24, supporting the economically inactive back to work and the tobacco plan and alcohol strategy. The Minister is keen to visit innovative programmes delivered by councils or in partnership with the NHS and others. Feel free to drop the office a line if you have any examples you may have we can share with the Ministers office.
6. In January 2023, Cllr David Fothergill published a joint blog with Sharon White, CEO of the School and Public Health Nurses Association and Alison Morton, Executive Director of the Institute of Health Visiting calling for urgent investment these vital public health nursing services.
7. On 11 February, Cllr David Fothergill was interviewed by BBC News following an LGA press release about the need to better regulate the sale of vaping products to those under 18 years of age.
8. As of the 1 March, councils are still calling for the Government to urgently publish the Public Health Grant funding allocations 2023/24 which councils will receive from April. This means that time is running out for councils to set their

budgets and to make critical decisions on renewing contracts for vital public health services. A lack of certainty around councils' public health funding this year is exacerbating the growing crisis of demand for support services, such as for sexual health services or drug and addiction support. This is leaving these vital services facing an uncertain future and risks people being forced to go without crucial help and support. We continue to raise our concerns and call for future grant allocations to be more closely aligned to the publication of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

9. The LGA is calling for vaping products to be kept out of sight of children in shops and for the legal minimum age of 18 to be marked clearly on each product. The LGA is wanting vaping products to be subject to the same rules as cigarettes and kept out of reach and sight of children behind shop counters as more children can be attracted to the product due to its bright colourful packaging. We are also calling for the closing of a loophole that allows for the free distribution of vape products to children.
10. The LGA submitted evidence to the Health and Social Care Select Committee review on Prevention on 14 February 2023. The LGA has consistently argued that the current social care and health system is unsustainable and will buckle under the weight of demand unless we re-engineer our planning and service provision to protect health, prevent sickness and intervene early to minimise the need for costly hospital treatment and care. Trying to fix this by focusing on treatment alone is not the answer. We need preventative strategies that mitigate or defer the need for costly interventions and at the same time deliver better outcomes for individuals
11. There has been an 83% increase in extractions for tooth decay in children compared with 2020/21, though this the increase is likely to reflect a partial recovery of hospital services following the Covid-19 pandemic. The rate of tooth extractions for children living in the most deprived areas was almost 3.5 times higher than those living in the least deprived areas. This month we called on the Government to use the upcoming spring Budget to recommit to vital measures to combat childhood obesity and diet-related ill health, such as the sugar levy which has helped cut down the consumption of drinks with high sugar content.
12. The LGA annual public health conference takes place 21-23 March and will offer delegates the opportunity to hear from leading expert speakers on the very latest thinking in national public health policy issues, as well as gaining insights from those delivering on the ground. Over three half-day virtual sessions, delegates will be able to put their questions and comments to a stellar line up of speakers and will have the opportunity to participate in sessions sharing good practice

from local areas and to discuss issues that matter to them. I encourage colleagues to book a place.

### **Integration and devolution update**

13. In December, the Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members agreed to sponsor the Devo Connect Health Devolution Commission in 2023/24. Cllr David Fothergill will be represent the LGA as an advisory commissioner. Click on the following link for more information about the Health Devolution Commission: <https://healthdevolution.org.uk/>
14. In February, the Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members agreed to support a proposal to establish a joint NHS Confederation and LGA Health and Devolution Working Group to understand the opportunities and challenges for leaders in local government devolution areas and ICSs in aligning health and local government devolution. The City Regions Board and People and Places Board have also considered the proposal. So far, the CRB has approved the proposal and we expect clearance from the People and Places Board imminently. Each of the LGA Boards will have Member level representation on the Working Group, with Cllr David Fothergill representing CWB.
15. In November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt would be conducting a review of the autonomy and accountability of integrated care systems (ICSs). The LGA submitted written evidence to the Hewitt Review: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/lga-response-hewitt-review-ics-accountability-and-autonomy> . On 13 January, Patricia Hewitt attended a special meeting of the CWB to hear the Board Members views on ICSs. In response to Patricia Hewitt's request for LGA representation on specific workstreams focusing on 5 aspects of accountability and autonomy, Cllr David Fothergill represented the LGA on the accountability, autonomy and regulation workstream.

### **Press Statements**

[We must shift the narrative on ageing and disability – LGA responds to Archbishops' Commission report on Reimagining Care | Local Government Association](#)

[Councils warn of 'alarming' pressures on households this winter – LGA responds to ONS winter pressure data | Local Government Association](#)

[Local public health services at risk amid funding uncertainty | Local Government Association](#)

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

Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

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

[Councils left in the dark about mental health funding future – LGA responds to NAO report on mental health service demand | Local Government Association](#)

[Vapes need to be 'out-of-sight and out-of-reach' to tackle underage sales – LGA | Local Government Association](#)

[Councils also need clarity over public health cash – LGA on drug and alcohol treatment funding | Local Government Association](#)

[Lack of dentists leads kids teeth to rot – LGA on hospital tooth extractions data | Local Government Association](#)

[Urgent social care investment needed to meet demand – LGA on The King's Fund report | Local Government Association](#)

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

### Housing, Planning and Homelessness

#### *Social Housing Regulation Bill*

1. 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. We welcome proposals that will strengthen the role of the Social Housing Regulator to increase the rights of tenants and enable tenants to better hold their landlord to account on consumer issues. New amendments have recently been tabled, such as Awaab's Law which will force social landlords to fix damp and mould within strict time limits. Also, I chaired a webinar to provide information on the Bill to councils, which had speakers from Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, the Regulator for Social Housing and Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

#### *Out of Area Placement Guidance*

2. We recently published [Out of Area Placement Guidance](#) accompanied by a workshop for local authorities. During the workshop, we discussed the guidance in length and talked about the ways councils could implement. We also talked about what wouldn't be possible for councils to implement without further support or resources from central government. As part of this work, LGA engaged with the APPG for Temporary Accommodation which recently outlined out of area placements as a cause for concern and set an action to find out more about out of area placements. We're hopeful that we can work with the APPG to further disseminate the guidance and workshop to councils.

#### *Refugee/New Arrival Housing*

3. Despite the Ukrainian homelessness data having some accuracy issues, it shows an alarming increase in presentations to homelessness services from Ukrainian nationals. We continue to work with DLUHC and London Councils to improve this data. In December, a £500m Local Authority Housing Fund was announced, to be used by selected councils in England to buy housing stock, build new homes, convert existing non-residential properties, and refurbish delapidated housing or empty homes into accommodation for families. 183 councils in total including the GLA have submitted bids against their allocations against the funding. They should receive 30% of the funding Feb/March 2023. Year 2 allocation will be paid once an LA has demonstrated that at least 60% of the Year 1 allocation has been committed, with the first milestone for this to

occur is in May 2023. Also announced was £150m in additional funding for local authorities across the UK to help support Ukrainian guests move into their own homes and reduce the risk of homelessness, with allocation and focus still to be confirmed

#### *Rough Sleeping Advisory Group*

4. The government published an updated rough sleeping strategy '[Ending rough sleeping for good](#)' on 3rd September 2022 which made a commitment to ask the Advisory Panel to provide an update on delivery progress to Government to track progress in achieving our vision. Mark Lloyd will be attending the panel on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to meet with the new minister Felicity Buchan and to discuss approaches in tracking progress of the Rough Sleeping Strategy, published in September 2022 as well as to raise concerns over the effects of cost of living, increasing evictions from the private rented sector, and increasing presentations from Ukraine arrivals on homelessness services.

### **Environment**

#### *Environmental improvement*

5. Defra has released further information about the [implementation of biodiversity net gain](#) in new development from November 2023. New [guidance](#) has been published and funding of up to £16.71 million will be made available to local planning authorities between now and November 2023 to prepare for implementation. This will be followed by further new burdens funding following commencement of the requirement from November. Defra is expected to issue further guidance and regulations on the development of local nature recovery strategies, ahead of the appointment of responsible authorities (councils or Natural England) in April 2023.
6. Defra's [25 year Environmental Improvement Plan](#) sets out government goals for improving the environment and policies to support the implementation of the plan.

#### *Waste and waste crime*

7. Annual [fly-tipping statistics](#) were released at the end of January. The LGA's media response highlighted the need for tougher penalties from the courts and for manufacturers of frequently fly-tipped items to contribute to the cost of clear up. The Environment Agency annual waste crime survey contains new questions this year on smaller scale fly-tipping, which will help give a clearer picture of the link to organised crime.
8. Further information from Defra sets out detail of the new deposit return scheme for drinks containers. The LGA's media response highlighted the need for clarity

on how the deposit return scheme will work alongside other reforms, and called for measures to prevent waste in the first place to be given priority.

9. I have written to Defra and the Environment Agency on behalf of the Board to set out our concerns about the challenges of managing soft furnishings containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and I hope to have an update on this topic following further discussions with Defra in March.

## Climate Change

### *Mission Zero: Independent Review of Net Zero*

10. On 13 January Chris Skidmore MP published his final report [Mission Zero, Independent Review of Net Zero](#), it is a comprehensive and detailed report. The LGA [submitted evidence](#) in October 2022, followed by a meeting between the Climate Change Task Group and Chris Skidmore MP, and officer meetings with the review team. The final report references the LGA on multiple points, including around the need for funding reform. The Chairman and Co-chairs of the Climate Change Task Group have written to Chris Skidmore MP setting out which recommendations they do and don't support.

### *Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum*

11. On Thursday 9 February the first Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum with the Chairman and representatives across the political parties took place. The forum was chaired and attended by Lord Callanan and the bulk of the discussion was on the recommendation of the Chris Skidmore MP review of net zero. It was agreed that the Forum will meet every 6 months and will be co-chaired by the Chairman of the LGA.

### *Advancing local and central government collaboration in climate change adaptation*

12. We have commissioned Local Partnerships to undertake a project to investigate, capture, understand and present what local government needs from the update to the National Adaptation Programme. It will also consider and make recommendations on how the wider policy, regulatory and funding environment across Government can best enable councils to lead place-based climate adaptation. Following extensive engagement with council officers in person and via a survey, the report is due for completion and shared with Government officials ahead of finalising the NAP3.

### *Retrofit - Heat and Buildings Decarbonisation by 2050*

13. 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 report is currently being finalised and will be shared with Government and placed on our website shortly.

## Growth

### *Identifying local authority best practice in repurposing shopping centres*

14. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February I Chaired a very well attended webinar presenting the initial findings of an LGA commissioned report undertaken by The Retail Group highlighting the social and economic opportunities and benefits of repurposing shopping centers to reflect the needs of the town center, the community, the local authority, and the businesses located within their area. The report will be published in March and will be evidence based with case studies and the provider will suggest measures and approaches councils can take to repurpose shopping centers or support the repurpose of shopping centers where their ownership lies solely in the private sector.

## Transport

15. Since the last Councillor's Forum I have met with both Richard Holden MP, the new minister for local transport and also Iain Stewart MP, the chair of The Transport Select Committee. I raised issues relating to buses funding and reform, levels of penalty charge notices, impact of inflation, pavement parking and other highways obstructions, and the balance of power between local and central government on managing transport. The EEHT Board will continue to pursue these issues over the coming year.

### *EV chargepoints funding*

16. OZEV have [announced](#) the expansion of the LEVI pilot scheme to 16 new areas, and the launch of an £8 million LEVI Capability Fund which to help equip councils with capacity and skills to scale up their plans for developing their charging strategy. The Government also brought forward a further £7 million funding for the existing On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, bringing the total funding this year to £37 million.

### *Bus Funding*

17. Following extensive lobbying from the LGA and bus groups the Government [have extended](#) funding by 3 months for the Bus Recovery Grant and the £2 bus fares gap until the end of June 2023. Whilst this additional funding will help [we said](#) that bus services cannot survive on a hand to mouth existence and the Government must use the time this funding buys to work with councils and





**Councillors' Forum**

9 March 2023

operators to develop a long-term, reformed bus funding model with significant new money.

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

### Levelling Up

1. The [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#) has completed five roundtables. The inquiry has looked to explore how the government's levelling up agenda might better strengthen local areas and the emerging themes of the roundtables have been used in conjunction with research into how the pandemic may have affected demographic trends and what the implications are for levelling up of any demographic shifts. The final report will be launched at a hybrid event on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Confirmed speakers include Sarah Longlands, Professor Francesca Gains and Professor Michael Kenny.
2. People and Places Board Lead Members have approved the creation and co-sponsorship of a health devolution working group with the NHS Confederation. This working group will provide an opportunity to ensure that learning can be shared between local government, the NHS and Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). The three boards with an interest in health devolution (the City Regions Board, the People and Places Board, and the Community Wellbeing Board) will all have a nominated representative on the working group. Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive of the LGA will also be a member of the working group.
3. Following the announcement of the second round of the Levelling Up Fund, Cllr Kevin Bentley represented the LGA in national press coverage, including the BBC's The World at One to make the case that levelling up funding should be determined on the basis of evidence on where crucial investments needs to go, rather than costly competitive bids between areas.

### Digital infrastructure and inclusion

4. The board commissioned DMS Consulting to produce a report exploring the links between various types of disadvantage and the availability and usage of digital infrastructure, and to consider the role of councils in tackling digital exclusion. A final report was taken to the January board and is in the process of being published. It will be used to inform the LGA's lobbying positions around digital exclusion.
5. The Board continues to raise concerns about the integration of all analogue lines (PSTN) to digital internet-based infrastructure. Officers continue to run monthly switchover working group meetings to discuss challenges and share good practice between regions. The results from an LGA commissioned

readiness survey reconfirmed the four areas where councils require better support: safe data sharing, funding, communications support, and with the central testing platform. The communications team have developed a series of social media posts and assets which will be shared with local authorities to raise awareness of the switchover. These are currently being tested by the sector before they are distributed more widely.

### **Growth and productivity**

6. The People and Places Board, together with the City Regions Board has commissioned WPI Economics to carry out a piece of research into what works in driving economic growth and prosperity at the local level. It will also look at the steps English councils working in partnership might take to achieve this. This work is due to conclude in April.
7. The Board is also feeding into two pieces of commissioned work undertaken by Shared Intelligence supporting local economies as part of the LGA's Government-funded support offer. The first relates to the changing skills needs of economic development teams. The project aims to better understand economic development services and how they are delivered across England, the breadth of the work undertaken and how they add value locally, and skills and capacity challenges they face including skills needs and capacity issues delivering local and national priorities.
8. The second project supports councils and combined authorities with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) integration process. To date, two workshops have been held with tranche 2 areas, with a further two workshops scheduled to take place including one for tranche 1 areas who have already integrated. DLUHC officials are confirmed to attend the sessions to provide an update from Government. A final report will be published to share good practice and highlight the opportunities and challenges of LEP integration.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

9. The LGA has commissioned Shared Intelligence to run action learning sets to support local authorities delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This will include developing resources to support the wider sector with the introduction of the fund.

### **Employment and skills**

10. The Board together with the City Regions Board agreed to a piece of work to examine the role of councils in supporting economic inclusion. To build on our initial research we hosted a series of roundtables to hear directly from councils around the country. The aim of the roundtables was to explore how councils are working to improve equality and diversity in employment and skills outcomes to encourage economic inclusion for their communities. Officers are drawing together the evidence from the discussions to develop policy recommendations to advance this agenda.

### **Green Jobs and Skills**

11. The Government's Green Jobs Delivery Group have agreed for the formation of a time limited Local Capacity and Capability sub-group that will run between March and May. The group will make recommendations to the Government on how best to address the local capacity and capability challenges local government face in delivering the jobs and skills needed to achieve net zero.
12. Local Government will be represented by Solace, ADEPT, Mayoral Combined Authorities as well as the LGA, which Cllr Emily O'Brien will be representing the People & Places Board. There will also be representation from business, energy companies, and education and training providers. The LGA are engaging with the partners to support the sub-committee as well as inform our wider policy development work.

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## Minutes of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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### Councillors' Forum

Thursday, 26 January 2023

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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#### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

Item	Decisions and actions
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<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Declarations of Interest</b>
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The Chairman welcomed Members to the Forum.

<b>2</b>	<b>Ben Dyson, Department of Health and Social Care</b>
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The Chairman welcomed Ben Dyson, policy director at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), currently responsible for leading the department's hospital discharge programme.

Members discussed the following topics:

- The role of local government as a key player in hospital discharge
- The provision of grants by DHSC and an ask for conditions of the grants to be shared to allow councils to forward plan
- Data sharing between social care and hospitals to allow collaboration
- Support and recognition of the role of the voluntary and community sector as well as unpaid carers
- A need to prepare for winter when patient numbers typically increase

<b>3</b>	<b>Chairman's Update</b>
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The Chairman introduced his report updating on recent work of the LGA.

<b>4</b>	<b>LGA Board Chair Reports</b>
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The Chairman invited the following Chairs to update on the work of their Boards:

- City Regions Board – Mayor Marvin Rees
- Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – Cllr David Renard
- People and Places Board – Cllr Kevin Bentley

## 5 Digest of the last meeting held on 20 October 2022

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

### Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr James Jamieson OBE	Central Bedfordshire Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
	Cllr Joe Harris	Cotswold District Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	North Kesteven District Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset County Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
	Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland District Council
	Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Penny Channer	Maldon District Council
	Cllr Lucy Stephenson	Rutland County Council
	Cllr Ash Ashbee	Thanet District Council
	Cllr Paul Osborn	Harrow London Borough
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District 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 Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Cllr Sharon Thompson	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Tracey Dixon	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council	
Cllr Vikki Slade	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-	Portsmouth City Council	



Jackson CBE  
Cllr Colin Mann  
Cllr Mike Haines  
Cllr Caroline Topping  
Cllr Chidi Nweke

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Teignbridge District Council  
Suffolk County Council  
Epping Forest District Council

Apologies

Cllr Richard Wenham  
Cllr Andrew Proctor  
Cllr Keith Glazier  
Cllr Kelham Cooke  
Cllr Naushabah Khan  
Cllr Bev Craig  
Cllr Georgina Hill

Central Bedfordshire Council  
Norfolk County Council  
East Sussex County Council  
South Kesteven District Council  
Medway Council  
Manchester City Council  
Northumberland Council

# LGA location map

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## Public transport

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

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

## Bus routes – Horseferry Road

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

## Bus routes – Millbank

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

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

## Cycling facilities

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

## Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com)

## Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park  
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at [www.westminster.gov.uk/parking](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

