



Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 19 October 2023
12.30 pm

Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P
3HZ

Councillors' Forum
19 October 2023

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 19 October 2023**
Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

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

11.00am	Labour	Bevin Hall (Ground Floor)
11.00am	Conservative	Westminster Suite (8 th Floor)
11.00am	Liberal Democrat	Smith Square Rooms 1 & 2 (Ground Floor)
11.00am	Independent	Victoria Room (8 th Floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available in Smith Square Rooms 3 & 4 (Ground Floor)

LGA Hybrid Meetings

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

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

Catering and Refreshments:

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

Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:

Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: labgp@lga.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Attendance:

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

LGA Contact:

Emilia Peters
0777 668 0346 / 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 **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** info@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

Chair: Councillor Shaun Davies **Acting Chief Executive:** Sarah Pickup CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson

Councillors' Forum – Membership

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

Councillor	Authority
Labour (38)	
Cllr Shaun Davies (Chair)	Telford and Wrekin Council
Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Vice-Chair)	Enfield Council
Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
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 Vince Maple	Medway 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 Arooj Shah	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Naushabah Khan	Medway Council
Cllr Chris Penberthy	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr David Welsh	Coventry City Council
Cllr Jack Hemingway	Wakefield Council
Cllr Andrew Morgan	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Georgia Gould	Camden Council
Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Satvir Kaur	Southampton City Council
Cllr Tracey Dixon	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Greg Brackenridge	City of Wolverhampton Council
Cllr David Baines	St Helens Borough Council
Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
Cllr Afrasiab Anwar	Burnley Borough Council
Cllr Claire Holland	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Bella Sankey	Brighton and Hove City Council
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
Cllr Susan Brown	Oxford City Council
Cllr Jane Ashworth OBE	Stoke on Trent City Council
Cllr Jane Scullion	Calderdale Council
Cllr Fran Belbin	Sheffield City Council
Cllr Dr Beccy Cooper	Worthing Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council

Cllr Peter Mason	Ealing Council
Cllr Shama Tatler	Brent Council
Cllr John Cotton	Birmingham City Council
Cllr James Lewis	Leeds City Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Council
Conservative (34)	
Cllr Kevin Bentley (Senior Vice-Chair)	Essex County Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset Council
Cllr Rory Love OBE	Kent County Council
Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Antony Mullen	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
Cllr Kelham Cooke	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Joanne Laban	London Borough of Enfield
Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland District Council
Cllr Rob Waltham MBE	North Lincolnshire Council
Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Louise McKinlay	Essex County Council
Cllr Sue Woolley	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Marc Bayliss	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Matthew Hicks	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Phillip King	Harborough District Council
Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
Cllr Mark Sutton	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Holly Whitbread	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
Liberal Democrat (15)	
Cllr Joe Harris (Vice-Chair)	Cotswold District Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
Cllr Heather Kidd MBE	Shropshire Council
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Gareth Roberts	Richmond upon Thames London Borough
Cllr Sarah Osborne	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Liz Green	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Cllr Vikki Slade	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Carolyn Lambert	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Tim Pickstone	Cumberland Council
Cllr Caroline Leaver	North Devon District Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council
Independent (12)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	North Kesteven District Council
Cllr Caroline Jackson	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Chidi Nweke	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Tony Saffell	North West Leicestershire District Council
Cllr Craig Browne	Cheshire East Council
Cllr Johnny Denis	Lewes District Council
Cllr Nate Higgins	Newham London Borough
Cllr Sue Baxter	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Caroline Topping	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Georgina Hill	Northumberland Council

Agenda

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 25 January 2024, 12.30 pm, Hybrid Meeting
- 18 Smith Square and Online

Inclusive Pavements: Making the streets accessible to all

With Tim Burns, Head of Policy at Sustrans and Alisha Pathania, Research Officer at Transport for All



Tim Burns – Head of Policy – Sustrans

Tim leads policy across Sustrans, the charity working to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle. Tim is also the Strategic Lead for the Walking and Cycling Index, the largest assessment of walking, wheeling and cycling in the UK and Ireland.

Tim has over 20 years' experience working in the third sector and founded Keep Britain Tidy's award-winning Centre for Social Innovation. Tim has widespread knowledge and experience in both qualitative and quantitative research, stakeholder engagement, inclusion, policy, public affairs, and strategic communications.

Tim has work on many transport projects focusing on inclusion and equality, including with and for disabled people. These include Walking and Cycling for Everyone, and the Disabled Citizens Inquiry.

Alisha Pathania – Research Officer – Transport for All

Alisha supports in the design and delivery of Transport for All's partnership research, in collaboration with various partners, including government, universities, and charities. Alisha joined Transport for All from NatCen, where she primarily worked on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), supporting in the successful delivery of the Wave 10 pilot and mainstage fieldwork. Alisha's current work at Transport for All includes research into inclusive street infrastructure, such as bus stop bypasses and continuous footways, in partnership with Living Streets. Alisha's role in the LGA Inclusive Pavements project has involved contributing to the literature review and conducting stakeholder interviews with officer and councillors.



Our work for the LGA

Councils face significant challenges in providing high quality pavements and footways that are accessible to all. Poor quality and obstructed pavements make short journeys difficult and potentially dangerous for everyone, especially those with difficulty walking or wheeling. 31 per cent of adults over 65 walk less or not at all due to uneven pavements, and 30 per cent have a fall at least once a year, about a third outside the home.

Local highways maintenance funding has fallen by half since 2006, reducing the amount available for footways. Car ownership levels have grown significantly, and more cars parked

on pavements, and increasing numbers of charging cables for electric vehicles (EV) have added to overgrown hedges, wheelie bins and shop advertising boards turning pavements into obstacle courses.

Tim and Alisha, respectively from Sustrans and Transport for All, will share their emerging findings of an upcoming report commissioned by the LGA. The report will highlight best practice from across local government in overcoming these challenges and will put forward recommendations to central government.

Chair's update

This report covers the Chair's activities from 4 July to 19 October

LGA and Ministerial/Parliamentary business

JULY	
4-6	LGA Conference
11	Catch up regarding LGA Media with Lynne Morris, Head of News
11	Catch up with Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LGA
19	LGA Board
20	Executive Advisory Board
24	Introductory call with Minister Maclean, Minister of State for Housing and Planning
24	Meeting to discuss LGA work regarding the Care Leavers Covenant
24	Catch up on residents satisfaction polling
24	Catch up with Nicky Old, Director of Comms LGA
25	Catch up with Ian Hughes, Head of Policy LGA
26	Call with James Hood, Chief Executive of DCN
26	Call with Cllr Kevin Bentley, Head of the LGA Conservative Group
28	Call with Mike Cooke regarding Independent Review Panel
SEPTEMBER	
4	LGA Informal Group Leaders
4	LGA White Paper discussion with Sally Burlington and Ian Hughes
5	Meeting with Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety
5	Call with Kate Herbert, Principal Adviser, regarding London Councils
6	Catch up with Mark Lloyd, LGA Chief Executive
6	LGA Board
6	Meeting regarding LGA transformational work with Ian Hughes and Sally Burlington
6	Catch up with LGA Group Leaders
7	Meeting with Baroness Scott
7	Call with Nicky Old and David Woodall, GLA

7	LGA Executive Advisory Board
7	LGA Member Briefing Day
11	Call with Helen Jenkins, Head of Leadership, regarding Leadership Academy
11	Call with the LGA North West regional team
11	Call with Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
12	Meeting with Clive Betts MP
13	Meeting with Dennis Skinner and Cllr Kevin Bentley
20	LGA / DCN Bi-monthly catch ups
20	Call regarding LGA Perceptions Survey with Juliet Whitworth, Head of Research and Information, and Keiron Watt, Research and Data Analyst
21	Call with Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LGA
22	LGA Informal Group Leaders
26	LGA update call regarding Corporate Peer Challenges
28	Call with Sally Burlington, Head of Policy, and Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive LGA
OCTOBER	
2	Catch up call with LGA Executive Assistant
3	LGA Informal Group Leaders meeting
3	Call with Nicky Old, Director of Comms, and Sonika Sidhu, Principal Policy Adviser, regarding future speaking opportunities
3	Catch up call with Ian Hughes
4	LGA Labour Group Executive
4	Call with Sally Burlington, Head of Policy, and Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive LGA
7-10	Labour Party Conference

Meetings with organisations and individuals

JULY	
24	Meeting with Officers from Spectra connect regarding campaigning on Care Leavers Covenant
25	Meeting with Mike Short, Unison
SEPTEMBER	
4	Meeting with the NHS Confed Chair and Chief Executive
5	Meeting with the Unison General Secretary
6	Call with Cllr Georgia Gould and Cllr Claire Holland regarding London Councils
12	London Councils Executive
12	Meeting with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council
18	Meeting with the Leader of Birmingham City Council
20	Introductory meeting with ADASS President
20	DCN Executive
25	Visit to the North West region and attending North West Regional Leaders Board
25	Working Lunch with Liverpool City Region Leaders
25	Meeting with Leader of Lancashire County Council
25	Meeting with St Helen's Labour group
26	Meeting with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers regarding High Street regeneration
26	Meeting with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council
26	Meeting with Matthew Gordon, Chief Executive of Spectra Connect, and trustees
26	Meeting with Cllr Keith Stevens, Chairman of NALC
26	Meeting with Sir Merrick Cockell
26	Meeting with Peter John OBE
OCTOBER	
6	County Councils Network

Events and speaking engagements

JULY	
24	Interviewed for LGiU@40
SEPTEMBER	
6	Spoke to the Taiwanese delegation visiting the LGA to discuss social care
12	Meeting with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council
12	Spoke at the NHF National Housing Summit
13	Spoke at Total Leadership event run by Solace

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

Board meeting

1. The Children and Young People Board met on the 29th June. Items discussed included early years education and childcare, the final report of the Children's Placements working group, the effectiveness of Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances and Ofsted's proposed inspection of Regional Adoption Agencies. Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Violence Commissioner, joined the meeting to discuss her current and future work in relation to children and families experiencing domestic abuse.

Children's social care

2. I spoke in a session at the LGA Annual Conference alongside Patrick Melia, Chief Executive at Sunderland City Council, about the important role that council leaders and chief executives play in supporting children's social care alongside the lead member for children's services and director of children's services.
3. Following the LGA Annual Conference, I wrote to the then-Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, Claire Coutinho, outlining the issues that members had raised across the conference in relation to children including challenges engaging local health services in support for children's health, especially mental health; high placement costs and a lack of sufficiency of suitable homes for children in care; and ongoing and growing challenges in the SEND system.
4. I was pleased to read the report of the Children's Placements Working Group, which was set up by the Children and Young People Board last September to consider how to address the significant challenges councils are facing in finding appropriate homes for children in care. The Group identified a range of options to support councils going forward and these will be taken forward in the coming year.
5. We briefed at each stage of the Illegal Migration Bill's passage through Parliament about tensions between the Bill and the Children Act 1989, in particular the challenges around acting in children's best interests and supporting their transition to adulthood. Now that the Act has received Royal Assent, we are working with the Government to identify how to mitigate tensions and challenges to ensure that children receive the support they are entitled to, and that risks are not exacerbated wherever possible.
6. The LGA has also written to the Immigration Minister, Robert Jenrick, to highlight councils' significant concerns around hotels being stood up in their areas to house unaccompanied asylum-seeking children without consultation with the local council, and without consideration of a council's capacity to support children in the hotel.

7. I wrote to Kent County Council in July to outline the LGA's views regarding the challenges in the implementation of the National Transfer Scheme, in relation to a High Court challenge brought against KCC and the Home Office by ECPAT UK, a children's rights organisation. In this letter, I outlined the work carried out by the LGA with the Government to try to improve the operation of the NTS, and those areas where improvements could be made with Government support to ensure that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children can be quickly found new homes around the country.
8. In August we submitted evidence to the Home Office in relation to its plans to introduce mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse. In our response, we supported a duty on organisations, but emphasised the importance of training and support for staff to ensure that they are able to spot signs of abuse and feel confident in reporting, and the urgent need for investment in specialist support for victims and survivors to ensure that where abuse is identified, appropriate support is available immediately.
9. We have submitted a response to the Department for Education's consultation on updates to the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children. We welcomed updates that provide clarification around partnership responsibilities, but noted that all partners need to be adequately resourced to ensure that they are able to fulfil their safeguarding duties effectively.

Mental health

10. We published a [report into children and young people's mental health policy progress](#). The report considers policy changes over the past ten years, the impact they have had and what is required going forward to ensure that the ongoing challenge of children's mental health is tackled.
11. We are publishing a [series of independent think pieces on children's mental health](#), this brings together the views of a range of stakeholders to consider what children and young people need to have good mental health.

Early years

12. We published a [report on research on the nature, impact and drivers of nursery closures](#) in England. This report surveys local authorities and explores published data to identify the trends in nursery provision closures. The report finds that while there hasn't been a significant increase in the rate of closures in the past year, this varies between local areas. Furthermore, the rate may be escalating and many local authorities raised concerns about the future of early years provision, particularly given the recently announced expansion to early years entitlements.
13. A [press release was issued on 5 July](#) highlighting the concerns raised about the ability to deliver on the early years entitlements expansion based on the above report.

14. We published a policy paper on [early education and childcare: challenges and changes](#) for the future to highlight what the LGA believes needs to change to ensure children and their families can all have access to high quality education and childcare.
15. We responded to consultations on the [extension of the early years entitlements](#) and the changes to [requirements in the early years foundation stage](#). The responses highlighted the need for sufficient funding in the early years system and the need to ensure equity in provision between childminders and other provision.
16. We published a [series of case studies on the implementation of family hubs](#), looking at emerging models and what is working for areas that have both received government funding in this space and those that have not.

Youth Justice

17. On the 27 June I joined the Chairman to meet with Damian Hinds, Secretary of State for Prisons, Parole and Probation to discuss the youth justice system. We raised the need for early intervention and presentation support, concerns regarding the secure estate and the need for a whole system approach to support children at risk of and when involved in the justice system.
18. I wrote to the Secretary of State and the Executive Director for Youth Custody Service highlighting concerns following this meeting to reiterate concerns about the use of PAVA (pepper spray) and different tactics being used in the youth secure estate, highlighting the need to continue a child first approach. e
19. We have [produced a range of case studies](#) on supporting young people involved in the justice system. These case studies explore preventative activities but also what good support looks like for children in the justice system and the setting up of a community provision for children on remand.

LGA annual conference

20. A number of children and young people-focussed sessions took place at the LGA annual conference, covering the crisis in children's social care, mental health and SEND, as well as the linkages between education and skills. The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, also gave a keynote speech on her priorities.

Contact details

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

Mental health, learning disabilities and unpaid carers

1. In June 2023, a letter co-signed by Cllr Fothergill, Cllr Louise Gittins, Chair of the LGA Childrens Board and the Presidents of ADASS and ADCS, was sent to Ministers to outline concerns on the 'Right Care, Right Person' National Partnership Agreement on mental health and policing.
2. In July 2023, Cllr Fothergill sent a letter outlining LGA concerns on 'Right Care, Right Person' to Lisa Townsend, Police and Crime Commissioner, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Mental Health lead and Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Bacon, the National Police Chiefs Council lead for policing and mental health.
3. In August 2023, Cllr Fothergill chaired a joint meeting with the National Police Chiefs Council and ADASS on 'Right Care, Right Person'.
4. In September 2023, the LGA Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members agreed the LGA submission to the government consultation on the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Learning Disability and Autism training draft code of practice.
5. In September 2023, Cllr Fothergill chaired a LGA session on unpaid carers with a government led delegation from Taiwan.

Adult Social Care and Health

6. **Major Conditions Strategy** - The LGA has submitted evidence to the Major Conditions Strategy: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/lga-evidence-majorconditions-strategy> . The Government published its progress and rationale for the strategy in August. The final strategy will be published in Winter 2023/24.
7. **Hewitt Review of autonomy and accountability of Integrated Care Systems** The Government published their response to the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee and the Hewitt Review enquiries into the autonomy and accountability of Integrated Care Systems in June: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-hscc-reportand-the-hewitt-review-on-integrated-care-systems> . The report is largely positive with the Government accepting many of the recommendations from both of the enquiries, though they rejected call for a 1 per cent increase in ICS spending on prevention. The Government's response to the call for a national peer-led approach to improvement support for ICSs is also disappointing.
8. On 11 September Cllr Fothergill met with the adult social care Lead/Cabinet Members from three of the five councils piloting the new regime of adult social assurance led by the Care Quality Commission. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to hear how

senior Members found the assessment process and provided valuable insight, which we will feed back to the regulator to help inform the wider rollout of assurance.

9. On 14 September, Cllr Fothergill represented the Community Wellbeing Board at the Health Devolution Commission meeting.

Public health

10. In early July 2023, the Chairs of the Community Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People's Board, Safer, Stronger Communities Board and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board (now known as the Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board) wrote a letter to Secretaries of State Steve Barclay and Therese Coffey to outline our concerns about the environmental impacts of disposable vapes and their disproportionate use and marketing to young people.
11. On 14 July, the LGA [released a statement](#) calling for the Government to ban the sale and manufacture of single use vapes by 2024. We said that it is crucial that that ban comes into effect rapidly, as with the EU proposing a ban in 2026 and France rolling out a ban in Dec 2023, there is a risk that as markets close disposable vapes will flood into the UK. In July 2023, we [produced a series of FAQs about our policy position](#) (which has been regularly updated since publication).
12. Cllr David Fothergill gave a range of TV and radio interviews following our statement, including with BBC Breakfast, BBC News, BBC Radio 5 Live, ITV News, Sky News, LBC and Times Radio. The story also ran across national and regional news bulletins throughout the day. Since the story was released, the polling company YouGov [released a poll](#) which found that 77% of individuals surveyed would support a ban on disposable vapes.
13. In September 2023, the Government announced a series of measures to achieve its target of reaching a smokefree nation by 2030. The LGA released a [press release](#) where Cllr David Fothergill commented that, "Smoking is the single largest cause of preventable death worldwide and councils stand ready to help the Government achieve its ambition of eliminating smoking in England by 2030."

Press statements

14. The Board has made a number of media statements:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-statement-pm-smoking-and-vaping-announcements>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-rsph-survey-greater-support-investment-public-health>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/uplifts-funding-needed-meet-demand-lga-health-foundation-analysis-adult-social-care>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-covid-19-vaccination-changes>



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<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/crucial-delivering-care-lga-responds-ps600m-social-care-workforce-funding>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/councils-call-ban-disposable-vapes>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/social-care-workforce-plan-needed-lga-skills-care-report>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/scrap-plan-single-word-inspection-ratings-underfunded-adult-social-care-services-lga>

Contact details

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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – Report from Cllr Liz Green (Chair)

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board visit to Plymouth

1. The LGA's Culture, Tourism and Sport Board held their final meeting of 2022/23 in Plymouth, where they were hosted by Board member Cllr Jemima Laing and Leader of Plymouth Council, Cllr Tudor Evans.
2. The Board agenda included a presentation from Tracey Crouch MP, updating the Board on progress following the publication of her Fan-led Review of Football Governance. It also included presentations from Lindsey Hall, Chair of Plymouth Culture and James Mackenzie-Blackman, CEO of Plymouth's Theatre Royal.
3. Following the formal meeting, the Board had the opportunity to visit some of Plymouth's rich cultural sites including tours of:
 - 3.1 The Market Hall: Based in one of Plymouth's most historic neighbourhoods, [Market Hall](#) was formerly the market for the whole of Devonport. Full of original features, the building has been given a £7.6 million upgrade, creating the first 'immersive video dome' of its kind in Europe alongside a creative and collaborative workspace for digital businesses and a social hub for people of all ages.
 - 3.2 The TR2 Production and Learning Centre: A sister site to the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, TR2 features rehearsal studios and workshops for the production of set and costumes. It is set on the bank of the River Plym and was designed by [Ian Ritchie Architects](#). It contains set, costume, prop-making and rehearsal facilities. TR2 provides one of the biggest education and outreach programmes for a regional venue in the UK.
 - 3.3 The Box: [The Box](#) is a museum, gallery and archive, which opened in 2020, following major investment and refurbishment by Plymouth Council. It houses a collection of about 2 million items. The core of the building was previously Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery which closed in 2016. The building was created in 1907–1910 and was combined with the former Central Library building and St Luke's Church on Tavistock Place into The Box.
4. The new Board for 23/24 met on 13 September and agreed a work programme and lobbying lines for the year, which includes calling for a Royal Commission on the future of public leisure and culture facilities. During this year, we will work closely with other boards across the LGA to deliver a joined-up programme of support and lobbying work for and on behalf of our communities. Key areas of focus include:

- 4.1 Supporting better use of evidence across the sector, and coordinating national partners investing in data collection
- 4.2 Helping councils to become intelligent commissioners of projects to improve sustainability and reduce energy usage in culture and sport venues
- 4.3 Setting the agenda on devolution of culture and thinking about practical ways to deliver place-based investment
- 4.4 Advocating for investment tools and place-based management tools to manage the visitor economy, including a tourism levy and regulation of short-term lets.

The Government's Creative Industries Sector Vision

5. The LGA has welcomed the Government's new Creative Industries Sector Vision, developed in partnership with the Creative Industries Council. It sets out how the government and industry will work together to unlock the growth potential of the creative industries to 2030 and beyond.
6. The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board is represented by Cllr Phil Seeva, and Cllr Peter Golds from September 2023, on the Regions and Clusters group of the Creative Industries Council, where they advocate on behalf of councils and promotes evidence of their contribution to the creative economy. This Group is being reformed but local government representation on replacement bodies is confirmed.
7. The Vision commits to strengthening the Government's collaboration with the Local Government Association, local authorities and leaders to support them in the development of local creative industries strategies.
8. The accompanying press release also outlines a series of new funding commitments from government. This includes further investment in the Creative Industries Clusters programme, which was a key recommendation of the LGA's Commission on Culture and Local Government.

Swimming Pool Support Fund

9. Members and officers have continued to work with DCMS and Sport England on the design and launch of the [£63 million swimming pool support fund](#), which will now also be matched by a further £20 million capital funding from Sport England's own funds. The £20 million revenue element of the fund was announced in September with 103 councils successful in their bids. This equates to just under 50 per cent of the applicants who applied for funding and will impact 23.5 million swimmers who currently use those facilities. The capital element of the Fund is open for bidding, and is expected to be equally over-subscribed.

Government Sport Strategy

10. Government has launched their new 'Get Active' sport strategy, aiming to boost activity levels by reaching those who are currently least active. The strategy recognises the LGA's leadership programmes for councillors and officers, and commits to develop a new national vision for facilities. The strategy also launched a new National Physical Activity Taskforce, which met in No 10 Downing Street on 27 September, and was attended by Cllr Liz Green.

Visitor economy leadership training

11. The Board has developed some leadership training to support officers working on the visitor economy, complementing the work already provided on culture and sport. The visitor economy has emerged as a growth area for many councils, a number of whom are developing visitor strategies for the first time. Almost 90 applications were received for the 20 places available. Cllr Liz Green is facilitating the three sessions.

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City Regions Board – Report from Cllr Satvir Kaur (Chair)

Future of cities

1. Building on the success of the City Regions Board's Urban Summit, the Board organised a Future of Cities drinks reception at the LGA's annual conference. This brought together urban leaders from across the country and all those with an interest in the UK towns and cities to hear an update from the RSA on their Urban Futures Commission and an overview from 3Ci on their work to support long-term finance for achieving net zero.

Levelling up

2. Following the launch of the LGA's [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry report](#) the Board continues to work to share and disseminate its recommendations. A devolution APPG session took place 3.30pm to 4.30pm on 13 September covering the topic of the 'Levelling Up Locally Inquiry'. It provided an opportunity for speakers Cllr Kevin Bentley (Former People and Places Board Chair, LGA Conservative Group Chair and Leader Essex County Council), Professor Michael Kenny (Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy) and Osaro Otobo (British Youth Council Trustee) to reflect upon their involvement in the inquiry and speak to the recommendations for Government.
3. The NHS Confederation, through its Health Economic Partnerships work programme and ICS network, has established a time-limited health and devolution working group. The aim of the group is to understand the priorities, opportunities, and challenges for ICS leaders, how this intersects with English devolution to date and the emerging devolution deals. The Board is co-sponsoring the group alongside the People and Places and Community Wellbeing Boards. To date, four meetings have taken place in April, June, July and September and officers from the LGA and NHS Confederation are working on a final report.

Urban resilience

4. The Board welcomed Joe Fyans, Head of Research at Localis, to discuss their proposals for a Local Resilience Act and the implications for city regions and urban areas.

Employment and skills

5. The Board, together with the People and Places Board commissioned Shared Intelligence to work closely with the sector to produce a report on the [role and future skills needs of councils' economic development teams](#). The report makes recommendations for economic development teams, portfolio holders and national organisations. For the latter, these include LGA working with partners such as the Institute of Economic Development, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport, the Chief Economic Development Officers Society and the What Works Centre to coordinate their individual support offers and explore how best to promote the profession and provide clearer pathways, including through apprenticeships. The report, good practice and next steps were discussed with the sector at a webinar (July 2023).
6. As we move towards a General Election in 2024, our aim is that a returning Government or new administration will adopt LGA's Work Local proposals for employment and skills devolution, which was jointly developed by the People and Places and City Regions Boards. The LGA is working with councils, devolved authorities and local government partner bodies to develop the finer detail.
7. DWP prioritised through the 2023 Spring Budget support to help economically inactive people back into work. We have supported discussions between councils and the Government on the design phase of Universal Support set to be rolled out in 2024. Discussions have been positive, representing a step change in DWP's relationship with local government on employment support, but key decisions are outstanding including the extent to which it will be delivered through local government.
8. At the LGA annual conference in July, we held a policy session on skills at which Cllr Kevin Bentley, Mayor Marvin Rees (previous chairs of the People and Places and City Regions Boards) and Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Children and Young People Board) debated the role of local government can have working with employers to bring together the education and skills system. Panellists also included Jane Gratton, Head of People Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce and we heard first-hand from adult learner, Vicky Seagers, who won an award for overcoming barriers to learning and accessed her local council's adult learning services, which enabled her to pursue her vocation in nursing.
9. This Board and the People and Places board developed principles suggesting how local government could promote economic inclusion through better access to training and employment opportunities. The work concluded in June and can be viewed on our website [LGA Economic Inclusion Principles paper](#) Cllr Gareth Roberts chaired a webinar on 3 October reflecting on learning from this work.

Green jobs and skills

10. The Government's Green Jobs Delivery Group Local Capacity and Capability sub-group runs between March and September. The LGA has been engaging with the partners to support the sub-committee as well as develop our own policy work, outlining the need for a [Green Jobs framework](#), based on the principles of the LGA's [Work Local model](#). The group met in June to commence shaping the recommendations.

Growth funding

11. The Board, alongside the People and Places Board, held a session at the LGA's annual conference exploring whether growth should be a statutory responsibility. The session also looked at what kind of economy local leaders would seek to create if they had more powers to do so. The session was chaired by Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair of the People and Places Board) and speakers included Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe (Bradford City Council and Vice-Chair of the City Regions Board), Steve Hughes (WPI Economics), Antony Lockley (Blackpool Council) and Lee Rowley MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DLUHC).
12. The Board, alongside the People and Places Board commissioned Shared Intelligence to provide support for councils and combined authorities undertaking Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) integration and to share good practice and learning. This resource, which includes a self-assessment tool, is now [available on the LGA website](#).
13. Earlier this year, we commissioned Shared Intelligence to undertake action learning sets to support lead authorities with the development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plans and early stages of delivery. Using the results of the learning, we have refreshed the LGA's [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Hub](#) which provides the learning from the action learning sets and additional resources to support lead authorities. This has been shared widely through the UKSPF Officer Network.

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Economy and Resources Board – Report from Cllr Pete Marland (Chair)

Introduction

1. This report provides a summary of work by the LGA Economy and Resources Board since the last Councillors Forum on 8th June 2023.

LGA work on cost pressures / funding gap

2. In July the LGA [published](#) an estimate of cost pressures and the resulting funding gap facing councils in 2023/24 and 2024/25.
3. Key outputs from the analysis included:
 - Councils face £4.1 billion in additional cost and demand pressures, such as inflation and demographic growth, in 2023/24, and a further £2.4 billion in 2024/25; and
 - The cost to councils of delivering their services at current levels will exceed their core funding by £2 billion in 2023/24 and £900 million in 2024/25.
4. This work has been used heavily in LGA campaign and media work. The funding gap figures have been widely used in the national and trade press.

Business Rates

5. Lead members of the Board signed off the LGA's responses to two consultations from DLUHC. Firstly a consultation on draft regulations for the new [Business Rates Improvement Relief](#) which is contained in the [Non-Domestic Rating Bill](#) currently before Parliament. Our [response](#) says that the Government should fully compensate councils both for the cost of the relief and for any administrative costs involved. Secondly, [our response](#) to the consultation on [Business Rates Avoidance and Evasion](#). We have pressed the Government to take action to tackle this issue for a number of years, so we welcome the proposals, including giving billing authorities more discretion on reliefs, provided that authorities do not lose resources through business rates reliefs. During the consultation period the LGA set up a consultation meeting for member councils to ask questions about the consultation proposals and to give informal feedback to civil servants. Over 50 councils attended the session.
6. In June lead members of Resources Board signed off a [response to a consultation](#) by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) on [providing ratepayers with more information on business rates valuation](#). The consultation examined how greater transparency on business rates valuations might work in practice, bearing in mind ratepayers' concerns

about confidentiality of data. Our response makes the point that as information for use classes valued under national schemes such as sports centres and libraries, won't be available through rating checks after 2026, it should be available from the VOA through the process discussed in the consultation.

7. The LGA [briefed](#) LGA Vice Presidents in the house of Lords on the Non-Domestic Rating Bill which is expected to receive Royal Assent this autumn having passed its Lords Report Stage on 18 September. On 28 September DLUHC issued a [technical consultation](#) on changes to the administration of the Business Rates Retention system prompted by the provisions in the Bill concerned with the calculation of the business rates multiplier. The consultation closes on 2 November. The LGA's response will be signed off by Lead Members of the Board.

Council Tax

8. Lead members of the Board signed off the LGA's [response](#) to the DLUHC consultation on [exemptions for the empty and second homes council tax premium](#) – this is in connection with the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#) currently before Parliament. Our response says that the Government needs to assure itself that it has adequately taken account of the sector's views on whether new regulations are necessary, or whether expanding the [existing guidance on empty homes](#) is sufficient.

Council final accounts and audit

9. The then Vice Chair of Resources Board was one of three LGA members to give [evidence](#) to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee [enquiry into financial reporting and audit in local authorities](#) in June. Following [a statement by the Minister in July](#), the September meeting of the Economy and Resources Board received a confidential presentation from officials at DLUHC and the Financial Reporting Council outlining details of proposals to address the backlog of outstanding audits for local government. This enabled members to make comments to the officials before the proposals are developed further prior to a formal consultation which is expected to be issued later this month or in November.
10. Economy and Resources Board approved a [response](#) to the [consultation from Public Sector Audit Appointments](#) for setting the fee scale for 2023/24 audits.
11. In June the Resources Board's lead members approved [a response](#) to a [survey from CIPFA](#) on the possible introduction of Depreciated Replacement Cost as a method of valuing infrastructure assets. Our response highlighted significant concerns with the impact on council accounts of using this methodology and called for a rethink.

Capital and Investments

12. Economy and Resources Board lead members approved a [response](#) to a [consultation on methods of measurement of the capital risk mitigation measures](#) in the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#). Once the bill has been passed and the method of setting the metrics has been set, thresholds will be set. If any local authority breaches that threshold, it will act as a trigger for a review that could lead to a further intervention which might include a direction to set a cap on borrowing or a direction to sell assets. In our response we highlighted several concerns with some of the proposals which were different from what was specified in the bill. We also called for proposals for setting thresholds to be published and to be subject to a further consultation before being finalised, and for the intervention process to be clarified and made transparent and open.

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

13. The [Economic Activity of Public Bodies \(Overseas Matters\) Bill](#) was laid in Parliament on June 19 and is the Bill that was included in the Queen's Speech as the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill.
14. As expected, the Bill seeks to impose a ban on public bodies across the United Kingdom (including local authorities and local government pension funds) taking decisions on investments, procurements and purchasing or issuing statements that are deemed to be in conflict with UK foreign and defence policy.
15. The ban, once implemented, would be enforced by the relevant Secretary of State for the public body, and by the Pensions Regulator for the LGPS. There are specific provisions in the Bill that will ensure the Government's existing policy around Russia and Belarus continues to apply.
16. The 2nd reading took place on 3 July and the LGA issued a [technical briefing](#) ahead of that. The LGA's Head of Pensions gave oral evidence to the Bill Committee in early September, and the LGA also submitted [written evidence](#) to the Bill Committee.
17. The next stage is report stage for which there is currently no date set. The Bill already has a carry forward motion, so will continue into the next session of Parliament after the King's Speech on 7 November.

DLUHC Consultation: "Next Steps on Investments in the LGPS"

18. This [DLUHC consultation](#) closed on 2 October. It covered issues relating to the pace of investment pooling in the LGPS as well as considerations about the future of pooling, levelling up and opportunities in private equity.
19. The Scheme Advisory Board [submitted a response](#) to the consultation.

Local government services ('Green Book') pay 2023-24

20. The National Employers unanimously agreed to make a pay offer for April 2023-24 of

£1,925 (or 3.88 per cent for those above the pay spine for the main 'Green Book'), which was made to the unions in February 2023.

21. On 17 August, the National Employers again reaffirmed the pay offer as full and final and urged the unions to now settle this year's pay round, in response to another request from them on 16 August for an improved offer.
22. The increase in the national pay bill associated with this offer is estimated to be over £1 billion or 6.42 per cent. The impact on individual employers will vary dramatically depending on the proportion of their staff on lower pay points. Schools will face costs notably higher than other employers, for example.
23. In rejecting the pay offer, UNISON decided to immediately ballot its members on industrial action. GMB and Unite first consulted their members and on receipt of a majority view to reject the offer from both memberships then decided to proceed with industrial action ballots.
24. UNISON's disaggregated strike ballots closed on 4 July. Overall, most votes were cast in favour of strike action. However, of the 4,700 employers that were balloted, fewer than one fifth achieved the 50 per cent turn out threshold. In meeting the threshold, UNISON had most success in smaller employers and individual schools; those which involve relatively few members of staff.
25. Unite has begun taking industrial action in a small number of councils. Most of the strikes are taking place in individual service areas, such as waste, refuse, cleansing etc rather than being council wide, and involves NJC 'Green Book' and JNC Craft 'Red Book' Unite members.
26. GMB is conducting disaggregated industrial action ballots of its NJC 'Green Book' and JNC Craft 'Red Book' members in some councils and schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The strike ballots opened on 12 September and will close on 24 October.
27. UNISON confirmed on 22 August that it will not be pursuing industrial action and will seek to progress towards agreement as soon as possible, however, it will need to engage with GMB and Unite to make that possible. GMB and Unite have reiterated their intention to proceed with balloting and taking strike action where they can (which would be in a minority of employers).
28. A meeting of the full Trade Union Side took place one 19 September. No decision on the pay offer was reached. The unions did though agree to reconvene within a few days of GMB's strike ballots concluding (they close on 24 October).

Local employers

29. The feedback received by officers from councils has been of resigned frustration at the time the pay award is taking to agree. Despite the very lengthy delay before this year's

pay can be settled, The National Employers continue to advise very strongly against imposing any pay offer before the collective bargaining process has concluded. To do so would not only fragment the unity of the employers' position but would also leave councils vulnerable to questions being asked by auditors about why, in the absence of a national collective agreement, expenditure has been unnecessarily incurred. Perhaps more importantly, councils would need to consider very carefully the wider legal issues, including those arising out of the cases of Kostal UK Limited v Dunkley and INEOS Infrastructure Grangemouth Limited v Jones & others.

30. We are aware of a small handful of councils deciding to pay the offer as if it had been agreed, however, these are isolated cases as far as we are aware. There has been no feedback from councils indicating that National Employers should reconsider their full and final offer aside from those councils who have passed pro forma Council Motions from trade unions endorsing their claim of an award of RPI plus 2 per cent.

Local authority craftworkers ('Red Book') Pay 2023-24

31. The Trade Union Side comprises Unite (nine seats) and GMB (two seats). Both unions continue to reject the employers' full and final offer of £1,925. As stated above, Unite is taking strike action and GMB is balloting.

Local Authority Chief Officers

32. Agreement was reached on the 2023 pay award of 3.5 per cent on 5 May 2023.

Local Authority Chief Executives

33. The Staff Side has rejected the employers' full and final offer of 3.5 per cent but has said it will review its position once the main NJC pay deal has been reached.

Youth and Community Workers

34. The Staff Side has submitted its pay and conditions claim for 2023. The headline claim is for an increase of RPI plus two per cent across all grades and in addition there are a range of health and work life balance elements. The National Employers is undertaking a consultation of local authorities on the claim.

Soulbury

35. The National Employers remains in dispute with the Soulbury Officers' Side on pay for

2022. Further negotiations are taking place at Joint Secretarial level in an effort to reach a settlement.

Police Staff Pay 2023-24

36. The Police Staff Council, which covers police staff in England and Wales, has reached a pay agreement for 2023. This is a 7 per cent pay increase on all pay points and Standby Allowance with effect from 1 September 2023. In addition, the agreement includes a review of the lower quartile of the PSC pay spine during the 2023-24 pay year. This review will take place on a without prejudice basis in the PSC Pay and Reward Working

Fire and Rescue Service Pay

37. Part of the pay agreement within the NJC LAFRS reached earlier this year committed the NJC to explore additional issues of pay progression (incorporating discussions around Continuing Professional Development), the Retained Duty System, and Control Fire Fighters. Joint working groups were established and this work has been on-going. In addition, the FBU submitted a claim for increased maternity provision, which the employers' side of the NJC will need to formally consider. The question of culture across the service continues to be a feature, with the NJC standing the Inclusive Fire Service Group back up, that group has met twice and will issue a statement shortly. Finally, HMI FRS launched a thematic review (following the Spotlight report earlier this year) into the handling of misconduct in the fire service which is expected to report by June 2024.

Teachers Pay 2023-24

38. The Government accepted the school teachers' independent review body's (STRB) recommendations for the 2023/24 teacher pay award in full. The publication of the STRB's 33rd Report in [July 2023](#) was aligned with the publication of a [joint statement](#) made by the Government and the education unions NEU, NASUWT, NAHT and ASCL.
39. The pay award includes a 6.5 per cent uplift to all pay points and allowances for both teachers and leaders; a 6.8 per cent increase to the starting salary in the London Fringe area; and a 7.1 per cent increase to the minimum starting salary for teachers in the England range. As a result, the minimum starting salary in England is now £30,000, meeting the Government's commitment aspiration.
40. The teachers' pay award is being funded via an additional £525m in 2023-24 and £900m in 2024-25.
41. In addition, the [Secretary of State announced](#) an extension to the support currently available to individual schools facing the most difficult financial circumstances by up to £40m. It is envisaged that this will provide additional funding to strengthen the existing

financial support available to schools.

42. The unions (NAHT, ASCL, NEU and NASUWT) recommended members accept the offer, which they did following indicative ballots, thus ending any further industrial action related to the dispute on teachers' pay.
43. However, NASUWT has notified a significant number of councils and schools that they have a legal mandate for industrial action and will be started a period of 'action short of strike action' from 18 September 2023 as a result of a dispute over workload and working hours. NASUWT instructs members in all eligible schools to limit their working time by working to rule and not undertake any duties outside of what is stipulated in the statutory STPCD. Therefore, it is likely to be another problematic term to manage both operationally in terms of the ongoing employee relations environment for some schools.
44. The national employers (NEOST) recently consulted relevant councils and schools as part of the Government's statutory consultation process, seeking their views on the affordability of this year's award in light of the additional funding (detailed above). Early results indicate that the vast majority of councils who responded to our survey welcomed the proposed pay awards and additional new funding, noting ongoing financial concerns for a significant number of schools who will be able to afford to fully implement the pay award without significant adjustments to budgets.

Improving council HR Services - CIPD Impact Tool

45. As part of the Workforce team's DHLUC support offer to councils in 2023-24 we are working in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) to provide councils with an improvement tool for HR services. The tool helps councils gather feedback from across the organisation, the results of which determine whether HR are providing a service which meets internal customer needs both now and in the future in line with the council's vision and goals. Using the HR profession map as a basis for the feedback, the information is collated, shared and provides a starting point for an improvement plan, an opportunity to create a revised people strategy and a development plan for HR colleagues.
46. This partnership approach between LGA & CIPD aims to have a positive influence on how councils design their people strategies and better align their HR services to meet priority workforce needs in the future. The tool has already been used successfully in Leeds City Council and Liverpool City Council.

T level Programme

47. The LGA Workforce Team has extended the LGA T level support programme until 31 March 2024. The LGA have supported over 50 councils through the programme helping over 100 students access Industry placements in local government. The T level 16–19-

year-old T level qualifications continue to be part of a wide pathway into local government employment or career choices. We are seeing T level students progressing from their T level course onto apprenticeships in councils. We are working closely with the Department of Education to help councils work with their local further education college with regional workshops being planned in early 2024.

Inclusion

48. The LGA are hosting an [Employability and Accessibility webinar](#) on 16 November for councils to showcase the work which Hammersmith and Fulham are doing to overcome the barriers which people with disabilities, face when applying for work. DWP will also be presenting alongside Disability partners Ingeus and Microlink.

Pensions – McCloud

49. DLUHC announced the [outcome of the consultation](#) on supplementary McCloud issues and published draft regulations on 8 September 2023. It also laid The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2023, which took effect from 1 October 2023.
50. The regulations implement the McCloud remedy and amend the underpin rules to make sure they work correctly. After the regulations come into force, administering authorities will need to consider a range of McCloud-affected cases. To encourage a broadly consistent approach, DLUHC will shortly provide statutory guidance on how authorities should prioritise this work.
51. DLUHC published a new version of the [McCloud member factsheet](#) with the consultation response. The new version reflects the final regulations. The LGA Pensions Team continues to support both DLUHC and administering authorities to deliver the legal, policy and administrative work required around the McCloud remedy.

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

Office for Local Government (Oflog)

1. We have continued to work with DLUHC officials to ensure that the local government perspective informs the new Office for Local Government (Oflog). LGA officers and I have met regularly with DLUHC officials and I have provided further feedback as a member of the Oflog political leaders group meeting, regularly with the Minister. Alongside LGA Director of Improvement, Dennis Skinner, I frequently meet with the Interim Chair of Oflog, Lord Amyas Morse and Interim Chief Executive, Josh Goodman.
2. Oflog was formally launched in July by Rt Hon Michael Gove at the LGA Annual Conference. It will remain an ongoing project and so we will continue to work with Government to ensure the sector voice informs the next stages of development and future iterations of the tool.
3. Some commentators have suggested that the Oflog dashboard is uninviting, and therefore we have created a [version of all the metrics on LG Inform](#) which I hope you find more visually appealing. We do have concerns about some of the metrics and so on 4 August I wrote to Lord Morse raising this alongside several sector concerns. I received a response in late September and Lord Morse has agreed to meet with me in-person on 18 October.
4. In meetings with officials, I have discussed introducing a regular meeting for political group leaders on Oflog and, as a result, a political leaders group was established meeting on a fortnightly basis. On 16 October, the Minister will be meeting a group of politicians including myself, LGA Chair Cllr Davies and the LGA political group chairs.

Improvement and Assurance Framework for Local Government

5. As part of the new sector support programme, the LGA convened discussions with the sector, professional associations and others to map the different elements which provide assurance of council performance and are used to hold the sector to account, in the interests of clarity and transparency.
6. An extensive programme of engagement with the sector and professional bodies was undertaken between May and August 2023, considering a draft framework for improvement and assurance for local government. The aim was to describe the framework which exists- but is not written down – in the interests of clarity and transparency and to aid understanding of how all the elements fit together.
7. A programme of engagement with the sector on a draft framework for local government assurance has now been completed: almost 200 responses were received, largely from chief executives and elected members, but also from professional bodies, regional networks and other stakeholders including the trade press.

8. At its meeting on 13 October, the Improvement and Innovation Board will consider/considered the engagement exercise and proposals to conduct a further round of engagement, to consider how the many checks and balances in the current framework could be improved and simplified or enhanced to provide greater assurance to the sector.

Peer Support Review and Annual Member Peer Conference

9. Work to implement the recommendations following last year's peer support review is continuing with notable progress continuing to be made.
10. One instance of notable progress was through training offered to our peers. A core element of the CPC is the Peer Team, and we continue to support the development of officer and member peers. We have delivered 12 online peer training sessions with 120 delegates (both officers and members). We have also commenced a programme of in-person training for member peers. The first of these sessions was delivered in September and a further three in person sessions are scheduled before the end of the financial year. Feedback from all these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive. If you are Member Peer and are interested in joining one of the forthcoming training sessions please contact your [Political Group Office](#).
11. As part of the peer support review the LGA has also refreshed its councillor peer mentoring programme. The first of four training sessions for 2023/24 was held on 14 September. The training was supported by Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen as lead peer on the day. The councillor mentoring handbook is also in the process of being revised. A small group of councillors were asked to help with the review process. This included myself in my role as Chair of the IIB.
12. As we move into the Autumn, we are preparing for this year Annual Member Peer Conference, offering even more training and development to member peers. This year it will be held over two days from the 8-9 November in Bristol. All Member Peers should have received their invitation but if not please contact your [Political Group Office](#).
13. We continue to deliver wider work on the peer support review, working closely with the Improvement and Innovation Board, Improvement Directorate, Political Group Offices and peers.

Sustainability Support Programme

14. We are very pleased to have secured funding to deliver a Sustainability Support Programme for councils. I provided comment for our [press release](#), about the launch of the programme which was published on 2 October 2023.
15. The programme will help councils through 3 key pillars:
 - 15.1 **Building capability** – learning, skills, and guidance to help councils deliver on their climate and adaptation targets, through masterclasses and workshops that

- will highlight key sustainability themes and upskill participants. There will be specific masterclasses designed for Councillors.
- 15.2 **Tools** - such as the greenhouse gas accounting tool and waste emissions calculator which will help councils baseline their data and assist with internal emissions reporting. The programme will be funding the maintenance of these tools with the hope of developing updates as well.
- 15.3 **Networks** – an online sustainability hub, a monthly sustainability bulletin and an officer communities of practice network.

Councils will be able to access the programme by signing up to the relevant offers through the web hub and new Sustainability bulletin, both to be launched in the coming month. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact via sustainability@local.gov.uk

Sector support programme 2023/24

16. Our [sector support programme for 2023/24](#) continues to provide critical support and drive improvement across local government. Across the 5 themes of Governance, Leadership, Finance, Workforce and Transformation, all councils have been able to access a comprehensive support offer, shaped directly through engagement with councils, to meet their needs.

Transformation support programme

17. New to the offer this year was [Transformation](#), a programme which has been designed to provide support and advice, as well as varied learning and development opportunities. This programme aims to help councils deliver on their transformation priorities, including delivering efficiencies and improvements within service delivery.
18. Support for Councillors includes...
- 18.1 A [new matching service](#) which looks to match Councillors and officers that have identified their transformation challenges with councils that are facing similar challenges as well as those who may be further along in their transformation journey.
- 18.2 [Transformation Workshops](#) which will bring together councillors and officers to learn from successful evidence-led transformation projects so that they can develop solutions and overcome barriers to implementing transformation.
- 18.3 The opportunity for Councillors and officers to bring their formative transformation plans to a [Transformation panel](#) of experts currently working within local government to gain constructive challenge and insights.
- 18.4 Cllrs also are invited to the following [Transformation masterclass](#) where Cllr Prior will be speaking: [Community focused transformation](#), 12.00pm – 1.45pm Wednesday 25 October 2023.
19. The programme has enjoyed incredibly strong momentum from the outset, already signing up over 100 transformation experts to its network to inform and deliver specialist

support and guidance. Further support opportunities will continue to be shared through bulletins and other communications channels, as these become available.

20. Please note that the LGA's Sector Support Programme features as part of the [LGA's wider sector support offer](#), including Children's Services, Partners in Care and Health, One Public Estate, Planning Advisory Service, Cyber, Digital and Technology and Culture and Sport.

Sector support survey 2023

21. As we look towards 2024, we are beginning discussions with Government departments regarding future sector support programmes. Our wide-ranging [sector support offer](#) can be accessed on our website, which sets out all aspects of the support we provide.
22. We want to hear directly from councils to help ensure the support continues to meet the sector's needs. [Please let us know](#) what aspects of support are of most value to your councils or let us know if there are wider types of support that your council could benefit from.

Sector support offer – 2022/23 highlights

23. I'm happy to share that our [year in review for the sector support programme in 2022/23](#) has now been published. Each programme has its own page showcasing the huge array of effective support we delivered last year and promoting the unique opportunities within the sector support offer. It provides a snapshot of the ways we supported councils to improve, develop leadership, make data-informed decisions, share notable practice, and – in so doing – build capacity and capability in local government.

Improvement Activity

Peer Challenge

24. The Chair of the LGA has written to Leaders of those councils that have not had a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) for over 5 years. The letters received a very positive response with 17 Councils responding and booking to have a CPC so far.
25. Places for 2023/24 are filling up very fast with the LGA currently on track to achieve its target of delivering 70 Corporate, Finance and Governance Peer Challenges in 2023/24. We are also on track to deliver our target of 45 Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Reviews.
26. If you would like to discuss your council having a CPC please contact your [Principal Adviser](#).

Leadership

27. [A number of resources](#) are now available to accompany the [Local Leadership Framework for Councillors](#). These include a downloadable workbook, a template slide pack to enable councils to run workshops, and guidance and examples for councillors to write their own councillor profile.

28. As part of the sector support offer, we are offering one-to-one coaching for disabled councillors. Coaching provides a powerful reflective space for councillors to grow and develop as leaders. Our highly effective coaching programme offers disabled councillors free one-to-one coaching sessions focused on personal leadership development. To find out more, or to book your place, please email leadership@local.gov.uk

Publications and engagements

This section outlines the publications that have occurred since the previous Councillors' Forum including public affairs, media releases, articles in First magazine and publications on our website.

Media Releases

29. [Launch of Office for Local Government – LGA response](#), 4 July 2023
Our response to the launch of Office for Local Government (Oflog), from Cllr Shaun Davies, Chair of the LGA.
30. [Minister for Local Government: Oflog won't spot every council failure](#), 4 July 2023
An MJ article on the launch of Oflog, including comments from Cllr Shaun Davies, Chair of the LGA.
31. [Whitehall should 'reciprocate' Oflog scrutiny](#), 4 July 2023
LGC article featuring comments from Cllr Shaun Davies, Chair of the LGA, on the accountability of Whitehall, our sector-led improvement offer, and the launch of Oflog.
32. [Office for Local Government to monitor waste services](#), 5 July 2023
Materials Recycling World article highlighting the role of targeted data and analysis from Oflog to monitor and improve waste services, featuring comments from Cllr Shaun Davies, Chair of the LGA.
33. ['Office for Local Government' to oversee council waste services](#), 6 July 2023
LetsRecycle article on the role of Oflog metrics to assess council services, including waste collection, featuring comments from Cllr Shaun Davies, Chair of the LGA.
34. [LGA launches Transformation programme](#), 18 July 2023
Our press release announcing the launch of the new Transformation programme, for which I provided comment.
35. [LGA launches programme to support council transformation](#), 20 July 2023
UKAuthority article on the new transformation programme, for which I provided comment.
36. [Be bold and better](#), 4 September 2023

I wrote an article for The MJ highlighting the need for Local Government to be bolder about the role we play as a sector, with a stronger narrative on how we review our support for each other and how we respond to Oflog and the Best Value framework.

Local Government First Magazine

37. [Inspiring and informing](#), Dated August 2023

I co-authored an article for First magazine with Peter Fleming, Chair of the Innovation Zone Working Group, highlighting the wide range of inspiring ideas to drive sector improvement covered at the Innovation Zone programme at this year's LGA Annual Conference. Including a piece on the climate tools of the future.

38. [Data transparency](#), Dated August 2023

I wrote an article for First magazine on the recent launch of Oflog and the creation of its Local Authority Data Explorer tool, in relation to metrics and data transparency.

39. [Sector support](#), Dated August 2023

I wrote an article for First magazine on the work of the LGA to establish an Improvement and Assurance Framework that provides clarity, transparency and accountability in assurance of council performance.

40. [Transforming Services](#), Dated September 2023

I authored an article for First magazine on the launch of the new LGA Transformation programme, which will support councils at every stage in their transformation process.

41. [Peer support: investing in our own improvement](#), Dated September 2023

I wrote an article for First magazine on the significance of peer support in helping councils improve, including the role played in the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC), with a discussion of the LGA Corporate and Finance Peer Challenge annual report highlights.

Publications

42. [Adult social care assurance: A guide to support the development of your adult social care self-assessment](#), 24 July 2023

This publication was created by Partners in Care and Health (PCH) to support councils as they prepare for assurance of adult social care through assessment by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), with tools and templates to support the self-assessment process.

43. [Model Councillor Code of Conduct Survey 2023](#), 1 August 2023

This publication reports the key findings of the LGA survey to gauge the impact of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, measuring its use in councils and the effects.

44. [Local Government Data Maturity Model](#), 1 August 2023

The updated and improved Local Government Data Maturity Model, which underpins our Local Government Data Maturity Tool found on LG Inform Plus. The model sets out a description of the behaviours and practices in relation to data that we would expect to see in local authorities at each level of data maturity.

45. [The 12 components of effective coalitions](#), 5 September 2023

Guidance framework for councils that have transitioned to 'No Overall Control' (NOC), with an outline of the 12 key components of effective coalitions, including a development exercise for councillors, officers and regional teams.

46. [Councillor workbook – Scrutiny](#), 26 September 2023

An insightful workbook to provide councillors with an understanding of the overview and scrutiny role of councils to assist in their role as a councillor.

Conservative Party Conference 2023

47. I was pleased to open the LGA local government welcome reception, introducing Ministers Michael Gove MP and Lee Rowley MP as well as Cllr Colin Noble at the Conservative Party Conference earlier this month.

48. At the conference, I also chaired the LGA's panel debate titled 'Make it Local: empowering local government with added freedoms and flexibility from Government to deliver efficient public services'. Other panellists included Minister Lee Rowley, LGA Vice President David Simmonds MP, Cllr Colin Noble and Deputy Chief Economists for the Institute for Government Thomas Pope. The debate explored the importance of local leadership in tackling the public's priorities, from building more social homes, boosting local skills programmes and empowering local public health teams to improve the nation's health.

49. At Shelter's reception titled 'A manifesto to fix the housing emergency', I spoke to give a local perspective on housing policy.

50. I was a panellist for Localis' debate on local public finances, the theme of which was what the prospects are for fiscal reform at a local level – enabling and empowering English councils to place renewed emphasis on innovation in delivering and financing high-quality and responsive public services.

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Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board – Report from Cllr Darren Rodwell (Chair)

Housing, Planning and Homelessness

LGA Conference

1. Housing, planning and homelessness topics had good representation at LGA Annual Conference, which this year took place 4-6 July in Bournemouth. Sessions included:
 - 1.1 “Safe, warm and sheltered: the importance of housing quality” chaired by Cllr Vikki Slade which discussed how we can meet the challenge of making sure everyone is living in a home that meets their current and future needs.
 - 1.2 “Planning for the right homes in the right places: how local authorities can lead the way through uncertain times” chaired by Cllr Loïc Rich which covered planning reforms and their impact on future development and delivering homes.
 - 1.3 “Temporary accommodation: the money pit” chaired by Cllr Hannah Dalton which heard from speakers, including those with lived experience of temporary accommodation, on how we can tackle poor conditions and prevent homelessness.
 - 1.4 “Delivering a housing strategy that works for residents, partners and the environment” which welcomed Exeter City Council to the Innovation Zone to discuss how they hit their housing targets using their retrofit programme.
 - 1.5 “Essex Housing: Delivering better outcomes” which welcomed Essex Housing to the Innovation Zone to discuss how they work with partners to identify surplus public sector land/assets and provides end-to-end development services to bring forward housing.

Infrastructure Levy

2. The LGA and 29 other bodies across the sector [wrote to the government to urge them to refrain from introducing the proposed Infrastructure Levy \(IL\)](#). The signatories met with Rachel Maclean MP in July to discuss our concerns and proposed that retention and improvement of the current developer contribution system is the most appropriate solution.
3. Following on from this, the LGA [responded to the APPG for Housing and Planning inquiry on developer contributions](#), including Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 agreements, setting out what practice works well and what improvements could be made to the system.

Environmental Outcomes Report – technical consultation

4. The LGA responded to the [Government’s consultation on a new system of environmental assessment](#) known as Environmental Outcomes Reports (EOR’s) with a letter setting out our primary concerns and priorities for the next steps of engagement

with local authorities as, in our view, the consultation did not contain the level of detail required to understand how EOR's will work in practice.

Permitted development rights - consultation

5. The Government has recently closed a [consultation on further extensions to permitted development rights \(PD\)](#) allowing additional flexibilities to delivering new homes as well as changes to existing agricultural or commercial businesses. We have prepared a [response setting out our opposition to PD](#) as it is an ad hoc, disconnected approach to development that undermines councils' and their communities' strategic long-term decisions and place-making ambitions.

Planning Fees

6. The Government announced in July that planning application fees would be uplifted by 35% for major applications and 25% for other/minor applications. We welcome this response but are [calling on Government urgently make parliamentary time to introduce the fee uplift](#), following the return of MPs to Parliament. We continue to call on Government to give councils the flexibility to set planning fees at local level to cover their costs relating to planning.

Housing Revenue Account sustainability

7. DLUHC officials and LGA officers have been working together to host roadshows over the summer with local authorities, discussing the recent changes to Right to Buy, the financial challenges across the country and how flexibilities to grants or powers may help councils deliver more homes. The conversations and evidence collected will be used by DLUHC to inform conversations with other Departments and ongoing engagement with Ministers.
8. Cllr Pippa Heylings gave evidence to the [Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee inquiry](#) into the finances and sustainability of the social housing sector in June, setting out the challenges local authorities are facing owing to multiple pressures on Housing Revenue Accounts.

Council Housebuilding

9. The Government set out their [long-term plan for housing](#), including plans to extend permitted development rights. We [continue to make the case](#) that these rights should be revoked as homes created through these rights are often of poor quality that impact people's health and well-being.
10. We are calling for the Government to go further and faster so councils can properly resume their historic role as major builders of affordable homes by implementing [a six-point plan](#) for social housing. Our plan includes rolling out five-year local housing deals to all areas of the country that want them by 2025 – combining funding from multiple national housing programmes into a single pot; Government support to set up a new

national council housebuilding delivery taskforce; continued access to preferential borrowing rates through the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB); further reform to Right to Buy; reviewing and increasing where needed the grant levels per home through the Affordable Homes Programme, as inflationary pressures have caused the cost of building new homes to rise; certainty on future rents, to enable councils to invest. The Government must also commit to a minimum 10-year rent deal for council landlords to allow a longer period of annual rent increases and long-term certainty.

Archbishop of Canterbury's roundtable on National Housing Strategy

11. On 11 September, the Archbishop of Canterbury held a roundtable aiming to draft an outcome-focused national housing strategy by the end of this year focusing on developing a collective vision. Cllr Darren Rodwell attended to set out the challenges facing councils and our aforementioned key asks.
12. LGA officers are working with Church Housing Association to host a webinar on the practical steps the Church is taking following the [Archbishop's Commission on Housing, Church and Community](#), and how local authorities can engage and partner with the Church to meet local housing needs. The webinar will take place in October.

Decent Homes Standard

13. The LGA, NFA (National Federation of ALMOs) and ARCH (Association of Retained Council Housing) wrote to Baroness Scott, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DLUHC, to raise our concerns about the potential upcoming changes to the Decent Homes Standard (DHS). Our joint concerns primarily relate to implementation practicalities alongside how implementation will be funded. We will work with DLUHC officials to bring together a small group of local authorities to discuss implementation and timeline challenges.

Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel: Prevention sub-group

14. The LGA's Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, is a member of the Government's Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel, set up to scrutinise its '[Ending Rough Sleeping for Good Strategy](#)'. Alongside Jean Templeton, Chief Executive at St Basil's, he led a sub-group on 7 August to specifically scrutinise progress and gaps on rough sleeping prevention and provided a feedback note to civil servants. Mark also provided feedback to Minister Buchan at an Advisory Panel meeting on 19 September.

Local Housing Allowance Rates

15. Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates govern the maximum amount of Housing Benefit that low-income tenants of private landlords can receive. It has been frozen since April 2020 at a time when rents have significantly increased, resulting in rents that cannot be covered by LHA. The LGA has consistently outlined evidence on the social benefits to raising LHA rates. We will soon be commissioning research to complement this

argument, considering the financial benefits to the public purse, particularly reduced temporary accommodation costs that would result from increasing LHA rates.

Streamlined Asylum Processing

16. The Home Office has updated its processes for asylum support cessations. Previously, this included sending an application decision followed by a notification to discontinue support in 28 days to the refugee. The new process combines the application decision and discontinuation of support notices, resulting in shorter eviction and support timeframes. We are pressing the Home Office to maximise notice and ensure wider support is available to mitigate homelessness and other risks.

Afghan bridging hotel closures

17. The Government closed bridging accommodation for Afghan households between 31 July and 31 August. Throughout summer, the Government agreed to retain households in Government-funded accommodation where there were specific needs, such as medical needs, or councils could commit to moving on households into long-term accommodation by 31 December.
18. Given the lack of data sharing by Government departments, in August 2023, the LGA issued an [online survey](#) to 44 councils in England with bridging hotels in their area. A total of 22 responded – a response rate of 50 per cent. This demonstrated the pressures facing the sector with homelessness presentations at 22%. DLUHC has responded by pledging to publish its data collections on Afghan homelessness presentations.
19. There is also a cohort of Afghans currently in third countries to whom the government has made a commitment to resettle in the UK either through ARAP or ACRS. The Home Office began issuing visas to this cohort from 10 July 2023. We are working with Government to ensure there are effective routes into housing for those in third countries to avoid the situation with bridging accommodation and increases to local pressures and homelessness.

Domestic Abuse and the Homelessness Reduction Act

20. In the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, victims of domestic abuse were included under the definition of priority need for homelessness, On the 19 July, Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Deputy Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, spoke at the All Party Group on Domestic Violence and Abuse on the challenges facing councils in finding suitable homelessness accommodation for at all those in priority need, referencing our key asks on homelessness prevention and council housebuilding.

Empty Homes

21. The LGA has been working in partnership with the Empty Homes Network on a research project exploring the role that councils can play in encouraging more homes to be proactively brought back into use. The LGA hosted its Empty Properties Report

Launch on the 21 September 2023. The webinar explored the current national picture of empty homes, ways in which local authorities can initiate and expand on current service provision and provided a series of recommendations for local authorities to bring more empty homes back into use. The final report is due to launch at the end of September.

Social housing regulation

22. The Regulator of Social Housing has recently published two consultations to support its enhanced regulatory role following the Royal Assent of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023. The first [consultation](#) is on draft revised consumer standards. The outcome of the consultation will form the foundation of the new integrated regulatory regime for social housing. The second [consultation](#) proposes changes to the way the Regulator charges fees to social landlords. This follows an announcement by the government that, from July 2024, all social landlords will need to pay for the full costs of their regulation. The LGA will be responding to both consultation and we have also hosted a webinar with officers from the Regulator for councils to learn more about the proposals in both consultations.

Housing sector professionalisation

23. New requirements introduced in the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill will professionalise housing management, through requiring relevant staff to complete qualifications up to a certain level. To ascertain the potential impact of the introduction of new standards being introduced we issued a survey to Directors of Housing at stock-holding local authorities in June 2023. The [final report](#) showed that 66 per cent of senior housing managers at respondent councils were not yet sufficiently qualified to meet the new requirements. It also showed that respondent councils are likely to face almost £18 million in additional costs resulting from these requirements in the first two years. We have shared the findings with DLUHC and in [national press work](#) and continue to work with officials on the implementation plan.

Residential Leasehold Buildings Insurance

24. The LGA are aware that a number of local authorities are experiencing issues obtaining building insurance on behalf of leaseholders, due to insurance providers exiting the market. We held a roundtable on 10 July bringing together councils, industry and DLUHC to discuss the current market situation and potential next steps.

Press releases

25. We have issued proactive press releases on: [delays to planning fee increase continue to cost taxpayer £5 million a week](#); [new housing qualification requirements could cost councils £18m in first two years](#); [“Generational step-change” needed in council housebuilding](#). We have issued reactive press lines on: [Afghans already presenting as homeless](#); [LGA responds to Government housing announcement](#); [LGA responds to MPs’ report on housing targets](#).

Transport and Economy

Buses reform

26. On 23rd September, the LGA and Urban Transport Group published a [joint report](#) reviewing the Bus Services Act 2017 to empower local areas. The report specifically looks at how Enhanced Partnerships can be improved to lead to significant improvements in bus services; how franchising can be streamlined so that all areas can more easily benefit; how municipal bus companies can once again be created; and how funding streams can be reformed to support these improvements.

Electric Vehicles

27. In response to a [new inquiry by the Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee](#) the LGA submitted a response on electric vehicles (EVs), focusing on charging infrastructure issues and how councils will make decisions within the overall context of transport decarbonisation and local transport priorities.

Air quality

28. On 6th September, Cllr Rodwell gave [oral evidence](#) to the Commons Environmental Audit Committee on outdoor and indoor air quality targets. Cllr Rodwell responded to questions on funding, the role of local government and schools, and dealing with transboundary issues.

Accessible pavements

29. On 27th September, Cllr Loic Rich chaired a LGA webinar on making pavements accessible to all. Kate Dickins and Alisha Pathania, respectively from Sustrans and Transport for All, shared their emerging findings of research they are conducting for the LGA. They were joined by experts from Lambeth and Cornwall councils. The [presentations](#) are now available and the report is expected to be published in November on the LGA website.

Annual conference

30. Cllr Linda Taylor chaired a packed and engaging session at the LGA Annual Conference on the demand for car travel and whether we need to change the way we travel. Cllr Taylor was joined by a highly respected panel of speakers, including Chris Boardman, Commissioner for Active Travel England, Steve Gooding CBE, Director, RAC Foundation and Dame Jane Roberts, Chair, Living Streets.

Plan for drivers

31. On 2nd October, the Department for Transport set out a [plan](#) on how government is working to improve the experience of driving and services provided for motorists. It focuses on a plan of actions to deal with the following issues: smoother journeys, stopping unfair enforcement, easier parking, cracking down on inconsiderate driving,

and helping the transition to zero emission driving. Cllr Rodwell [responded](#) by reiterating that it is councils who know their communities and it is they that should be trusted to make local transport decisions, not Whitehall.

Long-term Plan for Towns

32. On 1st October the Government published a new plan to support towns. [“Our Lon-Term Plan for Towns”](#) lists 55 towns that are set to benefit from £1.1 billion investment. Towns will receive funding and support of £20 million (25% Resource, 75% Capital split) to provide a range of interventions across investment themes and will have 10 years to deliver these. Newly created Town Boards will be given the responsibilities to set the priorities and will need to work with their local authority as the accountable body for the funding. Cllr Martin Tett [responded](#) on behalf of the LGA by agreeing that it was good that the funding was to be allocated by need, rather than competition, but that all councils, faced with a £3bn funding gap over the next 2 years, need adequate long-term resources to protect vital services and create vibrant high streets.

Green growth opportunities report

33. In June we published our [Green Growth Opportunities report - Identifying and promoting green growth opportunities | Local Government Association](#). This report explores the ways in which councils can use their powers and influence to attract and stimulate a low carbon business base.

Repurposing shopping centres: Review and best practice guide

34. On 27 July, we published our review and best practice guide identifying councils that have acquired failing shopping centres in their town centres and assisting councils that are considering intervening. The report follows a well-attended webinar earlier in the year. <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/repurposing-shopping-centres-review-and-best-practice-guide>

Climate Change and Energy

Developing Local Partnerships for Onshore Wind in England consultation

35. On 12 July, the GLA submitted [its response](#) to Governments consultation on Developing Local Partnerships For Onshore Wind In England. The response focused on how councils, if empowered and resourced, can support communities and developers in negotiating the community benefits that communities deserve.

Annual conference

36. This year's LGA Annual Conference in Bournemouth included five sessions in the innovation zone on climate including a session on local climate action in the Netherlands, LB Sutton speaking about their Green Enterprise Partnership, East Devon DC on their large district heating scheme, and GMCA on how to attract finance into

nature projects. The main conference sessions on climate looked at Electricity Grid Capacity, Growing the Green Economy, and workforce challenges. Speakers for the climate sessions included Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP and Shadow Climate Change Minister Kerry McCarthy MP. Presentations from all the sessions are available on the LGA's past event presentation pages.

Grid capacity

37. On 12 July the LGA issued [a press release](#) highlighting that 1,300 renewable energy projects, that have received planning permission, are awaiting construction with many pointing to delays in connecting to grid infrastructure. The news item was [picked up by Sky News](#) highlighting that some developers have been told they will have to wait years or decades to join the grid.

Local Net Zero Forum

38. On 18 July DESNZ hosted the latest Local Net Zero Forum officer meeting. Items discussed included the work of the task and finish group looking at how lessons learned from the trailblazers (Greater Manchester Combined Authority and West Midlands Combined Authority) could inform the roll out of local climate action. The next political level meeting will be held later in the year.

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee

39. On 24 August we submitted evidence to the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee's inquiry on Heating our homes. Our submission focussed on local climate action being more efficient and more profitable than national action and central and local government should agree a way forward that gives every council what it needs to build on its own strengths today, to accelerate climate action everywhere into the future.

Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidance 2023

40. The LGA has just published an updated version of the [Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidance](#) originally published in September 2020 to provide additional information in relation to industry and policy changes. This guide will support councils who are considering asset ownership to manage potential risk and benefits. Webinar 21 November.

Environmental Audit Committee

41. We have submitted evidence to the Environmental Audit Committees enquiry into heat resilience and sustainable cooling. Councillor Linda Taylor, Vice Chair of the LGA's Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board has been invited to give oral evidence on behalf of the LGA at the second oral evidence session on Wednesday 25th October.

Make it local

42. The LGA launched its [Make it Local campaign](#) focusing on how we reshape and reset how we deliver on public policy, ahead of the next general election. The campaign focusses on eight policy areas including 'Acting on climate change' that presents a new case into national political parties for [Accelerating Local Climate Action](#). Our case highlights that local climate action can hit net zero by 2050 for a third of the cost and twice the returns compared to a national delivery programme. It sets out that government should put in place a national climate action framework with policy, regulatory and investment certainty and deliver through local climate action agreements with councils underpinned by multi-year place-based funding allocations.

International learning on the governance of national and local collaboration on climate action

43. The LGA has just awarded ARUP with a contract to explore International learning on the governance of national and local collaboration on climate action. The project will identify at least five examples of national and local collaboration on climate action, examine the governance arrangements and present opportunities to replicate structure in England that would lead to a faster, more efficient implementation of decarbonisation.

Waste

44. Disposable vapes are an environmental hazard and there is growing evidence of increased use by young people. Members of the EEHT Board, the CWB Board, and the SSC Board agreed that the LGA should call for a ban on disposable vapes. There is a role for vaping as part of the drive to stop smoking, and the call for a ban only applies to the types of vapes designed to be disposable. The LGA's call for a ban was widely reported in the media and this is rapidly developing area of policy. A FAQ page on the LGA website sets out the impact of vapes and why a ban is needed. At the time of drafting, the Government has indicated that it is considering banning disposable vapes.
45. Defra announced in late August that there will be delay to the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, and therefore consistent collections for household recycling, which will make decisions on food waste, garden waste, and dry recyclables. The LGA will continue to lobby Defra for urgent clarity on proposals, making the case for councils to maintain flexibility in delivering national objectives, and full funding for any changes. Minister Rebecca Pow has agreed to meet the LGA following representations and we are in the process of arranging this. Our response was widely covered in the national press.
46. The LGA has made a range of representations to government regarding proposals to ban councils from charging fees for disposing 'DIY' waste at household waste recycling centres. The proposal would remove over £1million income a year from many local waste services, we highlighted the challenges this would present councils in maintaining the current service office. A survey found that a third of councils considering closing some waste and recycling sites, a quarter considering reducing opening hours.

47. The LGA's written evidence to the PAC inquiry into the Government's waste and recycling reforms set out our concerns and the LGA was quoted in the PAC's oral evidence session with senior Defra officials.
48. A "reduce reuse, recycle" series of LGA webinars ran over September. The first webinar on 8 September on "Reducing waste: how to slim the bin" was attended by 125 delegates and "Don't dispose reuse" had 115 delegates, and 160 for the "recycling fit for the future" webinar on 18 September. The webinars are highlighting council innovation, international learning and research into behaviours and factors that can encourage more waste prevention and recycling.
49. The LGA annual conference in July featured a workshop session on "Wasted: the future of waste services and moving to net zero". Speakers included Councillor Sarah Nelmes, the Leader of Three Rivers Councils, Dr Anne Velenturf from the University of Leeds, Emma Beal, Local Authority Waste Network Chair and speakers from WRAP and Defra.

Environment

50. On 9 June Councillor Linda Taylor wrote to Trudy Harrison, Defra Minister, about the implementation of biodiversity net gain. The letter noted the LGA's interest in making biodiversity net gain a success and set out recommendations to Defra for making the best use of time and resources in the run up to implementation in November. LGA vice presidents tabled written questions to parliament on the process of implementation and Defra's plans to provide support and resources for councils. Since then, Government has announced a delay to the implementation of biodiversity net gain and set out a revised timetable for issuing government guidance and the statutory instruments that underpin biodiversity net gain.
51. The LGA briefed on Government's proposed amendments to the Levelling Up and Regeneration on nutrient neutrality ahead of the debate on 13 September. Our briefing reflected the recommendations from the LGA's inquiry into nutrient and water neutrality from March 2023 for a package of measures to reduce water pollution at source, bring forward mitigating schemes, and support partnership action. The Government's amendments proved to be controversial, particularly with organisations representing wildlife and preservation of the natural environment. The amendments were not passed by the House of Lords.

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People and Places Board – Report from Cllr Martin Tett (Chair)

Digital

1. On Wednesday 5 July the Board held a digital session at the LGA Annual Conference on 'Growing an inclusive digital economy'. The LGA's digital champion, Cllr Mark Hawthorne chaired the session and speakers included Lord Clement-Jones (Liberal Democrat Lords spokesperson) and Helen Milner (Chief Executive Good Things Foundation). The session explored how widening access to digital platforms has the potential to drive growth and prosperity by increasing the number of people able to participate in the digital economy and influencing the shape of the economy these platforms support. It looked at the role of councils and national partners in improving local connectivity, digital skills, using assets and systems to support better access to digital services and targeted inclusion programmes.
2. The Board has continued to support councils with the digital switchover. Following publication of the [digital switch readiness survey](#) to understand councils' position on awareness, planning and implementation, the [digital switchover hub](#) has been updated in collaboration with key partners and a [communications toolkit](#) launched in April for councils to raise awareness of the switchover locally. The social media assets and leaflet have been revised incorporating feedback from councils. To date the campaign has received over 30,000 impressions on social media, over 250 likes and shares and over 550 individual link clicks.
3. The transition from analogue to digital technologies has created new opportunities for criminals to target vulnerable residents. The Board has been working alongside the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Team and the National Trading Standards Scams Team to create recommended actions for councils to reduce the risk of scams. The [guidance](#) was published in September.
4. The Board commissioned a survey to better understand how the 2G/3G switch off might impact the sector, what services will be most affected and levels of awareness. This information will better help the Board understand how councils can be supported throughout the process to inform its work lobbying Government and supporting the sector with digital connectivity and inclusion. The survey closed in September and the results will soon be published.
5. Continuing to highlight the importance of improved digital connectivity has remained at the forefront of the Board's work programme. Following a steer from People and Places Board members in June, the LGA's digital champion, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, is engaging with Government and industry to discuss how the Board can influence the practical

outcomes of the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy. To date, Cllr Hawthorne has met with DSIT officials to discuss how the LGA can feed in to work to establish an agreed way of measuring local mobile coverage data.

6. Cllr Mark Hawthorne met with Simon Fell MP the UK's first Rural Connectivity Champion on 7th August. Cllr Hawthorne welcomed Simon Fell to the role and discussed how the People and Places Board can work with Government to improve connectivity in rural communities ensuring no one is left behind.

Levelling Up

7. Following the launch of the LGA's [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry report](#) the Board continues to work to share and disseminate its recommendations. A devolution APPG session took place 3.30pm to 4.30pm on 13 September covering the topic of the 'Levelling Up Locally Inquiry'. It provided an opportunity for speakers Cllr Kevin Bentley (Former Chair, People and Places Board, LGA Conservative Group Chair and Leader Essex County Council), Professor Michael Kenny (Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy) and Osaro Otobo (British Youth Council Trustee) to reflect upon their involvement in the inquiry and speak to the recommendations for Government.

Growth and productivity

8. The Board, alongside City Regions Board, held a session at the LGA's annual conference exploring whether growth should be a statutory responsibility. The session asked whether growth should be a statutory responsibility for councils and explores what kind of economy local leaders would seek to create if they had more powers to do so. The session was chaired by Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair of the People and Places Board) and speakers included Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe (Bradford City Council), Steve Hughes (WPI Economics), Antony Lockley (Blackpool Council) and Lee Rowley MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DLUHC).
9. The Board, alongside the City Regions Board commissioned Shared Intelligence to provide support for councils and combined authorities undertaking Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) integration and to share good practice and learning. This resource, which includes a self-assessment tool, is now [available on the LGA website](#).
10. Earlier this year, we commissioned Shared Intelligence to undertake action learning sets to support lead authorities with the development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plans and early stages of delivery. Using the results of the learning, we have refreshed the LGA's [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Hub](#) which provides the learning from the action learning sets and additional resources to support lead authorities. This has been shared widely through the UKSPF Officer Network.

Health devolution

11. The NHS Confederation, through its Health Economic Partnerships work programme and ICS network, has established a time-limited health and devolution working group. The aim of the group is to understand the priorities, opportunities, and challenges for ICS leaders, how this intersects with English devolution to date and the emerging devolution deals. The Board is co-sponsoring the group alongside the City Regions and Community Wellbeing Boards. To date, four meetings have taken place in April, June, July and September and officers from the LGA and NHS Confederation are working on a final report.

Employment and skills

12. The Board, together with the City Regions Board commissioned Shared Intelligence to work closely with the sector to produce a report on the [role and future skills needs of councils' economic development teams](#). The report makes recommendations for economic development teams, portfolio holders and national organisations. For the latter, these include LGA working with partners such as the Institute of Economic Development, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport, the Chief Economic Development Officers Society and the What Works Centre to coordinate their individual support offers and explore how best to promote the profession and provide clearer pathways, including through apprenticeships. The report, good practice and next steps were discussed with the sector at a webinar (July 2023).
13. The Government's Green Jobs Delivery Group Local Capacity and Capability sub-group runs between March and September. The LGA has been engaging with the partners to support the sub-committee as well as develop our own policy work, outlining the need for a [Green Jobs framework](#), based on the principles of the LGA's [Work Local model](#). The group met in June to commence shaping the recommendations.
14. As we move towards a General Election in 2024, our aim is that a returning Government or new administration will adopt LGA's Work Local proposals for employment and skills devolution, which was jointly developed by the People and Places and City Regions Boards. The LGA is working with councils, devolved authorities and local government partner bodies to develop the finer detail.
15. DWP prioritised through the 2023 Spring Budget support to help economically inactive people back into work. We have supported discussions between councils and the Government on the design phase of Universal Support set to be rolled out in 2024. Discussions have been positive, representing a step change in DWP's relationship with local government on employment support, but key decisions are outstanding including the extent to which it will be delivered through local government.

16. At the LGA annual conference in July, we held a policy session on skills at which Cllr Kevin Bentley, Mayor Marvin Rees (previous chairs of the People and Places and City Regions Boards) and Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Children and Young People Board) debated the role of local government can have working with employers to bring together the education and skills system. Panellists also included Jane Gratton, Head of People Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce and we heard first-hand from adult learner, Vicky Seagers, who won an award for overcoming barriers to learning and accessed her local council's adult learning services, which enabled her to pursue her vocation in nursing.
17. This Board and the City Regions have developed some principles suggesting how local government could promote economic inclusion through better access to training and employment opportunities. The work concluded in June and can be viewed on our website [LGA Economic Inclusion Principles paper](#) A webinar on 3 October reflected on learning from this work.

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

Trading standards

1. In response to reports of criminals exploiting the digital switchover to scam vulnerable residents who use health care telephony devices, [officers have produced a guidance note to raise awareness of the issue amongst councils and offer advice on recommended actions](#). This was supported by a media release to raise further awareness.
2. Following sustained LGA lobbying, we are expecting Government to ban single use vapes on health and environmental grounds. The Government, like councils, are particularly concerned that the products are often aimed at children, who then become addicted. Further detail will be announced in the coming weeks.
3. Officers have also worked on a [media release to raise awareness of the ban on single-use plastic cutlery](#), single-use balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers that came into force across England on 1 October 2023. Trading standards teams will have a key role in enforcing the ban.

Licensing

4. The temporary pavement licensing regime has been extended to 30th September 2024. This has been done to allow the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which contains proposals for a permanent pavement licensing regime, to complete its parliamentary stages. A reminder that the LGA successfully lobbied for a higher fee, a longer consultation and determination period, and improved enforcement powers for councils in the permanent regime. Officers will continue to monitor the Bill closely as it completes its final stages and will support councils with its implementation.
5. The Government has launched a consultation on how to make non-surgical cosmetic procedures – including Botox, laser hair removal and dermal fillers – safer for consumers. The responses will shape a new local authority led licensing scheme for practitioners and cosmetic businesses which operate in England. The Government is proposing a three-tiered licensing regime based on risk, with the highest risk (red) tier procedures being regulated by the Care Quality Commission, and the lower risk amber and green procedures being regulated by councils. This first consultation is primarily focused on what tier each procedure should be located in. However, officers will respond and highlight broader points around capacity, funding, training and the need to take a comprehensive approach.
6. The LGA has submitted written evidence to the DCMS Committee's inquiry on the Gambling Act Review, and to the APPG on Gambling Related Harm's inquiry into the Review. Our evidence highlighted that whilst we welcome that the Government has pledged to introduce cumulative impact assessments to provide councils with greater powers to determine whether and where new premises can open, it is crucial the Government urgently identifies a suitable piece of legislation to implement these reforms.

Modern slavery

7. Officers held the third meeting of the LGA's modern slavery network for council officers leading on work to tackle modern slavery. The network meets quarterly online and aims to discuss current issues and share good practice solutions. The September meeting had a specific focus on the rise of modern slavery cases in the care sector and provided officers with an opportunity to share learning and ask for advice. We are aware of a number of useful pieces of guidance that are being developed on modern slavery in the care sector and will update our website to signpost to these once they are available.

Fire Services Management Committee Update

8. The LGA Fire Commission met on 22 September 2023. Agenda items included priorities for the year, fire finance, an update on RAAC, the HMICFRS Misconduct Review, an NFCC presentation on issues arising from Emerging Energy Technologies, as well as the usual updates on building safety, pensions, workforce and the Fire Standards Boards.
9. The EDI Champions Network also held its first meeting of this political cycle on 22 September 2023. Cllr Jane Hugo, in her role as Equalities Advocate for the FSMC, chaired the meeting. Rob McDougall, People, Culture and Leadership Lead for the NFCC, presented on the work of the NFCC in responding to cultural issues, including their culture action plan. Members asked a number of questions around the action plan and sought further joint work between the LGA and NFCC on these issues. Members also discussed the terms of reference for the group and future work.
10. The LGA also hosted a 'climate change evidence session', inviting Professor Rowena Hill (Policy Fellow on Climate Change to DLUHC), Jack Walter (Senior Advisor, Environment Agency) Jim McNeil (NFCC Wildfire Lead), Bridget Betts (Team Manager in Dorset County Council) and Matt Oakley (Watch Commander and National Wildfire Tactical Advisor in Surrey County Council) to speak to FSMC lead members about the impact that climate change is, and will have, on our fire and rescue services. The session was followed by a period for discussion, in which members were keen that best practice was being captured and shared by the LGA and that other Boards within the LGA needed to be engaged and aware of the impact of climate change on FRSs.
11. We held a conference for Fire and Rescue Authority Members on culture in the fire and rescue service, jointly with workforce colleagues on 27 June. The event was chaired by the FSMC's Equalities Advocate, Cllr Jane Hugo. We had presentations from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue, the Fire Brigades Union, Unison, the Asian Fire Service Association, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Kent FRS, Lancashire FRS, Dorset and Wiltshire FRA, West Midlands FRA and Derbyshire FRA as well as hearing from media and employment law specialists. The feedback from the culture conference will help to inform what other pieces of training we will look to develop for members around issues on culture, diversity and inclusion.

Resilience and Regulation

12. The LGA has responded to a government [consultation on a draft code of practice for Diversionary and Community Cautions](#). The introduction of these cautions was legislated for in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 and the consultation only refers to guidance on their use.

13. DLUHC is in the process of establishing eight pilots across three key pillars of reform to significantly strengthen Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in England: Leadership, Accountability, and Integration of resilience into the UK's levelling up mission. The intention to run these pilots was announced in the [Resilience Framework](#).

Prevent

14. The Home office is continuing to implement the recommendations from the Independent Review of Prevent. Revised statutory Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, was issued in September, which will come into force on 31 December 2023. The LGA is running a relevant Leadership Essentials course on 28-8 November at Warwick University For more information or to book, contact: Grace.Collins@local.gov.uk

Martyn's Law

15. The Home Affairs Select Committee published its [pre-legislative scrutiny of the Terrorism \(Protection of premises\) draft bill](#) at the end of July, Cllr Clive Woodbridge gave evidence to the Committee on behalf of the Board. The Committee raised a number of concerns:
- Insufficient clarity about the overall objectives of the Bill – in particular, whether it is aimed more at the Protect or Prepare space.
 - Whether it would make a difference to the nature of the terrorist threat
 - Proportionality and the impact on smaller venues and VCS organisations, where there is a lack of evidence that the terrorist risk justifies what's being proposed.
 - The cost of implementation (set out, optimistically, in the impact assessment as £2k over 10 years for standard tier and £82k over 10 years for enhanced tier) is disproportionate to the levels of threat.
 - The need for clarity over who will be the regulator as soon as possible – and whether their proposed powers are justified.
 - The need for a substantial comms exercise to raise awareness of the Bill and help those affected to understand their obligations.
16. The Committee also wanted government to consider expanding the bill to cover outdoor events of over 800 where express permission and payment aren't required to enter. The Government response to the report is now overdue.

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Minutes of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Councillors' Forum

Thursday, 8 June 2023

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

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

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

He expressed thanks to all members for their work in the LGA year, with special thanks to those who had stood down or not been re-elected in May. In particular:

Lord Gary Porter – Former Chairman of the LGA

David Renard – Former Chairman of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

Peter Fleming – Former Chairman of the Improvement and Innovation Board

2	Chairman's Update
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Members noted the Chairman's Update.

3	LGA Board Chair Reports
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The Chairman invited the following Chairs to update on the work of their Boards:

- Children and Young People Board – Cllr Louise Gittins
- Community Wellbeing Board – Cllr David Fothergill
- Improvement and Innovation Board – Cllr Abi Brown

4	Digest of the last meeting held on 9 March 2023
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The digest of the last meeting was agreed as a correct record.

5	Presentation on LG Inform and Performance Management
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The Chairman invited Juliet Whitworth, Head of Research and Information, to give a [presentation](#) on the LG Inform and Performance Management.

LGA Inform is the LGA's online data benchmarking service, designed to help councillors view information about their council easily and quickly. Alongside LG Inform, the LGA runs a data programme to help councils make better use of data.

6 The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP - Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The Chairman welcomed The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP – Secretary of State for Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to the meeting.

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

- Voter ID
- Devolution
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Waste and recycling reform
- Office for Local Government (Oflog)

The Chairman thanked the Secretary of State for his time.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority	
Chairman	Cllr James Jamieson OBE	Central Bedfordshire Council	
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council	
	Cllr Joe Harris	Cotswold District Council	
	Cllr Marianne Overton	North Kesteven District Council	
	MBE		
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council	
Deputy-chairman			
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council	
	Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council	
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council	
	Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	
		Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
		Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
		Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland District Council
		Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
		Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell District Council
		Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
		Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset County Council
		Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
		Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
		Cllr Damien Greenhalgh	High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
		Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
		Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
		Cllr Georgina Hill	Northumberland Council
		Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
		Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
		Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
		Cllr Heather Kidd MBE	Shropshire Council
		Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
		Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
		Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
		Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
		Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
		Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
		Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
		Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
		Cllr Tony Saffell	North West Leicestershire District Council
		Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
		Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
		Cllr Lucy Stephenson	Rutland County Council
		Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
		Baroness Taylor of Stevenage OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
		Cllr Richard Wenham	Central Bedfordshire Council

