

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Martin Tett (Chairman)

Meetings and external events

1. To help councils tackle the challenges raised for our town centres from changing consumer habits, online shopping and global trends, the LGA held a national conference on town centre revitalisation. I was delighted to have chaired the fully packed event, which included fascinating and insightful presentations from a range of experts and case study councils, as well as the Minister for local growth, Jake Berry MP.
2. The event also saw the launch of the LGA's [handbook](#) on town centre revitalisation aimed at council leadership. An accompanying [online toolkit](#) is also now available and those who could not make the event can access the [presentations](#) here.
3. Earlier in the spring we held a conference on potholes and highways maintenance. We were focussing on how authorities are working together and using new technology to do more with less. We also talked about the need for investment in our local roads network and we were pleased that the Government announced an additional £100m for councils to deal with the damage the cold weather has done to our roads. Although disappointingly this headline figure subsequently turned out to have included two previously announced funds. Presentations from the event are available [here](#).

Publications

4. The LGA has launched a new publication which explores the major transition in cars and road vehicle technology that could eventually see our current vehicles replaced by transportation that is fully electric, automated and connected.
5. This combination of technologies will bring about the most significant change in how we travel since the invention of the internal combustion engine and it is important that local government is part of the discussion.
6. The LGA said the discussion paper - '[Clean, connected and in-control: What tomorrow's transport technology could mean for councils](#)' - will examine developments we can expect; how innovative councils are getting involved in trials and the issues that all councils will need to address in the future. It is also a call for engagement from different groups with an involvement in the area to feed ideas in and help better understand the potential of future transport technologies.

Community Transport

7. The EEHT Board led the LGA's response to the Department for Transport's consultation on Section 19 and 22 permits for road passenger transport in Great Britain. The LGA's response highlighted the importance that Section 19 and 22 operators play in the provision of transport for councils and are often the only means by which people can

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maintain an independent life, reducing the demands on other public services. Tax-payers and local people benefit considerably from the detailed knowledge of needs and provision of community transport (CT) operators and their lower operating costs due to their volunteer workforce. Their role often extends beyond providing transport. A revised interpretation of the regulations will likely reduce the availability of transport to some individuals and communities.

Housing Adviser Programme:

8. Following the success of last years programme the Housing Adviser Programme has been launched for the 2018/19 period. The Programme is designed to support local authorities deliver projects which help meet the housing needs of their local areas. Councils wishing to apply should complete their submission by Tuesday 26 June.

Press Releases and Statements

9. I have recently made public statements on the [powers to tackle lorry drivers that ignore road restrictions](#), on how [165,000 homes could be built with local communities ignored](#), the LGA responded to [Clean Air Strategy consultation](#) and I responded to the [Centrepoint report on young people and homelessness](#).

Contact officer:	Eamon Lally
Position:	Principal Policy Adviser
Phone number:	0207 664 3132
E-mail:	eamon.lally@local.gov.uk