

# Minutes of last Executive Advisory Board meeting

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## Executive Advisory Board

Thursday, 19 October 2023

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#)

Item	Decisions and actions
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#### 1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Kevin Bentley welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shaun Davies, Joe Harris, Heather Kidd, Abi Brown, Morris Bright and Sam Chapman-Allen. No declarations of interest were made.

#### 2 Lobbying Document

Sarah Pickup, Acting Chief Executive, introduced the report which set out key areas of work at the LGA. Key issues included the upcoming Autumn Statement and Asylum and Resettlement. Since the circulation of the agenda, the LGA had done further work on RAAC in particular.

Members made the following comments:

- Members expressed concern that the LGA lacked visibility to some Ministers
- Following queries on engagement at party conference, it was noted that the LGA was well represented at the Green and Plaid Cymru party conferences. Proactive and sustained relationship building was critical and would continue following conference season
- In relation to retrofit of housing, the associated skills shortage was raised
- Members discussed the Office for Local Government (Oflog) and the pros and cons of more in-depth and interrogative Corporate Peer Challenges being delivered by the LGA.
- There was a balance between being a “critical friend” whilst acknowledging that a level of rigour and direction from the Department was to be expected given government funding is provided to support CPC delivery.
- Some councils would experience financial challenge regardless of how effective their CPC is.
- It was suggested that Oflog representatives be invited to shadow a CPC
- Members discussed approaches to lobbying for funding, including as an offer to reduce spending elsewhere. For example, investment in sport as part of social prescribing to prevent further

spending in health and wellbeing and help support local economic growth.

Members heard the following in response:

- Our work has recognised the green skills gap and associated opportunities to create green jobs
- There were ongoing discussions with Oflog to work collaboratively and prevent duplication of work
- Prevention would be a large theme in the Local Government White Paper
- CPCs were being reviewed, and it was important they were sufficiently challenging so councils got the best feedback out of it
- Councils with financial challenges that may need to approach the government for support might benefit from having had a recent rigorous CPC demonstrating the actions it has been taking to address these challenges

**Decision:**

The Executive Advisory Board noted the report.

**3 Update on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

In confidential session, Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, updated the Board on the LGA's activity concerning Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) since the previous meeting.

**Decision**

The executive Advisory agreed to the recommendations set out in Paragraph 25 of the report.

**4 Autumn Statement submission and campaign**

Nicky Old, Director of Communications, updated members on the planned media campaign surrounding the LGA's submission to the Government's Autumn Statement which was yet to be published.

**5 Current issues and asks in Asylum and Resettlement**

Sally Burlington, Director of Policy (People), updated members on a meeting due to be held between the LGA Asylum Task Group and the Minister for Immigration.

Members raised concerns around community safety and cohesion as well as pressures on local housing availability and services.

**Decision**

The Executive Advisory Board agreed to write to the Minister for Immigration ahead of the meeting.

**6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Executive Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday 7 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

### Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman		
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	North Kesteven District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
	Cllr Caroline Jackson	Lancaster City Council
Members	Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Satvir Kaur	Southampton City Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire Council
	Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
	Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Tony Saffell	North West Leicestershire District Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd MBE	Shropshire Council
	Nick Adams-King	South East Councils
	Cllr Tim Oliver	County Councils Network
Apologies	Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
	Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Georgia Gould	Camden Council
	Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Cllr Joe Harris	Cotswold District Council
	Cllr Robert Stewart	WLGA
	Cllr David Baines	North West Regional Leaders' Board
	Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	District Councils Network
LGA Officers	Sarah Pickup	Acting Chief Executive
	Sally Burlington	Director of Policy (People)
	Nicky Old	Director of Comms
	Mark Norris	Principal Policy Adviser
	Emilia Peters	Member Services Officer
	Alexander Saul	Executive Assistant to the Chair
	Amy Haldane	Assistant Member Services Manager

